

# Is a Miniature Horse a Service Animal?

There is often confusion as to whether a miniature horse is considered a service animal under the ADA because Title II and Title III regulations only include dogs in the definition of a service animal. However, both Title II and III regulations also specifically state that a miniature horse is the one **exception** to a dog that may be considered a service animal. Basically, miniature horses are covered by the ADA as a service animal and should be allowed into public places. There are, however, considerations in determining whether it is reasonable to allow a miniature horse into an area/facility 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 based on 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 and or operations. (Remember, this must be based upon actual fact rather than speculation or assumptions.)

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

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## 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.