

At Coastal Orthopedics, we are committed to accommodating individuals who rely on service animals to navigate their daily lives. To maintain a safe and comfortable environment for everyone, we have established guidelines regarding the presence of service animals within our facilities.

Please be aware that while service animals are generally permitted in our offices, there are certain areas where they may not be able to accompany you. The presence of animals in such areas could compromise the integrity of our medical procedures and the safety of both patients and staff.

Furthermore, in accordance with Florida Statute 413.08(9), only service animals are recognized as permissible companions within our premises. Emotional support animals, while valued for their support, are not classified as service animals under the law and therefore cannot accompany individuals into our offices. Misrepresenting an animal as a service animal when it is not, qualifies as a misdemeanor under Florida law.

It is crucial to understand the distinction between service animals and emotional support animals. Service animals are trained to perform specific tasks that assist individuals with disabilities, whereas emotional support animals provide comfort through companionship and do not undergo the same rigorous training.

Additionally, any service animal that is disruptive will be asked to leave the premises and may result in a rescheduled appointment. While we understand that service animals are working animals, it is essential to maintain a calm and quiet environment for the benefit of all patients and staff. We kindly ask for your cooperation in adhering to this policy to ensure the safety and comfort of all our patients and staff.