

For the health and safety of others, yourself and your Service Dog:

- Bring someone who can hold your dog if you need to be separated
- Be prepared to reschedule your appointment if your dog is being disruptive and asked to leave
- Request that others refrain from petting your dog
- If you do allow petting, ask that hands be washed before and after contact
- ***VA staff cannot care for your dog***

For the health & safety of your pet, consider leaving them at home rather than in your car.



Please contact the
**Office of
Veteran Experience**
for further information
regarding the animal policy
at VAPORHCS.



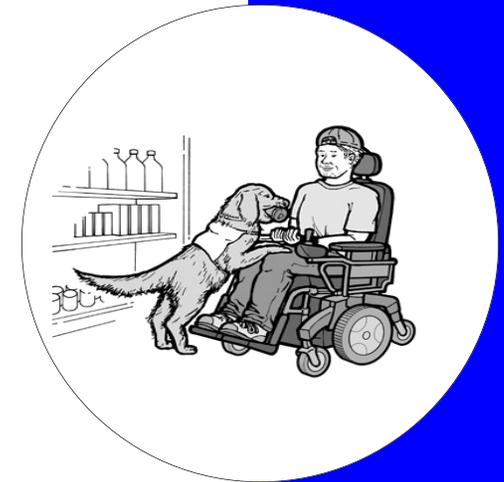
Office of Veteran Experience:
3710 SW Veterans Hospital Rd.
Mail stop P10VE
Portland, OR 97239-2964
Room: 101-123

Telephone:
Portland: (503) 273-5308 or
Toll Free (800) 949-1004
Ext. 55308



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INFORMATION ABOUT ANIMALS AT VA PORTLAND HEALTH CARE SYSTEM



AUTHORIZED ANIMALS ONLY

PLEASE LEAVE YOUR PETS OR EXOTIC ANIMALS AT HOME

Authorized Animals

Service Animal

At the VA, a service animal means any dog that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including a physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual, or other mental disability.

Other species of animals, therapy animals, companion animals, emotional support animals, pets, and service dogs in training are not considered service animals.

Ref. VHA Directive # 1188, Aug. 26, 2015



Animal-Assisted Therapy (AAT)

A formal program to provide opportunities for motivational, educational, or therapeutic benefits to the patient.

The dog is certified and the handler is a professional or specially trained volunteer, enrolled through voluntary services. All visits are scheduled.



Standards of Behavior for Service/AAT Animals in the VA Medical Center -MCM 11-33 -

For the health and safety of others all animals should:

- Be on a leash & under control of the handler at all times
- Stay off the furniture
- Be house broken and train to eliminate its waste outside
- Not be aggressive, growl, snap, growl, lunge or bark
- Not show signs of disease, poor health, parasites, fleas, tics, etc.



It is not safe for animals to go everywhere in the hospital

All animals are restricted from, but not limited to:

- Areas where food is stored or made
- Linen storage & laundry areas
- Drug and sterile supply rooms
- Operating room / surgical suites
- Intensive care units
- Dialysis & chemotherapy areas
- Dental exam rooms
- Isolation, infusion rooms
- Areas where invasive procedures are being performed