

Sierra at Tahoe Service Animal Policy

Under the ADA, service animals are dogs (and in certain cases miniature horses) that are individually trained to perform tasks for people with disabilities, including but not limited to: guiding people who are visually impaired, alerting people who are hearing impaired, pulling wheelchairs, opening doors, alerting and protecting a person who is having a seizure, or performing other special tasks. Service animals are working animals, not pets, and no other types of animals, including what are commonly referred to as emotional support, comfort, or crime deterrent animals, qualify as service animals under the ADA.

Service animals are allowed into all Sierra at Tahoe base area facilities where customers are normally allowed to go (miniature horses are evaluated on a case-by-case basis).

- **Sierra at Tahoe does not permit service animals or pets on chairlifts.** The only exceptions are trained (or in training) avalanche rescue dogs actively working with patrol or mountain safety staff and are accompanied by their handler.
 - Avalanche dogs are specifically trained to ride chairlifts at very young ages. They typically train with the same ski patroller. The training takes over a year to complete and third-party accreditation is typically awarded upon completion.
- **Service animals or other pets are not allowed on open ski trails, surface carpets, or on chairlifts due to safety concerns** (e.g., the risk of injury to the animal, the unpredictability of dog behavior, the safety of other resort guests on trails below, emergency chairlift evacuation, and the safety of the guest who may lunge to stop / restrain a dog on a moving chairlift).
- **No ski area in the U.S. allows dogs or service animals to run alongside their human who is skiing open trails.** The U.S. Forest Service endorses this restriction due to legitimate safety concerns, including the potential for collisions with other guests and wildlife concerns.

The allowance of service animals at the resort is subject to two exceptions: (1) the animal is out of control and the animal's handler does not take effective action to control it; or (2) the animal is not housebroken.

A service animal shall have a harness, leash, or other tether, unless either the handler is unable because of a disability to use a harness, leash, or other tether, or the use of a harness, leash, or other tether would interfere with the service animal's safe, effective performance of work of tasks, in which case the service animal must be otherwise under the handler's control (e.g. voice control, signals, or other effective means).