



Pennsylvania State Animal  
Response Team (PASART)  
2605 Interstate Drive  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17110-9364

## PASART POLICY NO. P2015-3

**SUBJECT: Assistance for Owners of Service Animals**

**DATE: Aug. 25, 2015**

### **PURPOSE**

To assist owners/care givers of service animals with the care of their animals if needed during periods of owner/care giver hospitalizations during Emergency Room visits, regular admissions to an acute care facility or diagnostic procedures where the animal is barred from access due to hospital protocols.

### **GOAL**

Establish a uniform policy regarding the temporary supervision and care of service animals by County Animal Response Teams (CARTs) when the animal's owner/care giver requires emergency room care, admission to an acute care facility or diagnostic procedures where the animal is barred from access due to hospital protocols.

### **POLICY**

It is the policy of PASART to support the care of service animals by County Animal Response Teams (CARTs) whose owners are visiting restricted areas of hospitals; have been taken to an emergency room; and/or admitted to a hospital.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, hospitals and emergency rooms must allow service animals to accompany their owners into the facility however they do not have provisions for the care or supervision of said animals. There are also some areas of hospitals and emergency rooms where animals cannot be allowed due to health care issues or other significant risks.

In the event that no other provisions can be made for the care of a service animal during periods as described above, the respective CART may, **at its discretion and capability to provide such care**, make arrangements for CART members to feed, exercise or otherwise care for the service animal. CART members may also transport the animal to a veterinarian, shelter, foster or other facility as needed.

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## **PROCEDURE**

Since the need for such assistance is not a “routine deployment” of a CART, the following procedure is established.

The animal owner, family member, or health care provider may contact the respective CART to request assistance. If the CART is able to provide such assistance it will deploy as appropriate and notify County 911 of such activity. **The CART will provide the animal owner or designee a copy of this policy. The attached form must be signed BEFORE the animal is taken into care by the CART.**

**The Animal Intake Form will be completed and a photo of the animal will be taken.**

The CART Coordinator will complete an Incident Report after the animal has been returned to its owner/care giver.

**CARTs that are able to provide care for service animals as described in this policy shall notify their County EMA, area hospital, Emergency Medical Service Responders, the local Area Agency on Aging, along with any other appropriate organizations of their availability to provide such assistance.**

## **APPLICABILITY**

This policy applies to all PASART members and CART members

## Owner Agreement for Service Animal Assistance

I, \_\_\_\_\_, am requesting assistance for my service animal by the \_\_\_\_\_ County Animal Response Team (\_\_\_ CART).

I understand and agree to the following:

I am affirming that the animal referenced by this agreement is owned by me.

I agree that this assistance will be provided only for the period of time while I am visiting a restricted area of a hospital or when I have been taken to an emergency room or when I have been admitted to a hospital. **If hospitalized for longer than ONE WEEK**, I understand that the CART may arrange with a family member of my choice OR the organization that provided my service animal to take over the care of my animal.

I also understand that if I am unable to resume care of my service animal and no family member or the providing organization can accept responsibility for the future care of the animal, that it would be turned over to a PA licensed shelter for adoption.

CART may arrange for team members to feed, exercise or otherwise care for my service animal.

CART may transport my animal to a veterinarian, shelter, foster or other facility as needed.

CART members cannot authorize or pay for veterinary services. In the event of an unexpected emergency, every reasonable attempt will be made to consult with the owner. If the owner cannot be reached, veterinary care will be provided for the pet at the expense of the owner.

I HEREBY WAIVE, RELEASE and FOREVER DISCHARGE PASART, and \_\_\_ CART and the officers, directors and employees of the above parties from any and all claims, causes of action, damages, losses (economic and non-economic) and liabilities of every kind for theft, death or injury which may arise to the service animal listed below.

Location: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Expected Duration: \_\_\_\_\_

Animal Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Type/Breed: \_\_\_\_\_

Vet: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Pet Insurance Name & Policy Number if applicable \_\_\_\_\_

Name and Contact information of organization that provided service animal: \_\_\_\_\_

Feeding and care instructions: \_\_\_\_\_

Known medical conditions: \_\_\_\_\_

Medications: Dosage and frequency: \_\_\_\_\_

Owner: \_\_\_\_\_ CART Member: \_\_\_\_\_