Tye Family Dentistry

Service Animal Policy

Tye Family Dentistry, PLLC is committed to providing exceptional dental care while ensuring our patients and their service animals feel comfortable and safe during their visits and we understand that service animals play a crucial role in the lives of individuals with special needs. If you have any specific requirements or questions about bringing your service animal to your dental appointment, please do not hesitate to contact us in advance. We are here to make your visit as comfortable as successful as possible.

A **Service animal** is defined by the Americans with Disability Act (ADA) as a dog or miniature horse that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for people with disabilities. The work or task the animal has been trained to provide must be directly related to the person's disability. Utilization of a service animal is a covered provision under the ADA.

An **Emotional support animal** or **therapy animal** is an animal that solely provides comfort, emotional support or companionship, is not a service animal and is not covered under this policy or the ADA.

Advanced Planning

Tye Family Dentistry, PLLC allows a service animal to accompany a patient during a dental visit when criteria defining a service animal are met. When it is not obvious what task the service animal performs for the patient, the staff can ask to clarify what task the service animal was trained to do. To ensure that your dental visit is smooth and efficient, we recommend contacting us in advance to let us know about your service animal. This will allow us to make the necessary preparations and accommodations to meet your needs.

Patient Responsibilities

The patient is responsible for all aspects of care the service animal requires during the office visit. This includes feeding, grooming and toileting. While in the office, the service

animal is allowed to accompany the patient in all areas. This includes the waiting room, the restroom, the x-ray room, and consultation room. The service animal can be excluded from areas where the animal's presence may compromise or fundamentally alter the nature of services provided (such as a sterile environment). A patient with a disability cannot be asked to remove their service animal from the premises unless the animal is not housebroken, out of control, or if the handler/owner does not take effective action to control the service animal.

Service animals must be harnessed, leashed, or tethered, unless these devices interfere with the service animals work of if an individual's disability prevents using these devices. The handler/owner must maintain control of the animal through voice, signal, or other effective controls.

At Tye Family Dentistry, PLLC, we are committed to providing top-quality dental care while accommodating the needs of all our patients, including those with service animals. We aim to ensure you and your service animal have a positive and stress-free dental experience.