

Warren Willis United Methodist Camp and Conference Center Pet Policy

The following is the pet policy of Warren Willis United Methodist Camp and Conference Center which was developed in cooperation with service animal owners and in keeping with state and federal law. The purpose of this policy is to provide standards to insure the best possible environment for both pet owners and non pet owners and to insure the responsible care of pets. Here at the Warren Willis United Methodist Camp and Conference Center we have a strict No Pet Policy. Our exceptions include the approval of Service Animals. Below is our guidelines for service animals on property:

What is a Guide Dog, Service Animal and Service Dog?:

The ADA defines a service animal as a dog that is individually trained to perform tasks or do work for the benefit of a person with a disability. However, the work or the tasks that the animal does must be directly related to the person's disability.

Guide Dogs, Service Animals and Service Dogs:

Under Florida law and the federal Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), people with disabilities may bring their service animals to all "public accommodations" such as dining halls, rooming spaces, and meeting rooms.

A guest with a disability that is accompanied by a guide dog, service animal or service dog will be allowed access to premises that are open to the public. "No pet" policies do not apply to guide dogs, service animals and/or service dogs.

Please refer to Florida Statute 413.08 for more information regarding the rights of Guide Dogs, Service Animals and Service Dogs.

Emotional Support Animals (ESA):

ESAs are animals that provide a sense of safety, companionship, and comfort to those with psychiatric or emotional disabilities or conditions. Although these animals often have therapeutic benefits, they are not individually trained to perform specific tasks for their handlers. Under the ADA and Florida law, we are not required to allow emotional support animals, only service animals.

Therapy Dogs:

A Therapy Dog's responsibilities are to provide psychological or physiological therapy to individuals other than their handlers. Therapy Dogs, despite thorough training, registration and the therapeutic benefits therapy dogs provide, they do not have the same jobs or legal designation as service dogs. The handlers or owners of therapy dogs do not have the same rights to be accompanied by these dogs in places where pets are not permitted. Under the ADA and Florida law, we are not required to allow Therapy Dogs, only service dogs.

Recognizing a Guide Dog, Service Dog and/or Service Animal:

If it is not readily apparent that the animal is being used by the guest for reasons relating to his or her disability, the Warren Willis United Methodist Camp and Conference Center may request verification from the guest. To determine the difference between a service animal and a pet, the Warren Willis United Methodist Camp and Conference Center may ask if an animal is a service animal required because of a disability and what work or tasks the animal has been trained to perform. Staff are not allowed to request any documentation for the dog, require that the dog demonstrate its task, or inquire about the nature of the person's disability.

Service-animals-in-training (SDiT)

Under the ADA, the dog must already be trained before it can be taken into public places. However, Florida Statute 413.08(8) specifically states: "Any trainer of a service animal, while engaged in the training of such an animal, has the same rights and privileges with respect to access to public facilities and the same liability for damage as is provided for those persons described in subsection (3) accompanied by service animals."

Care and Control of the Animal:

The guest that is accompanied by a guide dog, service dog and/or service animal is responsible for maintaining care and control of the animal at all time. Service Animals have access to all buildings and facilities unless they are behaving inappropriately, are not housebroken, or if such access poses a direct threat to the health and safety of others and that threat cannot be eliminated or reduced by reasonable modification to other policies and practices. Appropriate alternative accommodations will be made to provide the individual with access if the animal is unable to accompany. If a guest's service animal causes damages to a guest room, the Warren Willis United Methodist Camp and Conference Center is permitted to charge the same fee for damages as charged to other guests.

If a service animal is out of control and the handler does not take effective action to control it, staff may request that the animal be removed from the premises.

Allergies:

If a health and safety concern presents itself, for example in the form of a severe allergy to the animal, the Warren Willis United Methodist Camp and Conference Center will make all reasonable efforts to meet the needs of all individuals. Furthermore, according to the ADA, fear of animals or allergies do not constitute a "direct threat" and cannot be grounds for denying access to a service animal.