

SAN DIEGO COUNTY FAIR

Policy on Service Dogs

The Del Mar Fairgrounds complies with California State provisions, which allow service dogs in all public areas. (Miniature horses trained to do work or perform tasks for persons with disabilities are also acceptable.)

A service dog is a dog trained to do specific tasks for a person that he or she cannot do because of a disability. Service dogs can pick things up, guide a person who is blind, or help someone who falls or loses balance easily. For example, a service dog can help a blind person walk down the street or get dangerous things out of the way when someone is having a seizure.

Protecting someone, giving emotional support, or being a companion do not qualify a dog to be a service animal. To be a service dog, a dog must go through training. Usually the dog is trained to:

- Do things that are different from natural dog behavior.
- Do things that the handler (dog owner) cannot do because of a disability.
- Learn to work with the new handler in ways that help manage the owner's disability

Because the handler depends on the service dog's help, these animals will be given access to public places when accompanying individuals with disabilities making their services necessary. This is the case even if it is somewhere pet dogs usually cannot go, such as Livestock Buildings or eating establishments. But there are a few exceptions. For example, service dogs can be asked to leave if they are not behaving well.

If someone with a service dog attends a show and baby strollers are restricted, dog strollers/carts are equally restricted. The dog is to be held on the lap of the handler. If the dog barks or is otherwise disruptive and the behavior can be compared to a human and a human would be asked to leave an event, the handler may be told to remove the dog.

At the San Diego County Fair, "Dogs in Training" or "Puppies in Training" with appropriate identification will be allowed in all public areas with appropriate supervision providing they do not create a disturbance. One "Dog in Training" or "Puppy in Training" per trainer will be allowed on property. The Fair reserves the right to exclude any "trainees" creating a disturbance.