

## **Reasonable Accommodation: a Housing Policy for Service, Assistive, Companion and Support Animals**

Federal and Vermont fair housing laws protect the rights of people with disabilities to keep service, assistive, companion and support animals. (These terms are interchangeable.)

- A service animal can be any breed or size (These animals are typically dogs, but may include other types of animals.)
- It is **not** a legal requirement for service animals to have special equipment such as a harness, backpack, special collar or leash
- It is not a legal requirement that individuals be visually or hearing impaired (Some people may have “hidden disabilities”, i.e. cancer, back pain, mental or psychological disabilities.)
- A landlord must provide an individual with a disability the opportunity to have a service animal, even if the landlord has a “no pets policy”