

Northeast Pediatrics & Adolescent Medicine Service and Support Animal Policy

According to the Americans with Disabilities Act, a physical disability is “any physiological disorder or condition, cosmetic disfigurement, or anatomical loss affecting one or more of the following body systems: neurological, musculoskeletal, special sense organs, respiratory (including speech organs), cardiovascular, reproductive, digestive, genitourinary, hemic and lymphatic, skin, and endocrine.”

Northeast Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine permits ADA qualified service animals to accompany patients or the accompanying adult into the building and exam room for the duration of the visit.

A qualified service animal includes:

1. An animal that is recognized by the ADA and is included in the ADA’s service animal category.
2. Has been specifically trained to provide assistance to an individual directly related to a disability.

The providers of Northeast Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine will support the need of an ADA recognized service animal when there is a diagnosed disability that would benefit from the support of a service animal.

When it is not obvious what service an animal provides, only limited inquiries are allowed. Staff may ask two questions: (1) is the dog a service animal required because of a disability, and (2) what work or task has the dog been trained to perform.

Northeast Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine does not permit emotional support animals to accompany a patient or an accompanying adult into the building. Emotional support animals are not considered service animals under the ADA. While emotional support animals serve individuals with an impairment, these animals do not have special training to perform tasks that assist people with a recognized disability.

The providers of Northeast Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine will not produce letters or sign forms that indicate the need for a patient to be allowed an emotional support animal. Determining the need of an emotional support animal is not within the scope of pediatric practice.