

# AVMA CMPC POLICY ON LIVE ANIMALS AT THE CONVENTION

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## POLICY

Only service animals (e.g., guide, signal, or other services) and preapproved animals required for exhibition, teaching, or training are permitted into AVMA-sponsored events (e.g. convention hall, exhibit hall floor). Attendees are not permitted to bring pets or animal companions to AVMA-sponsored events.

**Note:** If there is a conflict between this policy and federal, state, or local law, then this policy shall be interpreted and applied so as to comply with applicable law.

## BACKGROUND

The AVMA wishes to assure the health, safety, and welfare of all participants and attendees to AVMA-sponsored events and activities - this includes human presenters and exhibitors, animal participants, and all attendees. There are two manners in which animals may participate in the AVMA Convention:

1. Service Animals
2. Exhibition, Teaching, Training

### Service Animals

According to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA):

- In general, privately owned businesses that serve the public must permit service animals to accompany people with disabilities in all areas where members of the public are allowed to go.
- Service animals are defined by the ADA as dogs that are individually trained to do work or perform tasks for people with disabilities. Miniature horses may be allowed as an alternative to dogs under certain circumstances.
- There is no requirement for the service animal or handler to be licensed or certified by a state or local government.

### Miniature Horses

Miniature horses that have been individually trained to do work or perform tasks for people with disabilities may be allowed as service animals at AVMA events. Miniature horses generally range in height from 24 inches to 34 inches measured to the shoulders and generally weigh between 70 and 100 pounds. A miniature horse serving as a service animal will be permitted so long as it can be accommodated at the AVMA event, which will depend on whether the:

1. miniature horse is housebroken,
2. miniature horse is under the owner's control,

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3. facility can accommodate the miniature horse's type, size, and weight, and
4. miniature horse's presence will not compromise legitimate safety requirements necessary for safe operation of the facility.

### **Exhibition, Teaching, Training**

#### Exhibit Hall

Animals may be used to demonstrate products as long as such demonstration does not cause pain or distress to the animal or pose a health or safety concern to humans. No anesthesia or sedation of animals in the exhibit hall is permitted. Animals must be provided with resting space sufficient to allow unobstructed postural movements typical for the species and normal resting space. Animals must be provided access to water at least every 2 hours for a minimum of 15 minutes and the opportunity to eliminate (urine/feces) at least every 2 hours during their exhibit hall visit. The exhibitor is responsible for collecting, containing and disposing of waste in receptacles off of the Exhibit Hall floor and in accordance with Convention Center and local authority policies and regulations. The exhibit must also comply with all laws, rules, local regulations, and facility rules governing the use of animals in public areas.

#### Teaching or Training

Animals may be used for AVMA Interactive Laboratories or as components of the Continuing Education Program. This use requires an approved Animal Use Protocol by the AVMA IACUC.

## **PROCEDURES**

### **Service Animals**

Service animals must be clearly identified by a badge, collar, vest or some other visible accoutrement identifying them as a 'service animal.' Service animals shall also be issued a convention registration badge prior to entry into the exhibit hall or AVMA event. The AVMA will issue a service animal a convention registration badge without cost. Prior to issuing the registration badge, the owner and a representative of the AVMA (generally the IACUC Chair, a member of the AVMA Animal Welfare Division, or the CMPC Section Manager of Other Convention Activities) will meet with the animal and the owner. The purpose of the meeting is to inquire as to needs the animal may have while in the area and confirm the service nature of the animal.

#### **NOTES:**

1. AVMA representatives may ask if the animal is required for a disability; and if so, what task(s) is the animal trained to perform.

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2. Service animals must be harnessed, leashed, or tethered, unless these devices interfere with the service animal's work or the individual's disability prevents using these devices. In that case, the individual must maintain control of the animal through voice, signal, or other effective controls. A service animal may be denied access, or continued access, if it is out of control and the handler does not take effective action to control it, or the animal is not housebroken. When there is a legitimate reason to ask that a service animal be removed, the AVMA will offer the individual with the disability the opportunity to participate in the event without the animal's presence.

### **Exhibit Hall Animals (Nonservice Animals)**

Exhibit hall animals (nonservice animals) are required to be approved and registered pre-event (see the process for application in the document titled "Registration Process for Live Animals at the AVMA Convention"). Event participants or exhibitors having a legitimate and reasonable need or rationale to have a live animal within the AVMA-sponsored event area must receive approval from the IACUC Chair (and/or CMPC Chair, if applicable) prior to the convention. These animals must visibly display an AVMA-issued current convention registration badge while attending the AVMA-sponsored event.

Nonregistered animals (or animals not displaying the convention registration badge) will be denied access to AVMA-sponsored events. Questions may be directed to the IACUC Chair, a member of the AVMA Welfare Division, or the CMPC Section Manager of Other Activities.

The AVMA IACUC Chair, a member of the AVMA Welfare Division, and/or the CMPC Section Manager of Other Activities will monitor animal attendance at AVMA-sponsored events to ensure animals in attendance have been properly registered. Individuals or entities having animals without AVMA-provided registration will be asked to remove the animal. Noncompliance issues will be referred to AVMA CMPC for resolution.

