

# ATLANTIC MEDICAL IMAGING

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## POLICY STATEMENT AND PROCEDURAL GUIDELINES

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### CATEGORY: PATIENT CARE

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#### **Subject: Service Animals**

#### **Purpose:**

Atlantic Medical Imaging will comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in reference to Service Animals.

#### **Procedure:**

#### **Guideline laws, Reference:**

1. Handicapped, blind or deaf person; accompaniment by service or guide dog; use of public facilities; liabilities
  - a. Any person with a disability accompanied by a service or guide dog trained by a recognized training agency or school is entitled, with his dog, to the full and equal enjoyment, advantages, facilities and privileges of all public facilities, subject only to the following conditions:
    - A person with a disability, if accompanied by a service or guide dog, shall keep such dog in his immediate custody at all times.
    - A person with a disability accompanied by a service or guide dog shall not be charged any extra fee or payment for admission to or use of any public facility.
    - A person with a disability who has a service or guide dog in his possession shall be liable for any damages done to the premises of a public facility by such dog.
2. Service or guide dog trainer; access to public facilities; responsibilities
  - a. A service or guide dog trainer, while engaged in the actual training process and activities of service dogs or guide dogs, shall have the same rights and privileges with respect to access to public facilities and the same responsibilities as are applicable to a person with a disability.
3. Rights, privileges, conditions, and restrictions of blind persons with “seeing eye” dog; application to handicapped or deaf persons with “service dogs” or “hearing ear” dogs.
  - a. Whenever the law accords rights and privileges to or imposes conditions and restrictions upon blind persons with respect to their use of dogs to countervail their disability, and known and described as “seeing eye” dogs, those rights, privileges, conditions and restrictions shall also apply to persons with disabilities with respect to their use of dogs to countervail their disability, and known and described as either “service dogs” or “hearing ear” dogs.

#### **Restrictions of service animals:**

1. When can an animal be removed from a facility?

Reviewed:  
Revised: May 2011, May 2026

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- a. A service animal can be removed from a business when its presence constitutes a fundamental alteration of the goods or services offered by the business. If a service animal is removed, the business must still offer their goods and services to the owner of the service animal, even if the animal itself must remain outside.
  - b. Service animals can also be removed if they pose a direct threat to the safety of others by barking, lunging, growling, snarling, or lunging at others.
2. Sterile set-up / Procedure
    - a. Service animals are not permitted in an exam room where at sterile set up is in usage.
  3. MRI Zone 4 Protocol:
    - a. Service animals are not permitted in Zone 4 due to these factors below:
      - Burns are possible with the strong magnetic field.
      - Chip may no longer function
      - Strong possibility of chip displacement.
      - Noise protection is not available

For imaging studies involving Radiation (CT/Fluoro/X-ray/Special Procedures), The Technologists must inform patient for potential radiation exposure to service animal.

### **ADA Amendment:**

Starting today, March 15, 2011, only service dogs and trained miniature horses are protected under the Americans with Disabilities Act. Monkeys, rodents, and reptiles, among others, are no longer permitted to accompany individuals with disabilities into places of public accommodation. Department of Justice regulations (implementing Title III of the ADA) used to define a service animal as “any guide dog, signal dog or other animal individually trained to provide assistance for the benefit of an individual with a disability.” The ADA revisions going into effect today were drawn up after some disability advocates asked the Department of Justice to crack down on people who were faking or exaggerating disabilities in order to get their companion animals into places of public accommodation. Starting today, a service animal is defined as “any dog that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability.” Notice the specific word dog in that sentence. Aside from one provision for miniature horses, other species of animals (whether wild or domestic, trained, or untrained) are no longer deemed service animals.

### **Reference:**

U.S. Department of Justice: 1-800-514-0301.

Americans with Disabilities Act: 1-800-514-0301, [www.ada.gov](http://www.ada.gov)