



Mass Audubon Statement on Service Animals

Federal and state laws apply to service animals and places of public accommodation such as Mass Audubon sanctuaries that are prepared for public visitation. In Massachusetts, this includes service animals that provide emotional comfort and support.

Our wildlife sanctuaries provide habitat for wildlife. Resident wildlife, living freely on the sanctuary or residing in display enclosures, and resident livestock used for farming or ecological management, can perceive even well-trained service animals as predators. Wildlife in display enclosures, with few places to hide, can become especially threatened in the presence of a dog and have the potential to get injured as they attempt to run or fly away.

For the safety and comfort of wildlife and livestock, to provide safe and comfortable experiences for all our visitors, and to ensure the safety of the service animal/handler team, we ask service animal handlers to please:

- Keep service animals restrained and under control at all times and be aware of the potential risk of injury to our live animals on exhibit by just the presence of a service animal near the exhibit.
- Contact our sites before visiting for the first time for more site-specific information and to discuss how best to accommodate your needs along with the site's wildlife and livestock. If staff resources allow, a Mass Audubon staff member or volunteer may be available to accompany a service animal handler visiting an area of the sanctuary that is of special concern.

At sanctuaries with equine livestock, we cannot allow miniature horses to accompany service animal handlers due to the potential health risk to both the miniature horse and to our animals. Visitors who wish to discuss this further are strongly encouraged to call the individual sanctuary for more information about our policy on miniature horses.

Approved by Laura A. Johnson, Mass Audubon President

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