



Texas Hospital
Association Foundation

NUGGETS OF KNOWLEDGE

Presented by Infection Control Consultants of New Mexico

ICCNM

Infection Control Consultants of New Mexico



Welcome

IC Nuggets of Knowledge Series are monthly one-hour learning sessions using a web-based format to share information, network, and opportunity to address questions and concerns with ICCNM Consultants

When: 1:00 to 2:00 pm

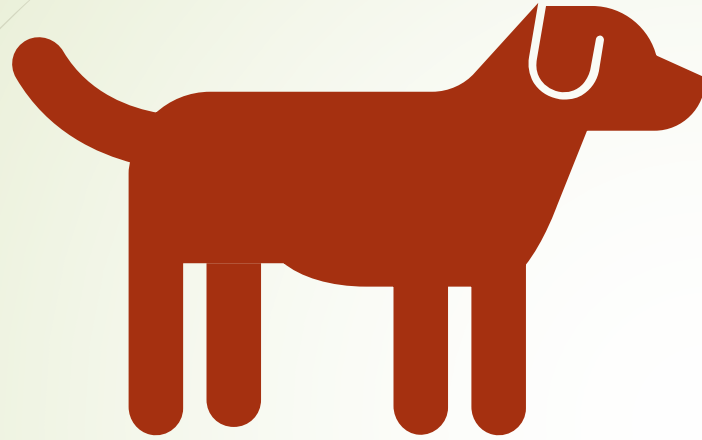
2nd Thursday of the month



Introductions



- Infection Control Consultants of NM (ICCNM Consulting)
- New Mexico based consulting company
- Consultants are certified in Infection Control (CIC)
- Presenters for this series
 - Kerry Flint, PhD
 - Terri Kangas-Feller
 - Barbara Mooney
- www.iccnm.org



Animals in Healthcare

Infection Control Consultants of NM

Kerry Flint PhD, MSN, RN, CIC



Learning Outcomes



- Following this session participants will be able to:
- Describe the different categories of animals potentially encountered in healthcare settings
- Identify legal considerations regarding service animals
- Discuss the infection control considerations
- Access resources to assist in developing policy and procedures related to animals in healthcare settings



Uses of Animals in Healthcare



Pet Visitation

- Pets visiting with patients
- Some therapeutic benefits can be attained, but there is no specific goal for the interaction
- Visits are not structured and do not involve trained staff
- Patient progress is not tracked, but is often noted to be beneficial





Therapy Animals

Animal Assisted Therapy

- Formal goal-directed intervention involving animals as an integral part of the treatment process, directed by a professional with specialized expertise.
- Designed to promote improvement in human physical, social, emotional, and/or cognitive functioning.
- Patient progress is measured.

Animal Assisted Activities

- Provide opportunities for motivational, educational, and/or recreational benefits to enhance quality of life
- Delivered by trained professional, paraprofessional and/or volunteers
- Involve animals that meet specific criteria

