

Unitarian Church of Montpelier

Animal Policy for Community Lunch

Adopted: January 3, 2020

The Unitarian Church of Montpelier (UCM) strives to balance its mission of *welcoming all* with both the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the realities of providing the weekly Community Lunch.

No animals other than Service Animals, as defined by the ADA, will be allowed in the church building during Community Lunch. Community Lunch includes the times when kitchen prep, vestry set-up, serving of food and clean-up is occurring.

Service Animals are defined as dogs individually trained to do work or perform specific task(s) to assist a person with a disability. The ADA does not define Emotional Support, Therapy, Comfort or Companion Animals as Service Animals.

Service Animals:

1. 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.
2. Must not repeatedly bark or make other distracting noises and must not harm or threaten to harm other guests or CL volunteers.
3. Be under the handler's control at all times.
4. Are not allowed in the kitchen at any time.
5. Will not be allowed to accompany their handler to the serving line when food is present. A Community Lunch volunteer will assist the guest to the serving line or bring the food to their table.
6. Must be tagged, registered, and vaccinated in accordance with appropriate state and local regulations.

Handlers/owners:

1. Must maintain control of the animal at all times.
2. Are required to clean up after their animal, including on church grounds. This includes disposing of waste properly and cleaning the respective area(s).
3. Will be held responsible for any costs incurred due to soiling or other damage to church property.

Community Lunch Volunteers:

1. May ask the handler only two questions:
 - a. Is this a Service Animal required by a disability?
 - b. What task is the dog trained to perform?

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2. May not inquire about the handler's disability, and no documentation or external marker (vest, etc.) is required.
3. Will escort the guest and Service Animal to a designated table that is located away from the serving line.
4. May request that the handler/owner remove the Service Animal from the building if the animal becomes out of control, displays threatening behavior, defecates or urinates in the building.