



## Service Animals



Service animals are allowed in all facilities, and on all trails with the signed acknowledgement, unless an area has been closed by the superintendent to protect park resources.

### Definition of a 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.

Dogs that are not trained to perform tasks that mitigate the effects of a disability, including

dogs that are used purely to provide comfort or emotional support (“therapy animals”), are considered pets.

Service animals in training and pets are subject to the park’s pet regulations and are not allowed on trails or in facilities. Falsely portraying a pet as a service animal is considered fraud and is subject to federal prosecution.

### Service Animal Acknowledgement Required

Individuals intending to take a service animal into the backcountry, must first obtain a service animal acknowledgement. A service animal acknowledgement is not needed when visiting frontcountry attractions and visitor centers.

To obtain a free service animal acknowledgement please read this brochure carefully and fill in the required information on

the other side. Bring the completed form to a backcountry office within the park.

#### Backcountry Office Locations:

- Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center (Moose Visitor Center)
- Jenny Lake Ranger Station
- Colter Bay Visitor Center

### Things to Know

Where domestic animals and wildlife overlap there is a possibility of exchange of 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 is possible for domestic dogs to acquire these diseases from wild animals.

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

#### To help prevent the spread of disease:

- Service animals must always be leashed or harnessed, under control, and attended at all times.
- Pet food is a bear attractant and should 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. *Fecal matter should be disposed of in a trash receptacle. If in the backcountry, it should be buried in a cat hole dug a minimum of 6 inches deep and 200 feet from water sources, campsites or trails.*

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**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 numerous recorded instances of domestic dogs killed by moose, wolves, and bears within the Yellowstone ecosystem. Wolves are very territorial and may perceive domestic dogs as competitors and act aggressively toward them putting your animal and you in danger.

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

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

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**Additional Resources**

“Accessibility in Grand Teton” is available for download at: [www.nps.gov/grte/planyourvisit/accessibility.htm](http://www.nps.gov/grte/planyourvisit/accessibility.htm) or can be obtained for free from all entrance stations, visitor centers, or via mail by contacting Grand Teton Visitor Services through the park’s website.

For information on planning a backcountry trip in Grand Teton contact the Moose Permits desk at 307-739-3309 or visit [www.nps.gov/grte/planyourvisit/back.htm](http://www.nps.gov/grte/planyourvisit/back.htm)

For information regarding traveling with pets in Grand Teton visit: [www.nps.gov/grte/planyourvisit/pets.htm](http://www.nps.gov/grte/planyourvisit/pets.htm)

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**Service Animal Acknowledgement:**

Please complete and bring to a backcountry office prior to traveling in the backcountry with a service animal, or present to a backcountry office at your earliest convenience if the offices were closed upon your arrival.

*The signed acknowledgement shows you have received the information in this brochure and provides you with a document to show should any questions arise.*

Animal Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Species: \_\_\_\_\_ Breed: \_\_\_\_\_

Sex: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Color: \_\_\_\_\_ Weight: \_\_\_\_\_

Registration/Tattoo Number (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Date(s) of intended visit to the park: \_\_\_\_\_

Owner/ Handler Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Area Code and Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Your veterinary’s name and phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

I certify the above named animal is individually and fully trained as a service animal to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability.

I certify the above named dog 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 direction and information contained within this brochure.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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

NPS Employee Witness: \_\_\_\_\_ Station Contact#: \_\_\_\_\_

Location: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_