Emotional Support Animals

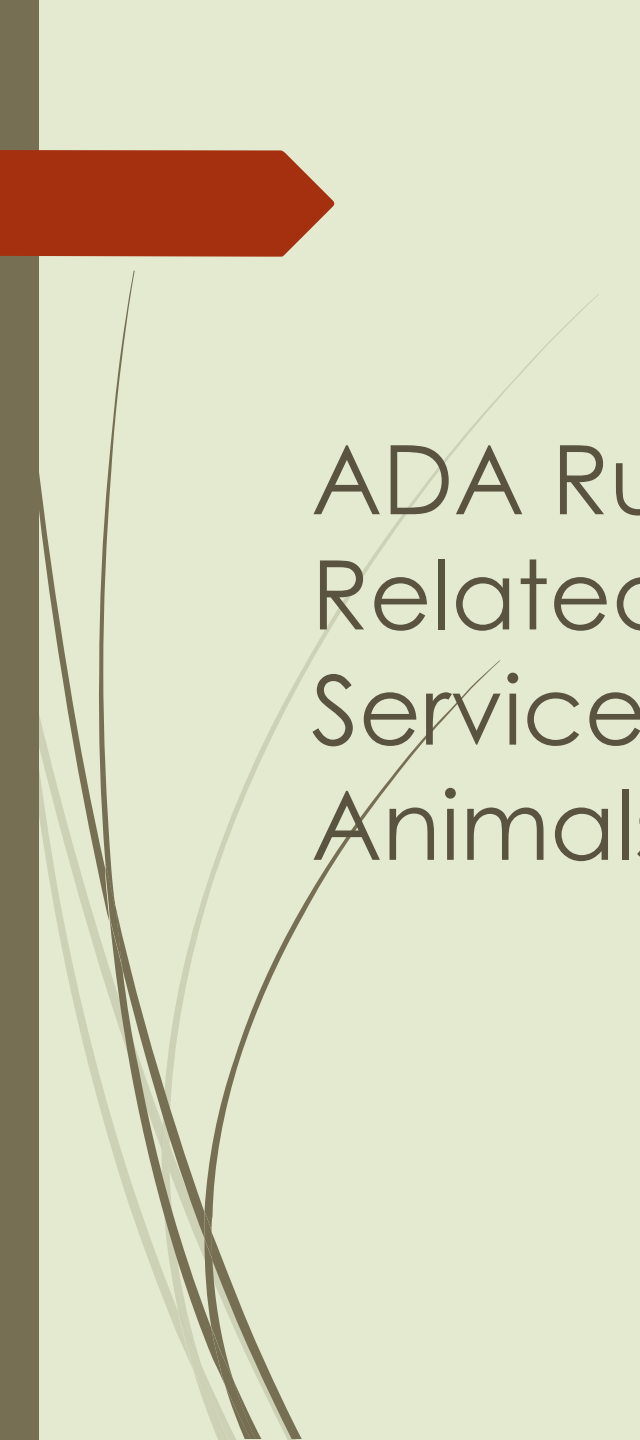
- An ESA is an animal that provides comfort just by being with a person. Because they have not been trained to perform a specific job or task, they do not qualify as service animals under the ADA.
- The animal provides emotional support and comfort to individuals with psychiatric disabilities and other mental impairments.
- Unlike a service animal, an ESA is not granted access to places of public accommodation



Service Animals

- **Service animals are defined as dogs that are individually trained to do work or perform tasks for people with disabilities.**
- **Work or tasks include:**
 - guiding people who are blind,
 - alerting people who are deaf,
 - pulling a wheelchair,
 - alerting and protecting a person who is having a seizure,
 - reminding a person with mental illness to take prescribed medications,
 - calming a person with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) during an anxiety attack,
 - performing other duties.
- Service animals are working animals, not pets.
- Dogs whose sole function is to provide comfort or emotional support do not qualify as service animals under the ADA.
- https://www.ada.gov/service_animals_2010.htm






ADA Rules Related To Service Animals

- ▶ If it is not obvious what service an animal provides, the staff may ask only the following questions:
 - ▶ Is a service animal required because of a disability?
 - ▶ What work or task is the dog trained to perform?
 - ▶ The staff cannot ask the person with a disability for medical documentation, special identification card for the dog, or documentation of the dog's training, nor can staff require the dog to demonstrate its ability to perform the work or task.
- ▶ Service animals must be harnessed, leashed or tethered unless these devices interfere with the animal's work or the person's disability prevents using these devices.
- ▶ Access cannot be denied to a person with a service animal because of allergies or fear of dogs.
 - ▶ If a person has allergies to dog dander or is afraid of a dog, accommodations should be made by assigning them to different locations in the room or different rooms in the facility.



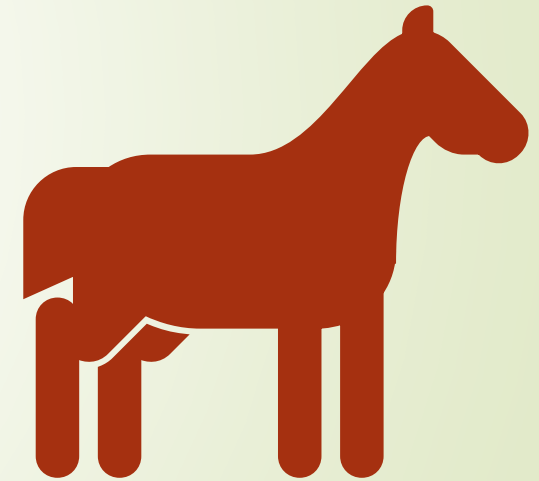
ADA Rules Related To Service Animals



- ▶ A person with disabilities can be asked to remove the service dog only if the dog is out of control and the handler is unable to bring it under control or if the dog is not housebroken.
- ▶ Service animals are allowed in the public area of a business that sells and prepares food even if state and local health codes prohibit animals on the premises.
- ▶ Hospitals may exclude service animals from operating rooms or burn units where the animal's presence could compromise a sterile environment.
- ▶ Staff is not required to provide care or food for a service animal.
- ▶ US DOJ Q and A:
https://www.ada.gov/regs2010/service_animal_qa.pdf

