



**TOWN OF SUDBURY**  
*Office of the Town Manager*  
[www.sudbury.ma.us](http://www.sudbury.ma.us)

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\*\*\*\*\* Updated Policy: Effective March 31, 2016 \*\*\*\*\*

**NOTICE OF USE OF TOWN FACILITIES RELATING TO ANIMALS**

Commencing immediately, all pets are excluded from entry into Town buildings, with the exception of service dogs\* if certified or other animals which are so certified. This exclusion shall apply to all buildings under the supervision of the Town Manager, whether in Town use, used or leased by others or vacant.

\*Under the ADA, a service animal is defined as a dog that has been individually trained to do work or perform tasks for an individual with a disability. The task(s) performed by the dog must be directly related to the person's disability. For example, many people who are blind or have low vision use dogs to guide and assist them with orientation. Many individuals who are deaf use dogs to alert them to sounds. People with mobility disabilities often use dogs to pull their wheelchairs or retrieve items.

Under the ADA, "comfort," "therapy," or "emotional support" animals do not meet the definition of a service animal because they have not been trained to do work or perform a specific task related to a person's disability.

The ADA does not require service animals to be certified, licensed, or registered as a service animal. Nor are they required to wear service animal vests or patches, or to use a specific type of harness.

Allowing service animals into a "no pet" facility is a common type of reasonable modification necessary to accommodate people who have disabilities. Service animals must be allowed in all areas of a facility where the public is allowed except where the dog's presence would create a legitimate safety risk.

The ADA does not override public health rules that prohibit dogs in swimming pools, but they must be permitted everywhere else.

The ADA requires that service animals be under the control of the handler at all times and be harnessed, leashed, or tethered, unless these devices interfere with the service animal's work or the individual's disability prevents him from using these devices. Individuals who cannot use such devices must maintain control of the animal through voice, signal, or other effective controls.

Public entities may exclude service animals if 1) the dog is out of control and the handler cannot or does not regain control; or 2) the dog is not housebroken. If a service animal is excluded, the individual must be allowed to enter the facility without the service animal.

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