

Service Animals in Food Facilities

May 2025

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
Public Health

Service animals are permitted by the California Health and Safety code to be in all areas of the food facility where the public is normally allowed to go, such as dining and sales areas, if a health or safety hazard will not result from the presence or activities of the service animal.

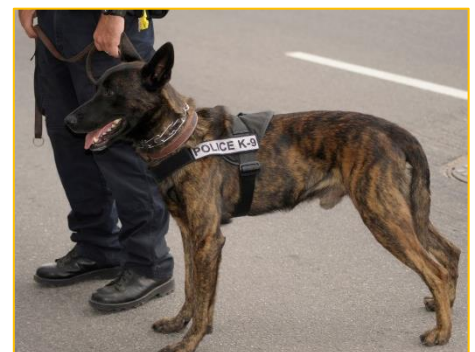
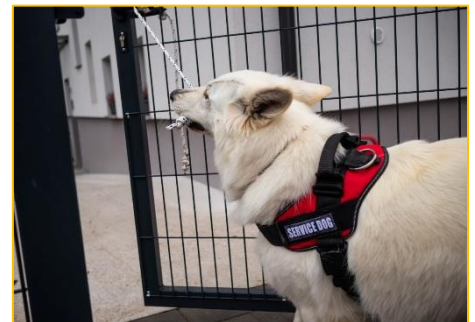
Service Animal

Service animals are dogs that are individually trained to do work or perform tasks for people with disabilities. They are working animals, not pets.

Work or Tasks Performed by a Service Animal

The work or task a service dog has been trained to provide must be directly related to the person's disability. Dogs whose only job is to provide comfort, emotional support, well-being, companionship or as a crime deterrent do not qualify as service animals under the ADA. Examples of work or task of service animals are as follows:

- Guide people who are blind or have low vision with navigation and other tasks.
- Alert individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing to the presence of people or sounds.
- Provide nonviolent protection or rescue work.
- Pulling a wheelchair.
- Assist a person during a seizure.
- Alert a person to the presence of allergens.
- Retrieve items such as medicine or the telephone.
- Provide physical support and assistance with balance and stability to individuals with mobility disabilities.
- Calming a person with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) during an anxiety attack.
- Help a person with psychiatric and neurological disabilities by preventing or interrupting impulsive or destructive behaviors.
- Reminding a person with mental illness to take prescribed medications.



Other Dogs Allowed in a Food Facility

Dogs under the control of:

- Uniformed law enforcement officer.
- Uniformed employees of private patrol operators of a private patrol service who are licensed pursuant to Chapter 11.5 of Division 3 of the Business and Professional Code.
 - Employees are acting within the course and scope of their employment as private patrol persons.

Additional Information

- Food employees shall not care for or handle patrol dogs, service animals, or pets.
- Food employees with service animals may handle or care for their service animals if they wash their hands before preparing food and handling food, utensils, and food related equipment.
- Service dogs and patrol dogs under the control of uniformed law enforcement officers, uniformed employees of private patrol operators, or dogs accompanied by persons licensed to train guide dogs for the blind are not allowed in the food preparation and utensil wash areas at temporary food facilities or farmers markets.

For more information about the **ADA**, please visit their website at www.ADA.gov or call the ADA toll-free number at **(800) 514-0301** (Voice) and **(833) 610-1264** (TTY).