SERVICE ANIMALS:

According to the US Department of Justice website, the ADA defines a service animal as “Any dog that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including a physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual, or other mental disability. Other species of animals, whether wild or domestic, trained or untrained, are not service animals for the purposes of this definition. The work or tasks performed by a service animal must be directly related to the individual's disability. Examples of work or tasks include, but are not limited to, assisting individuals who are blind or have low vision with navigation and other tasks, alerting individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing to the presence of people or sounds, providing non-violent protection or rescue work, pulling a wheelchair, assisting an individual during a seizure, alerting individuals to the presence of allergens, retrieving items such as medicine or the telephone, providing physical support and assistance with balance and stability to individuals with mobility disabilities, and helping persons with psychiatric and neurological disabilities by preventing or interrupting impulsive or destructive behaviors. The crime deterrent effects of an animal's presence and the provision of emotional support, well-being, comfort, or companionship do not constitute work or tasks for the purposes of this definition.”

In addition to the provisions about service dogs, the revised ADA regulations add miniature horses that have been individually trained to do work or perform tasks for people with disabilities. Miniature horses generally range in height from 24 to 34 inches and generally weigh between 70 and 100 pounds. Facilities covered by the ADA must modify their policies to permit miniature horses where reasonable. There are four assessment factors to consider whether a facility can accommodate a miniature horse: (1) the miniature horse must be housebroken; (2) under the handler’s control; (3) the facility can accommodate the miniature horse’s type, size, and weight; and (4) the miniature horse’s presence will not compromise legitimate safety requirements necessary for safe operation of the facility.