

Pet Policy at Cigar Mountain House

We love our pets and know you do too! We want your fur baby to join in your adventure but keep them safe and healthy at the same time. We also want to respect other guests who do NOT enjoy having pets at the home and may suffer allergies or other concerns. Here is the pro guide to help us keep the peace for everyone.

- Please maintain control of your pets at all times.
- The house limit is for only 2 pets allowed.
(You may need to bring extra supplies/ kennel for multiple pets)
- They must be on leash or lead when outside for their own safety.
- Pets are not allowed on the furniture or beds at any time.
- Pets must be kenneled inside the home when left unattended.
- Owners must clean up after their pets.
- Do not leave pets tethered on a leash or chain or in a pen outside overnight or when you are absent.
- These rules are for the safety & health of all pets as well as respect for others.

Items we have included for your pet while staying at Cigar Mountain House:

- Food & water bowls
- Pooper scooper
- Outdoor lead
- Pet bed with washable cover
- XL indoor kennel
- Snuffle activity mat

Around town and in the State and National Parks:

- NEVER allow your pet to approach wildlife!
- In Big Bend National Park pets are only allowed to go where your car can go. They are not allowed on trails, off roads, or in the river. They are not allowed to enter Mexico at Boquillas, or go inside any buildings. They must be leashed on a 6 ft or shorter leash at all times. They may not be left unattended inside vehicles for any length of time. You must clean up after them and dispose of the waste.
- In Big Bend State Park pets are only allowed to be ¼ mile or less from your campsite or the main roads. They are not allowed inside buildings, on trails, off roads, or in the river. The only exception are the Closed Canyon and Hoodoos trails off FM 170. They must be leashed on a 6 ft or shorter leash at all times. They may not be left unattended inside vehicles for any length of time. You must clean up after them and dispose of the waste.
- Around town each place has its individual pet rules. Some places love a furry visitor while others may have strict policies preventing them in place. There are LOTS of local dog residents as well running around, some friendlier than others. If you happen to see a local pup, please do not pick it up or try to “rescue” it. Desert dogs may look a bit rough, but they are tough and know where to go home and how to take care of themselves. 😊

At Cigar Mountain House we strictly adhere to all State and Federal Laws regarding Service animals. We have a service animal in our family too and know how important these animals can be.

Please note the difference between a SERVICE ANIMAL and an ASSISTANCE or EMOTIONAL SUPPORT ANIMAL as defined by law. For SERVICE animals (SA) we are happy to waive the \$25 pet fee, but all the house rules will still apply to your SA. We do require documentation of these SA for our records. HOWEVER, we do not waive fees for ASSISTANCE or EMOTIONAL SUPPORT ANIMALS. They will need to be included in the \$25 fee per pet at booking and all house rules will apply for your pets. We do not require documentation for the type of pets.

Texas Disability Law – Service Animals

More detailed information can be found at

https://gov.texas.gov/organization/disabilities/assistance_animals

“Assistance animal” and “service animal” mean a canine that is specially trained or equipped to help a person with a disability and is used by the person.

NOTE: Though state law conflates the terms “service animal” and “assistance animal,” they should be considered as two separate categories of animals under federal law. Assistance animals may not always enjoy the same level of legal protection as service animals. Service animals are typically dogs that are individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability. Some laws are not necessarily limited to dogs. It is important to know which definition will apply in any particular scenario.

Texas Human Resources Code, Section 121.003 - 121.006

- A person with a total or partial disability who has or obtains a service animal is entitled to full and equal access to all housing accommodations, and may not be required to pay extra compensation or make a deposit for the animal but is liable for damages done to the premises by the animal except for reasonable wear and tear.
- A service animal in training must not be denied admittance to any public facility when accompanied by an approved trainer.

If a person's disability is not readily apparent, for purposes of admittance to a public facility with a service animal, a staff member or manager of the facility

may inquire about: whether the service animal is required because the person has a disability; and what type of work or task the service animal is trained to perform.

Responsibilities of People with Disabilities

- A person with a disability who uses an assistance animal is liable for any damages done to the premises or facilities by the animal.
- A person with a disability who uses an assistance animal for assistance in travel or auditory awareness must keep the animal properly harnessed or leashed, and a person who is injured by the animal because they are not properly harnessed or leashed is entitled to maintain a cause of action for damages in a court of competent jurisdiction.

Penalties for Improper Use of Assistance Animals

- A person who uses a service animal with a harness or leash of the type commonly used by persons with disabilities who use trained animals to represent their animal is a specially trained service animal when training has not in fact been provided, is guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction must be punished by: a fine of not more than \$300; and 30 hours of community service to be performed for a governmental entity or nonprofit organization that primarily serves persons with disabilities, or for another entity or organization at the discretion of the court, to be completed in one year.
- A person who habitually abuses or neglects to feed or otherwise neglects to properly care for their assistance animal is subject to seizure of the animal.

Federal Law

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Title II & Title III

- Under the ADA, Title II and III, a service animal must be a dog (or miniature horse) that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability. Service animals can be professionally trained or trained by the handler themselves.
- A comfort or emotional support animal is NOT trained. Comfort animals do not have rights under the ADA. For example, businesses do not have the legal obligation to admit a comfort animal if there is a “no pets” policy, as under the ADA these animals are in essence “pets.”
- A property owner may request proof of the need for an assistance animal from a qualified professional or person in the position to know if the need for the assistance animal is not obvious. In addition, the documentation should indicate the benefit that the assistance animal provides. This documentation cannot be requested when the disability and need for the assistance animal is readily apparent.

