

This letter is written in response to concerns regarding Service Dogs in restaurants. According to "Service Dogs of America", a nonprofit since 1992, the ADA (Americans with Disability Act) guarantees a blind, deaf, or physically disabled person the legal right to be accompanied by a service animal in all areas open to the general public.

Service Dogs come in all breeds, shapes and sizes. For example, a larger breed may be trained to brace, a smaller breed may be trained to assist as eyes or ears. A disability may not always be visible, as in the case of a service dog knowing when an individual with diabetes is low in insulin. Service Dogs are specifically trained for a task, not merely emotional support and/or comfort to fit into this category.

A restaurant may remove a service animal if it is aggressive towards other patrons or if it has had an accident. Having been in the restaurant business for 30+ years, we have not yet encountered such. Not to say this could never happen, but we have observed these animals as well cared for and groomed, well-behaved and trained, to be seen and not heard.

In the event a guest should discover dining next to a service dog and not feeling comfortable while in our restaurant, we would be happy to relocate them upon request. I think I can speak for other establishments as well, that would be an easy fix! We strive to welcome and make all guests comfortable, with or without a service animal.

If a person chooses to lie to the restaurant about their dog being a service animal, they do so at their own risk. In 2016 Florida passed a law declaring the use of fake service dogs a second-degree misdemeanor punishable by a \$500 fine and up to 60 days in jail. Here at Demshar's however, we are Paws-Friendly on our outside patio. No need to be service qualified. We've had some memorable "guests"; Candy Louise in her Easter Dress and Moxie are not easily forgotten.

On a personal note our little rescues, Harley and Sophia, especially love the Prime Rib and Pot Roast!