

Village of North Freedom Outside Animals in the Municipal Building Policy

Animal Policy

It is the Policy of the Village of North Freedom to prohibit all animals from entering any and all municipal buildings in the Village of North Freedom, Sauk County, Wisconsin, with the exception of service animals, service animal trainees and animals featured in any programs sponsored by Village of North Freedom or the Village of North Freedom Departments, including but not limited to: The Village of North Freedom Fire Department and The North Freedom Public Library. This does not apply to Village of North Freedom Public Land. For animals accessing public land, please refer to Village of North Freedom Ordinances 12 – Licenses & Permits & 19 – Parks.

Definitions

Under Wisconsin law "service animal" means a guide dog, signal dog, or other animal that is individually trained or is being trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of a person with a disability, including the work or task of guiding a person with impaired vision, alerting a person with impaired hearing to intruders or sound, providing minimal protection or rescue work, pulling a wheelchair, or fetching dropped items." Wis. Stat. §106.52(1)(fm).

While the Village Departments possibly may present educational programs that feature animals, members of the public may only enter Village of North Freedom municipal buildings with an animal if it is a service animal that requires accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Under the ADA, a service animal is a dog or other animal that has been individually trained to do work or perform tasks for an individual with a disability. The animal must be trained to take a specific action to assist the person with a disability, and the task(s) performed must be directly related to the disability.

Emotional support, therapy, comfort, or companion animals do not qualify as service animals under the ADA.

If it is not obvious that a dog brought into any Village of North Freedom Municipal Buildings is a service animal, a staff member may ask the following question:

1. Is the dog a service animal required because of a disability?

A staff member attempting to ascertain whether a dog is a service animal may not ask about the nature of a person's disability.

By ADA stipulation, service animals must be under the immediate control of their handlers at all times. Therefore, service animals which are not housebroken, bark, are uncontrolled, or are otherwise disruptive will be required to leave the premises. Animals may never be left unattended on Village of North Freedom Municipal grounds.

Service animals are not allowed on any Village of North Freedom Municipal furniture or fixtures, and must remain on the floor or be carried (as appropriate) by their handlers at all times.

Misrepresenting a dog as a service animal is a violation of this policy and may result in a revision of any Village of North Freedom Department privileges.

This Official Municipal Policy of the Village of North Freedom may be amended without prior public knowledge by the Village of North Freedom Board at any time.