



Sheltering Service Animals During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Service animals are trained to assist individuals with a disability. They are not considered household pets and must remain with their owners/individuals who rely on these animals for independence. People cannot be asked to remove their service animals from the shelter unless the animal is out of control or poses a direct threat.

IF THE HANDLER IS ILL

- ☐ If possible, provide a separate room where the handler and service animal can isolate together.
- ☐ If a separate room is not available, the handler and service animal should isolate in the general population isolation area.
- ☐ A service animal should remain 6 feet from other people in the isolation area.
- ☐ Contact between the ill handler and the service animal should be limited to the animal's work or task as much as possible (no snuggling, etc.).
- ☐ The ill handler should wash hands before and after touching the animal.
- ☐ A well person should walk, exercise, and feed the service animal.

IF THE SERVICE ANIMAL SHOWS SIGNS OF ILLNESS

- ☐ Follow the above information except if a separate room is not available, the handler and animal may remain in the general population area.
- ☐ Ensure anyone feeding, walking, or exercising animals that are exposed to COVID-19 or are showing signs of illness should wear a face mask and disposable gloves.
 - o Dispose of gloves after each use
- ☐ Notify a veterinarian of a possible exposure to COVID-19

AND

The City of Houston Bureau of Rabies and Animal Control at (713) 837-0311

5/3/21