CITY of BOSTON

Service Dog Policy

The City enforces the State Sanitary Code 105 CMR 590.00 and the 2013 Federal Food Code.

Only service dogs that are trained to assist people with disabilities are permitted on licensed establishments which include outdoor patios. Please note emotional support animals and pets do not qualify as service dogs. Please note this is not a new policy.

For more information, please visit: https://www.mass.gov/service-details/about-service-and-assistance-animals
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Only when the individual’s disability is not obvious, staff may ask the following two questions to determine whether an animal is a service animal:

- Is the animal a service animal required because of a disability?
- What task or service is the animal trained to perform?

The law requires staff to take the individual at their word. Service dogs are not required to be licensed or wear a vest.

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