

Miniature Horses

When the new Title II and Title III regulations went into effect on March 15, 2011, new provisions were put into place **requiring public entities to modify their policies to allow service miniature horses whenever it is reasonable to do so.** However, miniature horses were not included in the definition of a service animal, which had been changed to include only dogs. This has created some confusion regarding whether or not public places have to treat miniature horses as service animals. The answer is yes... but there are considerations that do not apply to dogs.

A miniature horse, just like a dog, meets the criteria of service animal when it has been **individually trained to perform work or a specific task for the benefit of an individual of with a disability.** However, public places can limit their access based on height and weight, unlike service dogs which have no size or breed restrictions.

Public entities should assess whether it is reasonable to allow a miniature horse into their facilities using four factors:

- 1) Whether the miniature horse is housebroken,
- 2) If the miniature horse is under the owner's control
- 3) Whether the facility can accommodate the miniature horse's type, size and weight
- 4) Whether the miniature horse's presence will compromise safety requirements/operations. (Remember, this must be based upon actual fact rather than speculation or assumptions.)

The same requirements established for service dogs regarding issues such as inquiries, identification, and removal apply to miniature horses.



Did You Know that Miniature Horses...

Live longer than regular horses: 25-30 years.

Have excellent eyesight, peripheral vision, and see well at night.

Can pull or push heavy objects more easily than most dogs.

Can help stabilize someone with balance difficulties or stop a fall.