## Registration Process for Live Animals at the AVMA Convention

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For the health, safety, and welfare of participants and attendees, only service animals (as defined by law) are permitted into AVMA-sponsored events (e.g. convention activities). Attendees are not permitted to bring pets or animal companions into AVMA-sponsored events. Exhibitors with a legitimate and reasonable need or rationale to have a live animal within the convention facilities must receive approval from the AVMA prior to the convention, as outlined below. Every live animal within the convention facilities are required to be registered and display an AVMA issued registration badge that is clipped on to their collars. Badge information includes: pet name, responsible person, their phone number, and active email. Nonservice animals without a registration badge will be denied access to convention facilities.

### **ATTENDEES**

AVMA allows service animals to accompany attendees. All other animals will be prohibited. Service Animals admitted to the convention will need to be registered by completing the information on the AVMA registration form. The following information must be provided: pet name, species, breed, weight, and age. Once registered, a badge will be created for the animal that must be clipped to their collar or harness and be readily visible at all times during Convention activities.

Security will be advised that if someone brings an animal into any part of the AVMA convention, including the exhibit hall, the responsible person will be asked to show the animal's registration badge. If there is no badge and it is a service animal, the animal must register on-site. If it is a pet, they are not allowed in the convention exhibit or teaching areas. Owners can keep their pet in the corridors and hallways provided the animal is not permitted to roam unattended, the animal is checked on by its owner at least hourly (e.g., between CE sessions), and the animal is provided access to water and the opportunity to urinate/defecate in an appropriate outdoor location at least once every two hours.

### **EXHIBITORS**

Animal well-being and sanitation animals may be used to demonstrate products as long as such demonstration does not cause pain or distress to the animal or pose a health or safety concern to humans. No anesthesia or sedation of animals in the exhibit hall is permitted. Animals must be provided with resting space sufficient to allow unobstructed postural movement typical for the species and normal resting space. Animals must be provided access to water at least every two (2) hours and the opportunity to eliminate (urine/feces) at least every two (2) hours during their exhibit hall visit. The exhibitor is responsible for collecting, containing and disposing of waste in receptacles off of the Exhibit Hall floor. The exhibit must also comply with all laws, rules, local regulations, and facility rules governing the use of animals in public areas.

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### Approval Requests Prior to Convention

The exhibitor must submit a request for display/exhibit booth animals to the AVMA Convention Division **at least 90 days** prior to the convention. The following information must be included in the request for animal registration:

- Purpose of the animal in the exhibit.
- Level and degree of 'public' interaction.
- Plans for containment, adequate exercise, rest breaks, waste management, and access to food / water.

As soon as an application is received, it is reviewed by members of the IACUC and AVMA Animal Welfare Division with a recommendation then made to the CMPC chair regarding approval of the application. The CMPC chair makes final decision to allow the animal in the exhibit hall. The decision process is as follows:

- All proposals for animals are sent to the Attending Veterinarian member of the IACUC and a member of the Animal Welfare Division.
- They will either review and recommend to the CMPC Chair that the request be approved (for animals other than animals for training purposes) or submit the request for review by the full IACUC (in the case of live animals used for training).
- The CMPC chair will base his approval upon the recommendations from above. The IACUC will base their decision upon regulations /Committee reviews and deliberations.

This process applies to all animals, whether a pet or nationally known celebrity.

The following on-site actions need to be provided for all approved animal registrants:

- The animals must be issued a badge before being allowed entry to the Exhibit Hall area.
- A current Health Certificate signed by a licensed and accredited veterinarian (within 30 days of the convention) must accompany the animal on-site and be available for review by CMPC or IACUC members upon request.
- Animals in a pen or other enclosure must have the floor protected from stains by laying a leak proof covering on the floor.
- All laws, regulations, facility rules, and convention stipulations governing their use in such activities must be complied with.

Once the Approval Request has been approved, a separate Animal Details form must be completed for each animal in the Exhibit Hall. The following information is included: the purpose of including the animal in the Exhibit Hall, the species, breed, weight, age, containment details, and the primary handler of the animal while on-site.

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### Health Validation

Exhibitors must obtain a Certificate of Health form from the animal's veterinarian stating the animal is in general good health, is current on necessary vaccinations, and is free of communicable disease including parasites. The Certificate must be signed within thirty (30) days of the convention. The Certificate is valid for the present year's Convention only. The Certificate must accompany the animal to the convention/exhibit hall.

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### ANIMAL DETAILS REPORT

Form Completed by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Purpose of animal inclusion in the Exhibit Hall

Please describe the purpose of the animal for this exhibit: \_\_\_\_\_

Species: \_\_\_\_\_ Breed: \_\_\_\_\_ Weight: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Details for Containment: \_\_\_\_\_

Animal Primary Handler While On-Site: \_\_\_\_\_

### INFORMATION TO BE INCLUDED ON THE CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM

#### SERVICE ANIMALS

- Check here if you will be bringing a service animal to the convention so that we may prepare a registration badge.

If checked, please provide the following information:

Pet Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Species: \_\_\_\_\_

Breed: \_\_\_\_\_

Weight: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

#### SERVICE ANIMAL BADGE

Pet Name \_\_\_\_\_

Responsible On-Site Person \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Active Email \_\_\_\_\_

Badge must be clipped to the animal's collar.

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### **INFORMATION FOR ADDED SECURITY RESPONSIBILITY**

If someone brings an animal into any part of the AVMA convention, including the exhibit hall, the responsible person should show the animal's registration badge.