Miniature Horses

- **2010 DOJ revised ADA regulations with a separate provision about miniature horses that have been individually trained to do work or perform tasks for people with disabilities.**
- Entities covered by the ADA must modify their policies to permit miniature horses where reasonable. The regulations set out four assessment factors to assist entities in determining whether miniature horses can be accommodated in their facility.
 - (1) whether the miniature horse is housebroken
 - (2) whether the miniature horse is under the owner's control
 - (3) whether the facility can accommodate the miniature horse's type, size, and weight, and
 - (4) whether the miniature horse's presence will not compromise legitimate safety requirements necessary for safe operation of the facility.



Infection Control Concerns

- Potential transmission of zoonotic pathogens from animals to humans
- Potential sources of infection affecting patients and health-care workers
- Animals could potentially act as reservoirs for antibiotic-resistant microorganisms which could be introduced to the health-care setting while the animal is present (CDC).
- Animals visiting HC settings could be at increased risk for acquire MRSA or *C. diff* (APIC Text)





CDC Guidelines

- **Guidelines for Environmental Infection Control in Health-Care Facilities (2003)**
 - **Animals in Health-Care Facilities**
- **Recommendations:**
 - Minimize contact with animal saliva, dander, urine, and feces.
 - Practice hand hygiene after any animal contact.
 - Wash hands with soap and water, especially if hands are visibly soiled.
 - Use either soap and water or alcohol-based hand rubs when hands are not visibly soiled.
- <https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/guidelines/environmental/background/animals.html>

Examples of Zoonotic Disease

Table 26B. Bacteria

Infectious disease	Cats	Dogs	Fish	Birds	Rabbits	Reptiles§	Primates	Rodents§
Campylobacteriosis	+	+				+	+	+
<i>Capnocytophaga canimorsus</i> infection	+	+						
Cat scratch disease (<i>Bartonella henselae</i>)	+							
Leptospirosis	+						+	+
Mycobacteriosis			+	+				
Pasteurellosis	+	+			+			
Plague	+			+			+	+
Psittacosis				+				
Q fever (<i>Coxiella burnetti</i>)	+							
Rat bite fever (<i>Spirillum minus</i> , <i>Streptobacillus moniliformis</i>)								+
Salmonellosis	+	+		+	+	+	+	+
Tularemia	+				+			+
Yersiniosis					+	+	+	+

Risk of Enteric Illness

Estimates of Enteric Illness Attributable to Contact With Animals and Their Environments in the United States

Christa R. Hale,^{1,2} Elaine Scallan,³ Alicia B. Cronquist,² John Dunn,⁴ Kirk Smith,⁵ Trisha Robinson,⁵ Sarah Lathrop,⁶ Melissa Tobin-D'Angelo,^{7,*} and Paula Clogher⁸

¹Epidemic Intelligence Service Program, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, Georgia; ²Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Denver; ³Colorado School of Public Health, Aurora; ⁴Tennessee Department of Health, Nashville; ⁵Minnesota Department of Health, St. Paul; ⁶University of New Mexico, Albuquerque; ⁷Georgia Department of Community Health, Atlanta; ⁸Connecticut Emerging Infections Program, New Haven

Background. Contact with animals and their environment is an important, and often preventable, route of transmission for enteric pathogens. This study estimated the annual burden of illness attributable to animal contact for 7 groups of pathogens: *Campylobacter* species, *Cryptosporidium* species, Shiga toxin–producing *Escherichia coli* (STEC) O157, STEC non-O157, *Listeria monocytogenes*, nontyphoidal *Salmonella* species, and *Yersinia enterocolitica*.

Methods. By using data from the US Foodborne Diseases Active Surveillance Network and other sources, we estimated the proportion of illnesses attributable to animal contact for each pathogen and applied those proportions to the estimated annual number of illnesses, hospitalizations, and deaths among US residents. We established credible intervals (CrIs) for each estimate.

