The definition of a service animal, under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), is “a dog or miniature horse that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for a person with a disability.” This means that service animals are working animals that have been trained to perform a specific task. They are not pets. An animal that provides emotional comfort is not considered a service animal as they do not perform a specific task and therefore, are not allowed in our establishment. As of January 2019, it is a civil misdemeanor to intentionally misrepresent a pet as a service animal. This misdemeanor can result in a $500 fine.

For more information, please go to the ADA website: http://www.ada.gov/regs2010/service_animal_qa.html

This material is adapted from the Snohomish Health District, www.snohd.org.