

Animal Policy

Pathway Community Church is committed to providing a safe and secure environment for people who participate in worship and other ministry activities, including those who employ service animals and provide animal assisted therapy.

Most importantly, it's good to understand the difference between a working animal and a pet. And, while therapy animals are trained to bring comfort, they can still trigger anxiety when uninvited or free-roaming.

Broadly speaking, no, your family pet cannot come inside with you to any facility of Pathway Community Church.

Service Animals

The ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) defines a service animal as one that has been individually trained to do work or perform tasks for an individual with a disability. The tasks performed by the service animal must be directly related to the person's disability.

Once approved by the Security Director, service animals are welcome. The owner must provide details about what work or task the animal has been trained to perform.

Additionally, Pathway Community Church requires a copy of the service animal's current shot records and liability insurance, which will be kept on file in the church office.

Pathway Community Church respects the ethical guidelines set forth by the ADA. However, churches and ministries are exempt from ADA Title III.

Therapy Animals

Therapy animals are used to bring comfort and joy to people in places like hospitals, schools, retirement homes, nursing homes and churches.

Therapy animals are allowed by invitation only. Once approved by the Security Director, Pathway Community Church ministry leaders may invite trained therapy animals onsite. Owners must provide the therapy license showing current certification, shot records and a copy of their liability insurance, which will be kept on file in the church office. Once invited, therapy animals will be assigned a designated location in which to interact with people.

Emotional Support Animals

An emotional support animal, sometimes also referred to as a comfort animal, is a pet that provides therapeutic support to a person with a mental illness. To be designated as an emotional support animal, the pet must be prescribed by a licensed mental health professional with an accompanying ESA letter.

Emotional support animals are not welcome. While service animals are covered by the ADA, emotional support animals are governed primarily by the FHA (Fair Housing Act), which prohibits discrimination against disabled individuals in all real estate dealings and rental housing situations (not churches).

Additional Information

- Service and therapy animals must always be harnessed, leashed, or tethered.
- Owners who do not abide by the Pathway Community Church Animal Policy will be asked to remove their animal from the facility. Local law enforcement will be called if necessary.
- The Pathway Community Church Animal Policy applies to all indoor Pathway Community Church facilities.
- For more information on the regulation of service animals, visit www.ADA.gov.
- Email questions to info@pccfw.org.

Owner's Responsibilities

- All animals must be harnessed, leashed, or tethered at all times.
- All animals must be housebroken.
- All animals must be controlled at all times, including but not limited to: barking, jumping on people, roaming freely, or making messes.

