

Old Westbury Gardens

ADA SERVICE ANIMALS POLICY

Old Westbury Gardens does not allow pets or emotional support animals (except on designated days). Service animals are allowed in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Service animals in training are allowed on site, although they are not covered under Title III.

Service animals are defined by the ADA as dogs (or miniature horses) that are individually trained to do work or perform tasks for people with disabilities. Examples of such work or tasks include guiding people who are blind, alerting people who are deaf, pulling a wheelchair, alerting, and protecting a person who is having a seizure, reminding a person with mental illness to take prescribed medications, calming a person with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), and during an anxiety attack. Service animals are working animals, not pets. The work or task a dog has been trained to provide must be directly related to the person's disability. Dogs whose sole function is to provide comfort or emotional support do not qualify as service animals under the ADA.

- The animal must be always under the handler's control.
- The animal must be harnessed, leashed, or tethered unless these devices interfere with the animal's work or the individual's disability prevents these devices. Leashes must be no more than six feet long.
- The animal must stay on paths.
- The animal must be housebroken and limit relief to outdoor areas. The animal handler is responsible for prompt removal and disposal of waste in designated trash receptacles.
- The animal must not sit on any benches or chairs. All seating is reserved for Old Westbury Gardens visitors.
- The animal must not demonstrate disruptive, agitated, or aggressive behavior, including but not limited to barking, whining, biting, jumping, sniffing, or harassment of Old Westbury Gardens visitors or staff.
- The animal must not harass, injure, damage, mutilate, or kill any animal, tree, planting, flower, shrub, or other vegetation.
- Old Westbury Gardens staff will request that the handler correct the animal's behavior if a service animal is not compliant with these guidelines. If the handler does not take effective action to control the animal, Old Westbury Gardens staff will request that the animal be removed from the Gardens's grounds. In these cases, animal handlers will be able to continue their visit, or request another date to visit, without the animal.

Emotional Support and Comfort Animals do not qualify as Service Animals and are not allowed at Old Westbury Gardens.