

How to Certify a Service Dog



Steps to properly certify your Service Dog

Service dogs are not just for those folks that suffer from blindness. These specifically trained canines are now finding their way into the “workforce” to help those that deal with other physical or mental disabilities. Understanding how to officially certify your service dog is an important first step.

- 1) Adopt a dog with a calm temperament and energy level
- 2) Train your dog to perform a task to aid with your disability (Should be professionally trained)
- 3) Certify your service dog with Service Dog Certifications ([web site link here](#))
- 4) Have applied for a services dog permit from DPRD. (See below)
- 5) Live your life to the fullest

Where Can my Certified Service Dog Go?

Service Dogs are allowed anywhere their handler is allowed. This includes restaurants, movie theaters, retail stores, and markets. **In Haig Mill Lake Park, certified dogs may only go in designated posted areas.**

However, there are some areas where your Service Dog may be denied access to. These include;

Treatment area of an ambulance
Hospital ICU or other areas where special clothing is required
Worship services in a church
Military bases
Private clubs

Federally regulated Public Water Supply Systems (Haig Mill Lake Park)

What Do I Do If My Certified Service Dog is Denied Access?

Unfortunately, it does happen. You may be denied access to some areas by uninformed people and federal guidelines not under ADA.

However, there are ways to handle the situation.

First, remain calm and explain that under the American with Disabilities Act you have a right to your service dog and to bring it into public areas.

Second, if you have a certificate from your service dog registration organization, show the person to prove your dog is legitimate.

Third, ask to see a manager/owner of the establishment. For a larger business, you may want to do a quick search on your phone for a customer service department. Explain the situation to whomever you decide to discuss this matter with in a calm manner.

Fourth, if you are still denied access, you can file an official [ADA complaint](#) with the US Department of Justice.

Before you leave the establishment it’s always a good idea to ask for any witnesses that may want to give a statement in regards to your denial.



Haig Mill Lake Park Service Animal Permit

Part I – To be filled out by owner

Date of Arrival: _____ Arrival Method: _____ Entry Point: _____

Animal name: _____ Species: _____ Breed: _____ Sex: _____

Age: _____ Color: _____ Weight: _____

Registration/tattoo/license number: _____ State: _____

Has the dog specifically and individually been trained as a service animal? _____

Is the animal required because of a disability? _____

What specific task(s) has the Animal been trained to perform?

Owner name: _____

Address: City: _____ State/Province: _____ Zip: _____

Area code and telephone: _____

Part II – To be filled out by a licensed veterinarian within 15 days of park visit I hereby certify that I have examined the above animal and find it to be free from clinical signs of contagious or infectious diseases, and to the best of my knowledge it has not been exposed to any contagious or infectious diseases. The animal is apparently free of internal (including parasitic worms) or external parasites (including ticks and fleas) and is current on the following required inoculations, medications or screenings:

Date received/type Current until Rabies (1 or 3 year) _____

Canine Parvovirus (MLV-CPV-2) _____

Canine Distemper (MLV or rCDV) _____

Canine Adenovirus (MLV-CAV-2) _____

External parasite prevention program _____

Deworming program (Heartworm preventative - minimum) _____

Fecal floatation/exam for internal parasites _____

Is this a service animal as defined by Georgia Law? : _____

Date of Examination: _____

Signature of licensed veterinarian: _____ Name (Please Print): _____

Address: City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Area code and telephone: _____ License number: _____

Part III – Guide/Service animal permit to be filled out by the office of the Superintendent of Recreation or representative.

The above animal is approved for entry and use Haig Mill Lake Park until _____. This permit will be required for entry into Haig Mill Lake Park and must be carried at all times. Guide/Service animals must be leashed and attended at all times. Fecal matter must be picked up and deposited in a flush toilet located in the main part of the park.

APPROVED BY: _____ TITLE: _____ DATE: _____

Why Do I Need a Service Animal Permit?

Park policy prohibits the possession of any dogs, cats, or other mammals within park boundaries, including on board vessels. The park's primary concern is for the protection of public drinking water system and indigenous wildlife species; the inadvertent transmission of disease or parasites into the, largely isolated Haig Mill Lake Park, eco-system could have devastating effects on wildlife populations.

The City of Dalton, Dalton Parks and Recreation, Dalton Utilities recognizes the need for ADA service dogs to be able to access the park with their owners. In order to accommodate this need while at the same time protecting the public drinking water resource and wildlife population, this service dog permit has been created.

Service Animal Expectations

- Must be leashed and under control at all times.
- All fecal matter must be picked up and deposited in a flush toilet located at the main section of the park. To facilitate proper waste disposal, DPRD staff will issue a free baggie kit to service animal owners holding valid service dog permits.
- Food and care are to be provided by the service dog owner only.
- DPRD strongly suggest that all food be disposed in proper trash containers.
- Must comply with generally accepted canine social behavior.
- If your animal shows any signs of illness while at the Park, in order to protect against the potential spread of illness to wildlife, make arrangements to depart as soon as possible.
- **ADA Information**
- The Americans with Disability Act (ADA) determines the regulations guiding service animals. In 2010, the Department of Justice revised and clarified its **requirements for service animal public accommodations** (search *service animal*). The City of Dalton does its very best to implement these requirements while at the same time balancing the preservation of the unique Drinking Water Facility.