

**The Discovery Orchestra**  
**Service Animal Policy**  
Approved by the Board of Trustees, 2/1/2022

The Discovery Orchestra (TDO) is committed to providing a safe and secure environment for people who attend our events, including those who use assistance animals. This policy is intended to comply generally with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

**Service Animals**

The ADA defines a service animal as a dog or miniature horse that has been individually trained to do work or perform tasks for an individual with a disability. The task(s) performed by the service animal must be directly related to the person's disability. We welcome people with service animals at our administrative office and events. TDO staff should be prepared to ask individuals with service animals questions as needed for the benefit of the patron and Orchestra, including:

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

**Emotional Support Animals**

An emotional support animal (also known as a comfort animal) provides reassurance just by being with a person. Dogs, cats, birds, hamsters, and many other species can serve as emotional support animals. However, they do not qualify as "service animals" under the ADA. The Discovery Orchestra has chosen to allow emotional support animals on its premises, ONLY if these two conditions are met:

- The animal owner has obtained prior approval from a TDO staff member, and
- The animal does not pose a threat of harm or disruption to others.

Please note: The owners of emotional support animals must comply with the same limitations, restrictions, and requirements as service animal owners, which appear below. Owners that do not uphold these responsibilities may be asked to remove an emotional support animal from the premises.

**Expectations of Individuals with Assistance Animals**

Individuals who bring a service or emotional support animal onto TDO premises or to TDO events are expected to:

- Keep the animal harnessed, leashed, or tethered, unless these devices interfere with an animal's work or an owner's disability prevents them from using these devices.

- Control the animal through voice, signal, or other effective controls, if the animal cannot be harnessed, leashed, or tethered.

### **Our Organization's Rights**

The Discovery Orchestra does not have to provide care, food, or a special location for the service or emotional support animal to relieve itself. We reserve the right to remove an assistance animal from the premises if it:

- Is out of control and the handler does not take effective action to control it.
- Poses a direct threat to the health or safety of others.
- Is not housebroken.

If an assistance animal must be removed from the premises, absent other circumstances, the owner may re-enter the premises and attend our events without the service or emotional support animal.