

ADOPTED: November 1, 2018

REVISED:

PURPOSE:

To provide guidelines for allowing service animals and pets. Jefferson Fire District acknowledges that a person's service animal or pets are very important to them. At the same time animal owners must respect Fire District property and the wishes of others not wanting to be impacted by animals. This Operational Guideline does not apply to animals while on scene of an incident.

- A. Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) defines service animals as dogs that are individually trained to do work or perform task for people with disabilities. Examples of such work or task include guiding people who are blind, alerting people who are deaf, pulling a wheelchair, alerting and projecting a person who is having 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 persons disability. Dogs whose sole function to provide comfort or emotional support do not qualify as service animals under ADA.
- B. Under ADA, State and local governments that serve the public generally must allow service animals to accompany people with disabilities in all areas of the facility where the public is normally allowed to go. For the purpose of the Operational Guideline, the public is allowed in the office building at the Jefferson Station and the day use areas at Stations 630 and 640. The bay areas of the fire station are only public access areas during public events.
- C. Dogs or other animals that do not meet the definition of service animals are considered pets.
- D. Service dogs and pets must always be under the control and in the custody of a responsible person. A person on shift or duty may not be the responsible person. Service dogs must be harnessed, leashed or tethered, unless the device interferes with the service animal or the individual's disability prevents using the restraining device. Pets over 25 pounds must always be leashed or tethered.
- E. Service animals and/or pets are not allowed where food is prepared such as the kitchen or temporary kitchens.
- F. Service animals and/or pets are not allowed in sleeping areas of the fire stations.
- G. A Jefferson Fire District member who requires a service animal may not be an emergency responder and must comply with the requirements of a service animal public access.
- H. Owners of a service animal and/or pets are responsible for any damage to Fire District property caused by the animal.