



Kora Shriners



Michael Robitaille
Potentate 2026
potentate@korashriners.org

11 Sabattus Street
Lewiston, ME 04240

207-782-6831
office@korashriners.org

Steven Peterson
Recorder
recorder@korashriners.org

Service Animal and Assistance Animal Policy

1. Purpose

Shrine Temple is committed to providing equal access to individuals with disabilities in accordance with applicable federal and Maine law. This policy outlines the rules governing service animals and other animals at Shrine Temple events and within Shrine Temple facilities.

2. Scope

This policy applies to:

- All public events held at Shrine Temple
- All facility rentals
- All guests, members, employees, vendors, and volunteers

3. Definitions

A. Service Animal

A **service animal** is defined under the ADA and Maine law as:

A dog (and in some cases a miniature horse) that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a physical or mental disability.

The work or task performed must be directly related to the individual's disability.

Examples include, but are not limited to:

- Guiding individuals who are blind
- Alerting individuals who are deaf
- Pulling a wheelchair
- Alerting and protecting a person having a seizure
- Retrieving items
- Interrupting or mitigating psychiatric or neurological disabilities

Chief Rabban	Assistant Rabban	High Priest & Prophet	Oriental Guide	Treasurer
Frank Welch, Jr.	Barry Irish	Ryan Sherman	Ben Weisner	Paul Gardner, PP

Animals whose sole function is to provide comfort, emotional support, companionship, or therapy are **not** service animals under public accommodation law.

B. Emotional Support / Comfort / Therapy Animals

Animals that provide emotional support, comfort, companionship, or therapeutic benefits but are not individually trained to perform a specific disability-related task are **not considered service animals** under the ADA or Maine public accommodation law.

Shrine Temple is not legally required to admit these animals into public event spaces. Permission may be granted at the discretion of management and must be requested in advance.

4. Access Rights

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Maine Human Rights Act:

- Individuals with disabilities may be accompanied by their service animals in all areas of Shrine Temple facilities where members of the public are normally allowed.
- No additional fee, surcharge, or deposit will be charged because a person uses a service animal.
- A person with a service animal is responsible for any damage caused by the animal.

5. Permissible Inquiries

If it is not obvious that an animal is a service animal, Shrine Temple staff may ask only:

1. Is the animal required because of a disability?
2. What work or task has the animal been trained to perform?

Staff will **not**:

- Request documentation or certification
- Require a special ID card or vest
- Ask about the nature of the person's disability
- Require proof of training

6. Handler Responsibilities

The handler of a service animal must:

- Maintain control of the animal at all times (leash, harness, or tether unless disability prevents use)
- Ensure the animal is housebroken
- Prevent the animal from disrupting the event
- Clean up after the animal

Chief Rabban	Assistant Rabban	High Priest & Prophet	Oriental Guide	Treasurer
Frank Welch, Jr.	Barry Irish	Ryan Sherman	Ben Weisner	Paul Gardner, PP

7. Grounds for Removal

A service animal may be removed from the premises if:

- The animal is out of control and the handler does not take effective action to control it;
- The animal is not housebroken;
- The animal poses a direct threat to the health or safety of others.

If a service animal is removed, the individual will be given the opportunity to remain at the event without the animal.

8. Miniature Horses

Shrine Temple will make reasonable modifications to permit miniature horses trained as service animals, where feasible, considering:

- The type, size, and weight of the miniature horse
- Facility layout
- Safety requirements

9. Allergies and Fear of Animals

Allergies or fear of dogs are not valid reasons to deny access to a service animal. Shrine Temple will attempt reasonable accommodations to separate affected parties when possible.

10. Non-Service Animals

Except as otherwise stated in this policy:

- Pets are not permitted at Shrine Temple events.
- Emotional support, therapy, or comfort animals are not permitted unless pre-approved in writing by Shrine Temple management.
- Event renters must inform Shrine Temple in advance if a service animal will be present.

11. Policy Enforcement

Failure to comply with this policy may result in removal from the premises. Staff will be trained regarding lawful service animal access and appropriate interaction.

12. Questions

Questions regarding this policy may be directed to Shrine Temple management

Chief Rabban	Assistant Rabban	High Priest & Prophet	Oriental Guide	Treasurer
Frank Welch, Jr.	Barry Irish	Ryan Sherman	Ben Weisner	Paul Gardner, PP