Results. We estimated that 14% of all illnesses caused by these 7 groups of pathogens were attributable to animal contact. This estimate translates to 445 213 (90% CrI, 234 197–774 839) illnesses annually for the 7 groups combined. *Campylobacter* species caused an estimated 187 481 illnesses annually (90% CrI, 66 259–372 359), followed by nontyphoidal *Salmonella* species (127 155; 90% CrI, 66 502–219 886) and *Cryptosporidium* species (113 344; 90% CrI, 22 570–299 243). Of an estimated 4933 hospitalizations (90% CrI, 2704–7914), the majority were attributable to nontyphoidal *Salmonella* (48%), *Campylobacter* (38%), and *Cryptosporidium* (8%) species. Nontyphoidal *Salmonella* (62%), *Campylobacter* (22%), and *Cryptosporidium* (9%) were also responsible for the majority of the estimated 76 deaths (90% CrI, 5–211).

Conclusions. Animal contact is an important transmission route for multiple major enteric pathogens. Continued efforts are needed to prevent pathogen transmission from animals to humans, including increasing awareness and encouraging hand hygiene.

Case Reports > [MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep.](#) 2006 Jun 30;55(25):702-5.

Human salmonellosis associated with animal-derived pet treats--United States and Canada, 2005

[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#)

PMID: 16810148

[Free article](#)

Abstract

During 2004-2005, salmonellosis in the state of Washington resulted in nine cases associated with consumption of pet treats in Norway. This report highlights the importance of pet treats in salmonellosis and recommends that pet owners avoid pet treats and wash their hands after handling pet foods.

> [MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep.](#) 2008 May 16;57(19):521-4.

Multistate outbreak of human *Salmonella* infections caused by contaminated dry dog food--United States, 2006-2007

[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#)

PMID: 18480745

[Free article](#)

Abstract

During January 1, 2006-December 31, 2007, CDC collaborated with public health officials in Pennsylvania, other states, and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to investigate a prolonged multistate outbreak of *Salmonella enterica* serotype Schwarzengrund infections in humans. A total of 70 cases of *S. Schwarzengrund* infection with the outbreak strain (XbaI pulsed-field gel electrophoresis [PFGE] pattern JM6X01.0015) were identified in 19 states, mostly in the northeastern United States. This report describes the outbreak investigation, which identified the source of infection as dry dog food produced at a manufacturing plant in Pennsylvania. This investigation is the first to identify contaminated dry dog food as a source of human *Salmonella* infections. After handling pet foods, pet owners should wash their hands immediately, and infants should be kept away from pet feeding areas.



APIC Text

- Animals Visiting in Healthcare Facilities
- Recommendations include:
 - Developing policies and procedures to protect both patients and animals involved in visiting
 - Excluding animal species associated with higher risk for causing disease or injury
 - Bathing within 24 hours of visit
 - Managing dander
 - Immunizations
 - Handler health and responsibilities

SHEA Guidelines

➤ Addresses:

- Animal-assisted activities
- Service animals
- Animals in research
- Personal pet visitation

INFECTION CONTROL & HOSPITAL EPIDEMIOLOGY MAY 2015, VOL. 36, NO. 5

SHEA EXPERT GUIDANCE

Animals in Healthcare Facilities: Recommendations to Minimize Potential Risks

Rekha Murthy, MD;¹ Gonzalo Bearman, MD, MPH;² Sherrill Brown, MD;³ Kristina Bryant, MD;⁴ Raymond Chinn, MD;⁵ Angela Hewlett, MD, MS;⁶ B. Glenn George, JD;⁷ Ellie J.C. Goldstein, MD;⁸ Galit Holzmänn-Pazgal, MD;⁹ Mark E. Rupp, MD;¹⁰ Timothy Wiemken, PhD, CIC, MPH;⁴ J. Scott Weese, DVM, DVSc, DACVIM;¹¹ David J. Weber, MD, MPH¹²

PURPOSE

Animals may be present in healthcare facilities for multiple reasons. Although specific laws regarding the use of service animals in public facilities were established in the United States in 1990, the widespread presence of animals in hospitals, including service animals to assist in patient therapy and research, has resulted in the increased presence of animals in acute care hospitals and ambulatory medical settings. The role of animals in the transmission of zoonotic pathogens and cross-transmission of human pathogens in these settings remains poorly studied. Until more definitive information is available, priority should be placed on patient and healthcare provider safety, and the use of standard infection prevention and control measures to prevent animal-to-human transmission in healthcare settings. This paper aims to provide general guidance to the medical community regarding the management of animals in healthcare (AHC). The manuscript has four major goals:

1. Review and interpret the medical literature regarding risks and evidence for animal-to-human transmission of pathogens in the healthcare setting, along with the potential benefits of animal-assisted activities in healthcare.
2. Review hospital policies related to AHC, as submitted by members of the SHEA Guidelines Committee.

guidance on the management of AHC in four categories: animal-assisted activities, service animals, research animals, and personal pet visitation. Institutions considering these programs should have policies that include well-organized communication and education directed at healthcare personnel (HCP), patients, and visitors. Appropriately designed studies are needed to better define the risks and benefits of allowing animals in the healthcare setting for specific purposes.

