

HIGH DESERT MUSEUM

POLICY STATEMENT REGARDING SERVICE ANIMALS

The High Desert Museum is committed to complying with the Americans with Disabilities Act and seeks to ensure that every visitor enjoys the Museum. We welcome visitors with disabilities who wish to bring their trained service animals into the Museum. **Service animals are not permitted in certain portions of the Museum, however, the Museum may refuse entry to any service animal that poses a direct threat to health and safety. Pets are not allowed inside the Museum.**

The Museum also recognizes that it has a strong responsibility to the collection of animals under its care, and must do everything it can to protect those animals. In view of this responsibility, the Museum has adopted policies that govern the admission of animals onto Museum grounds. These policies are designed to provide the maximum safety for all visitors and animals in the Museum collection.

1. Visitors with service animals must check in at Admissions, read or be read this policy and sign it indicating they understand these policies.
2. Visitors whose service animals have been denied entrance will be provided with an opportunity to enter the Museum without the animal. The Museum is not responsible for the care or supervision of a service animal and will not kennel, care for, or supervise the service animal during the handler's visit.
3. A service animal must be under the control of its handler. It must be on a harness, leash or other tether, or under other effective means of control.
4. A service animal must be housebroken and in visibly good health. This is important to keep potential health problems from spreading to the animals at the Museum.
5. A service animal that reacts aggressively to the presence of people, animals or sounds will be asked to leave the Museum.
6. If a Museum animal is visibly upset or agitated by the service animal's presence, the visitor and service animal must immediately proceed away from that animal exhibit.
7. Service animals may be monitored while on grounds by Museum staff to assure safety of the Museum's animal collection and visitors.
8. **Service animals are not permitted to have any contact with Museum animals and are not permitted in certain areas having free roaming animals within reach of the service animal. Restricted areas include, but are not limited to:**
 - a. **the Miller Family Ranch and Sawmill, which has free roaming chickens;**
 - b. **the Desert Dwellers Show;**
 - c. **the Raptors of the Desert Sky presentation;**
 - d. **any presentation of an animal outside its enclosure (Bird of Prey encounter and the Porcupine encounter).**

- e. All such areas will be pointed out to the visitor upon entry and circled on the Museum map.
 - f. Individuals with disabilities wishing to view the restricted areas may leave the service animal with another member of his or her party outside the restricted areas.
9. The service animal owner is responsible for all actions of the service animal including clean up of all fecal material from the animal while on Museum grounds. In addition, the owner may be held liable for any damage, injury or death caused by the service animal to the grounds, him/herself, the animal or plant collection, employees or visitors.
10. The High Desert Museum is not responsible or liable for the actions or responses of the service animal as a result of being exposed to Museum animals, and, to the extent allowed by law, may be required to hold harmless, The High Desert Museum for any damage, injury, or death caused by the service animal.

By signing this form or asking another to sign this form for you, you agree to the above stipulations and requirements.

Signature and address of service animal owner:

Date: _____

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