Service animals in food businesses

Minnesota has a Service Animal law. The law makes it a crime to misrepresent an animal as a service animal.*

Overview

Service animals are allowed in restaurants and hotels. They are not allowed in kitchens and food prep areas.

Emotional support animals are not allowed in restaurants, hotels, kitchens and food prep areas.

Location	Service animal	Emotional support animal
Restaurant	☑ **Yes**	☐ No
Hotel	☑ **Yes**	☐ No
Kitchen/food prep	☐ No	☐ No

Identification

Service animals do not need to wear a special vest, ID tag or specific harness.

Questions

If it is not obvious a dog or miniature pony is a service animal, the operator is only allowed to ask the owner two questions:

- Is the animal required because of a disability?
- What work or task is the animal trained to do?

Unacceptable questions

Staff at the business may not:

- Ask about the person's disability.
- Ask for a demonstration of a task the animal performs.
- Require medical documentation.
- Ask the owner for paperwork or certification of training for the service animal.

Sign

Businesses may post a sign stating it is a crime to misrepresent an animal as a service animal. Possible text: Service animals welcome. It is illegal for a person to misrepresent an animal in that person's possession as a service animal.

Additional information

Questions? Contact an Environmental Health Supervisor by calling **311** at **612-673-3000**, or email **health@minneapolismn.gov**. Use the subject line "Service animals."

A person who violates this law is guilty of a petty misdemeanor for 1st offense, and a misdemeanor for 2nd or subsequent offenses.