BACKGROUND

The Role of Animals in Healthcare Settings (AHC)

People come into contact with animals in a variety of settings including households (pets), occupational exposure (veterinarians, farmers, ranchers, and forestry workers), leisure pursuits (hunting, camping, and fishing), petting zoos, and travel to rural areas. Pet ownership is common in the United States. A national poll of pet owners revealed that in 2013–2014, 68% of US households included a pet with the number of households owning specific animals as follows: dogs 56.7 million, cats 45.3 million, freshwater fish 14.3 million, birds 6.9 million, small animals 6.9 million, reptiles 5.6 million, horses 2.8 million, and saltwater fish 1.8.¹

Patients in healthcare facilities come into contact with ani-

SHEA Guidance

TABLE 8. Summary of Animals in Healthcare Classification and Selected Recommendations

	Animal-Assisted Activities	Service ^a	Research	Personal Pet
Program				
Written policy recommended	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Federal legal protection	No	Yes	No	No
Animal visit liaison	Yes	No	IACUC	Yes
Infection prevention and control notification of animal visit/session	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Infection prevention and control consultation for restricted areas	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Visit supervised	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Visit predetermined	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Animal and handler/owner performs trained tasks	See text	Yes	N/A	No
Specially trained handler	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Health screening of animals and handlers	Yes	N/A	N/A	No
Documentation of formal training	Yes	No	N/A	No
Animal can be a pet	Yes	No	No	Yes
Animal serves solely for comfort or emotional support	See text	No	N/A	Yes
Identification with ID tag	Yes	Not required	N/A	Yes/No
Animal required to be housebroken	Yes	Yes	N/A	Yes
Permitted animals				
Dogs	Yes	Yes	N/A	Yes
Other animals	See text	See text	N/A	See text

NOTE. IACUC, Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee.

^aPolicy to reflect ADA and regulatory compliance. Inquiries limited by ADA to tasks performed for patient.

US Dept HHS

- Document provides policy guidance regarding Service Animals in healthcare settings

- <http://www.phe.gov/Preparedness/planning/abc/Pages/service-animals.aspx>

U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response

Preparedness Emergency About ASPR

Public Health Emergency

Public Health and Medical Emergency Support for a Nation Prepared

PHE Home > Preparedness > Planning > At-Risk, Behavioral Health...(ABC) > Understanding How to Accommodate Service Animals in Healthcare Facilities

Understanding How to Accommodate Service Animals in Healthcare Facilities

Many people, including health care professionals and other service providers, may be unsure of statutory requirements when interacting with an individual with a disability using a service animal. This fact sheet is intended to clarify legal obligations and etiquette when interacting with an individual using a service animal, with a particular emphasis on the health care setting during an emergency or disaster. The U.S. Department of Justice has developed the following definition of Service Animals:

Service animals are dogs that are individually trained to do work or perform tasks for people with disabilities. Examples of such work or tasks include guiding people who are blind, alerting people who are deaf, pulling a wheelchair, alerting and protecting a person who is having a seizure, reminding a person with mental illness to take prescribed medications, calming a person with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) during an anxiety attack, or performing other duties. Service animals are working animals, not pets. The work or task a dog has been trained to provide must be directly related to the person's disability. Dogs whose sole function is to provide comfort or emotional support do not qualify as service animals under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Under the ADA and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, health care facilities must permit the use of a service animal by a person with a disability, including during a public health emergency or disaster.

