



Pet Accommodation Policy

Purpose

The South Carolina Primary Health Care Association (SCPHCA) is committed to ensuring that all attendees of its conferences and meetings have equal access and opportunity to participate in these events. SCPHCA recognizes that some attendees with disabilities may require the assistance of animals for various reasons. This document outlines the policy and procedures for reasonably accommodating disabled attendees who require the use of assistive animals at SCPHCA conferences and other events. This policy also recognizes that for the health and safety of all attendees and to avoid disruptions at SCPHCA conferences and meetings, pets are not permitted in conference and meeting spaces.

Definitions

- **Service Dog (Service, Guide, or Signal Dog):** A dog that is individually and specifically trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Service dogs are not considered pets. Service animals are limited to dogs.
- **Pet:** An animal that is kept for companionship or pleasure and is not a service dog.

Policy

- Registrants will need to self-identify during registration. Service dogs *must* be approved and registered with SCPHCA prior to the conference or event. It is the responsibility of the registrant to contact the SCPHCA, after self-identifying during registration, to ensure appropriate accommodation and documentation as needed.
- A service dog is always allowed in all areas of the conference space, including where food is served, providing the dog is under the control of their handler at all times. The service animal must be harnessed or leashed and properly identified.
- Service dogs must be vaccinated in accordance with state and local laws; clean; and healthy.
- SCPHCA reserves the right to ask the handler of a service dog to remove the animal from the conference or meeting space if the animal is out of control, not housebroken, or causes a disruption or safety risk to the event or other attendees.
- SCPHCA is not responsible for the care or supervision of any service dog. The handler is solely liable for any damage or injury caused by the animal to any person, property, or facility.
- Conference attendees are subject to the individual policies of each hotel regarding animals and are responsible for all costs and fees levied by individual hotels.