



Service Animals

Definition of Service Animal

The 2010 revision to Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) defines a “service animal” as a dog that has been 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. The work or task a dog has been trained to provide must be directly related to the person’s disability. A dog that is in training to become a service animal is not considered a service animal.

Comfort Animals

Comfort or emotional support animals do not qualify as service animals. The key difference between a service animal and a comfort animal is that a service animal is trained to do work or perform tasks, whereas a comfort or emotional support animal is not.

Service animals in training, comfort animals, and pets are subject to the park’s pet regulations and are not allowed on trails or boardwalks.

Service Animal Permit Required

Glacier requires anyone wishing to take a service animal into the backcountry to obtain a service animal permit. The permit allows visitors to receive information about the potential risks associated with taking a service animal into Glacier’s backcountry as well as inform them about park regulations which pertain to service animals in the backcountry. The permit is not required when visiting frontcountry attractions and areas with boardwalks (i.e. Trail of the Cedars, etc.).

The visitor needs to fill out the form with as much information as possible and then sign the permit certifying that their animal is fully trained as a service animal, free of infectious diseases, and they

will abide by the regulations listed in the brochure. Bring the signed permit to a backcountry permit office location (listed below) to ensure there are no area closures or other resource concerns that would prevent the trip from occurring as planned and so alternative plans may be made. The permit issuer signs the permit under “Approved by”.

Backcountry Permit Office Locations:

- Apgar Village (Summer and Winter)
- Many Glacier Ranger Station (Summer)
- St. Mary Visitor Center (Summer and Winter)
- Two Medicine Ranger Station (Summer)
- Park Headquarters Building (Winter)

Things to Know

Where domestic animals and wildlife overlap there is a possibility of exchanging diseases between the two groups. Domestic dogs can introduce disease into wildlife habitats and the park’s canids (wolves, coyotes, and foxes) are vulnerable to domestic diseases such as canine distemper, parvo virus, rabies, mange, etc. Likewise it’s possible for domestic dogs to acquire these diseases from wild animals.

The Service Animal Permit provides park managers with reasonable assurance that domestic service animals travelling in the backcountry are free of diseases which could harm wildlife.

Rules pertaining to service animals:

Service animals must be harnessed, leashed, or tethered, unless these devices interfere with the animal’s work or the individual’s disability prevents using these devices.

Food for the service animal is a bear attractant and must be stored accordingly. Food and food containers must never be left unattended and must be kept out of reach of wildlife.

Service animal fecal matter must be picked up and disposed of properly: in a trash container, pit toilet, or (in the backcountry) buried in a cat hole 6 inches deep and at least 200 feet from water sources, campsites or trails or packed out.

Due to increased risk of confrontation between service animals and wildlife (bears, wolves, and other wildlife), service animals are not permitted on posted or closed trails.

Falsely portraying a pet or comfort animal as a service animal on this permit is considered fraud and is subject to Federal prosecution. 36 CFR 2.32(a)(3)(ii).

Risks

Please be aware that having a service animal in the backcountry may put you at increased risk for confrontations with wolves, bears, and other wildlife. There are recorded instances of domestic dogs killed by bears, mountain lions, coyotes within Glacier and numerous instances of dogs killed by wolves and bears outside of Glacier. Wolves are very territorial and may perceive domestic dogs as competitors and act aggressively toward them putting you and your animal in danger.

Due to increased risk of confrontation between service animals and wildlife (bears, wolves, and other wildlife), service animals are not permitted on posted or closed trails.

If you must take a service animal with you in the backcountry keep it on a tight leash at all times and sleep with it in your tent at night.

In addition, streams and rivers pose a special risk to all animals. Cold and fast moving water can cause hypothermia, drowning, and giardia poisoning if your animal decides to take a drink or go for a swim.

Your safety and the safety of your animal are not guaranteed.

Service Animal Permit

Please complete and bring to a backcountry permit office prior to travelling in the backcountry with a service animal.

The signed permit shows you have received the information in this brochure and provides you with a document to show should any questions arise over whether you are with a service animal.

Animal Name: _____ **Species:** _____ **Breed:** _____
Sex: _____ **Age:** _____ **Color:** _____ **Weight:** _____
Registration/Microchip/Tattoo Number: _____ **State:** _____

Work or task animal has been trained to perform:

Note: Dogs used purely to provide comfort, emotional support, well-being, or companionship do not qualify as service animals under the ADA and are under the same regulations as pets.

Date(s) of intended visit to the park: _____

Owner/Handler Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Telephone number: _____

Your veterinarian's name and phone number: _____

I certify the above named dog is individually and fully trained as a service animal to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of permittee with a disability recognized by the ADA.

I certify the above named animal is free from symptoms of contagious or infectious diseases and to the best of my knowledge has not been exposed to any contagious or infectious diseases. The animal is free of internal or external parasites and is current on rabies, canine parvovirus, canine distemper, and infectious hepatitis inoculations or medications.

By checking the above boxes and signing below I hereby certify that I have been informed of, and agree to abide by, the regulations and information contained within this brochure.

Permittee Signature: _____

Date: _____

This permit applies to the above described animal. It must be carried at all times and is required for taking the animal into the backcountry of Glacier National Park. Service animals must abide by the regulations listed in this brochure.

Approved by: _____

Location Issued: _____

Date: _____