Policy Guidance

- ▶ During a public health emergency or disaster staff may not: ask about the person's disability; require medical documentation, a special identification card, or training documentation for the dog; or ask the dog to demonstrate its ability to perform the work or task. When it's not obvious what task is being performed by a service animal, staff may ask only two questions:
 - ▶ Is the dog a service animal required because of a disability, and
 - ▶ What work or task the dog has been trained to perform.
- ▶ Service animals are to accompany the individual with a disability in all areas of the medical facility where health care personnel, visitors, and patients are normally allowed during inpatient services, unless the animal's presence or behavior creates a fundamental alteration in the nature of a facility's services in a particular area or a direct threat to other persons in a particular area.
 - ▶ A "direct threat" is defined as a significant risk to the health or safety of others that cannot be mitigated or eliminated by modifying policies, practices, or procedures.
- ▶ A person with a disability cannot be asked to remove his or her service animal from the premises unless the dog is not housebroken, is out of control, or if the handler/owner does not take effective action to control the service animal.
- ▶ It may be appropriate to exclude a service animal from limited access areas that employ general infection control measures, such as operating rooms and burn units, where the animal's presence may compromise a sterile field environment.
 - ▶ Fear and allergies are not valid reasons for denying access to a service animal or refusing service to people using service animals.
- ▶ People with disabilities who use service animals may not be isolated from others, treated less favorably than others, or charged with fees that are not charged to other customers without animals.
- ▶ Service animals must be harnessed, leashed, or tethered, unless these devices interfere with the service animal's work or if an individual's disability prevents using these devices. The handler/owner must maintain control of the animal through voice, signal, or other effective controls.
- ▶ When encountering an individual with a disability, it is acceptable to ask if they need assistance. If yes, ask how you can best assist them.
- ▶ When encountering an individual with a service animal, do not interact with or distract the animal.

References: U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division: Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability in State and Local Government Services, Final Rule (<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2010-09-15/html/2010-21821.htm>) and ADA 2010 Revised Requirements, http://www.ada.gov/service_animals_2010.htm; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: Guidelines for Environmental Infection Control in Health-Care Facilities, Recommendations of CDC and the Healthcare Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee (2003), http://www.cdc.gov/hicpac/pdf/guidelines/eic_in_HCF_03.pdf.

ABC Tools and Resources

- ▶ At-Risk Individuals
- ▶ Behavioral Health
- ▶ Community Resilience
- ▶ ABC Resource Library
- ▶ Contact ABC

TX Disability Law

- [Texas Disability Law - Service Animals | Office of the Texas Governor | Greg Abbott](#)
- “Assistance animal” and “service animal” mean a canine that is specially trained or equipped to help a person with a disability and is used by the person.
 - NOTE: Though state law conflates the terms “service animal” and “assistance animal,” they should be considered as two separate categories of animals under federal law. Assistance animals may not always enjoy the same level of legal protection as service animals. Service animals are typically dogs that are individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability. Some laws are not necessarily limited to dogs. It is important to know which definition will apply in any particular scenario.
- [Service Animals in Health Care Facilities, Guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control \(CDC\)](#)
- Service animals are allowed access to a health care facility in accordance with the ADA, unless the presence of the animal creates a direct threat to other persons or a fundamental alteration in the nature of services.
- When a decision must be made regarding a service animal's access to any particular area of a health-care facility, the service animal, patient, and health-care situation must be evaluated on a case-by-case basis to determine whether significant risk of harm exists and whether reasonable modifications in policies and procedures will mitigate this risk.
- If a patient must be separated from their service animal while in the health-care facility, the facility must:
 - ascertain from the person what arrangements have been made for supervision or care of the animal during this period of separation; and
 - make appropriate arrangements to address the patient's needs in the absence of the service animal.



References



- CDC (2003) Guidelines for Environmental Infection Control in Health-Care Facilities: Recommendations of CDC and the Healthcare Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee (HICPAC). Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/pdf/guidelines/environmental-guidelines.pdf>
- Darling, J. (2014). Animals visiting in healthcare facilities. *APIC TEXT*[Online]. Retrieved from www.text.apic.org
- Murthy, R., et al.(2015). Animals in healthcare facilities: Recommendations to minimize potential risks. *Infection Control & Hospital Epidemiology*, 36(5). 495-516. doi:10.1017/ice.2015.15
- Signs, K. (2015). Pets in healthcare facilities: Addressing safety with compassion[PowerPoint]. Retrieved from https://www.michigan.gov/documents/emergingdiseases/Pets_in_Health_Care_Facilities_One_Health_481554_7.pdf
- Texas Disability Law – Service Animals [Texas Disability Law - Service Animals | Office of the Texas Governor | Greg Abbott](#)
- See Reference List for full details

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CNE: You will receive an email from me by early next week with information on how to get your credit.

Website: [Nuggets of Knowledge](#)

Next Session: June 9 at 1pm

[Burnout and the IP](#)

THANK YOU!!