



In their role as service animals, miniature horses use a harness or halter, special shoes or sneakers for slippery surfaces, and a guide rope

Miniature horses can have a service life of up to 20 years.

<https://usserviceanimals.org/blog/miniature-horses-as-service-animals/>

“Guide dogs are lucky to make it to their 15th birthday, while mini horses frequently thrive into their 30s. Some even make it to 50.”

10-year guide horse user Mona Romouni, in a Vox interview

Service Animals Can Be Miniature Horses

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) regulations from the US Department of Justice (DOJ) state that dogs are the only species permitted to be service animals, with the single possible exception of miniature horses.

As with their canine counterparts, miniature horses must be individually trained to perform a specific task for a person with a disability, housebroken, and under the control of the owner at all times.

If a miniature horse does not compromise legitimate safety requirements, a covered entity must make reasonable modifications to its policy, practices, and procedures to accommodate the animal, so long as the facility can accommodate the horse’s type, size, and weight.

Here are some key facts to better understand this second type of service animal.

Miniature horses:

- Often serve as guide animals or mobility/balance assistance animals
- Can push or pull heavy objects
- Can live 25–30 years and offer a long service life of up to 20 years
- Are easy to groom and shed fewer allergens than dogs
- Are an alternative service animal for those who cannot work with a dog for religious or cultural reasons