

7409 SERVICE OR ASSISTANCE ANIMALS

- 7409.1 Residents of DCHA with disabilities are permitted to have service animals, if such animals are necessary as a reasonable accommodation for their disabilities. DCHA residents, or potential residents, who need a service animal as a reasonable accommodation must request the accommodation in accordance with the reasonable accommodation policy set forth in this Chapter.
- 7409.2 Residents who have a service animal residing with them at any DCHA-owned property prior to May 1, 2005, must file a request for a reasonable accommodation and otherwise comply with the requirements in this Chapter prior to July 1, 2005.
- 7409.3 Residents at any DCHA-owned property who are approved to have a service animal as a reasonable accommodation may keep the animal provided they comply with the following requirements:
- (a) Register the animal with the property manager;
 - (b) Update the registration for the animal annually;
 - (c) Provide proof the animal has been inoculated in accordance with applicable local law;
 - (d) Execute a lease addendum providing for the proper care and maintenance of the animal and the unit occupied by the animal in accordance with the DCHA rules; and
 - (e) Continuously provide the proper maintenance and care for the animal and assure that the animal does not otherwise impair the peaceful enjoyment of the property by other residents.
- 7409.4 DCHA requires that a resident or prospective resident with a service animal provide written certification:
- (a) From a third party, such as a health care provider, that the resident or a member of his or her family is a person with a disability and that an animal of the type proposed is reasonably necessary to meet the needs of the disabled person; and
 - (b) From a third party knowledgeable about the service animal, such as a trainer or veterinarian, that:
 - (i) The animal has the capability and individualized training, where necessary, such as for a seeing Eye dog, to work for the benefit of the person with a disability;
 - (ii) The animal is a domesticated animal and does not pose a risk of serious bites or lacerations, nor is the animal considered to be dangerous, aggressive, vicious, intimidating or detrimental to the health and safety of other residents or employees.

SOURCE: Notice of Final Rulemaking published at 49 DCR 2468, 2476 (March 15, 2002); as amended by notice of Final Rulemaking published at 52 DCR 4215-16 (April 29, 2005).