



www.cityofcheney.org

City of Cheney - 609 Second Street, Cheney, WA 99004



### ***New Laws Change Rules for Service Animals***

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

An enforcement officer or other person at a place of public accommodation cannot ask about the nature or extent of a person’s disability, request or require documentation, or request that the animal demonstrate the type of work it is trained to do. There should be no inquiry at all when it is readily apparent that an animal is trained to do work or perform tasks for a person with disabilities, such as when a dog is guiding a person who is blind or providing assistance with stability or balance to a person with an observable mobility disability.

It is now a **civil infraction** with a maximum fine of \$500 to represent that an animal is a service animal when the person knew or should have known that the animal in question did not meet the statutory definition of a service animal.

State law now has less flexibility on what species of animal may be trained as a service animal. **“Service animal” is defined as either a dog or a miniature horse.** This change eliminates the possibility of trained cats, monkeys, birds, larger horses, or other animals.

**Washington state law is now more in line with federal law.** Federal regulations state that the work or task a dog has been trained to provide must be directly related to the person’s disability. Dogs whose sole function is to provide comfort or emotional support do not qualify as service animals under the Americans with Disabilities Act.

**In conclusion,** please keep in mind that the purpose of this new law is to reduce and prevent both the intentional and mistaken misrepresentation of pets and other animals as service animals when they are not. The goal is to provide support and protection for persons with disabilities using trained service animals.

State law concerning service animals recently changed. Here is a brief summary ...

The **definition of service animal** now excludes animals that provide comfort or emotional support, that are not otherwise trained to perform work or tasks for a person with a disability. Places of public accommodation remain obligated under both federal and state law to allow service animals to be present.

The definition of service animal in RCW 49.60.040(24) now eliminates animals other than dogs or miniature horses and provides specific examples of work or tasks a service animal may be trained to perform, **excluding** comfort and emotional support.

The **legislative purpose of the new law** is to “penalize the intentional misrepresentation of a service animal, which delegitimizes the genuine need for the use of service animals and makes it harder for persons with disabilities to gain unquestioned acceptance for their legitimate, properly trained, and essential service animals.”

**Excluding emotional support, well-being, comfort, and companionship** from “work or tasks” is significant. Service animals trained to perform other work or tasks may, of course, provide comfort as well. However, if comfort or emotional support is the sole role for an animal’s presence, then there is no longer a legal requirement to accommodate a person with an animal.

**Valid service animals must be allowed into all areas of a place of public accommodation where the general public is allowed**—this includes dining and eating areas, restrooms, and areas where food is sold. A place of public accommodation cannot request that the service animal be removed unless it creates a risk of harm. This risk must be actual, and cannot be speculative or based on a fear of dogs. In addition, if an animal exhibits disruptive, poor or unsanitary behavior, it would not be considered a trained service animal, and can be removed.

RCW 49.60.214 is a new section describing the civil infraction of misrepresenting an animal as a service animal and spelling out the **two questions that may be asked to determine whether an animal qualifies as a service animal.** The two questions are:

### ***Meeting Dates & Events***

- Feb 7: Historic Preservation Comm, 5:15, Council Chmbrs
- Feb 6: Cheney Merchants’ Assoc., 6:30 pm, Holiday Inn
- Feb 11: Planning Commission, 6 pm, Council Chambers
- Feb 12: City Council, 6 pm, City Council Chambers
- Feb 13: Park Board, 6:00 pm, Wren Pierson Comm Cntr
- Feb 18: Presidents’ Day; City offices closed; garbage pickup one day late
- Feb 22: Blood Drive, 1:00-4:00, Marketplace, 1011 1<sup>st</sup>
- Feb 26: City Council, 6 pm, City Council Chambers

## **Daddy/Daughter Dance Luau**

**and**

## **Mom/Son Game Night Pirate Treasure**

All Ages

Early Registration Deadline: February 1

\$26 per couple, \$8 per additional son/daughter

After Feb 1: \$32 per couple, \$12 per additional

Call 509-498-9250 to register.

### **IMPORTANT DETAILS ...**

## **Daddy/Daughter Dance Luau**

**Saturday, February 9**

**5:00-8:00 p.m.**

**Cheney Middle School**

Come dressed in your best Hawaiian attire and enjoy dinner and dessert, dancing, crafts, and more at this exciting luau!

## **Mom/Son Game Night Pirate Treasure**

**Friday, February 15**

**5:00-8:00 p.m.**

Wren Pierson Community Center

Come dressed as a pirate and enjoy dinner and dessert, games and competitions, crafts, and more! You won't want to miss this exciting night!

***"Thank you" to our generous sponsors for pizza donations for Mom/Son Game Night!***



## **February Recreation Programs**

For information or to register ... Cheney Parks & Recreation,  
(509) 498-9250 / [www.cityofcheney.org](http://www.cityofcheney.org)

Feb 1: Bootcamp, every Friday at 5:30am  
Feb 1: 50+ Light Fitness, every Friday at 9:30am  
Feb 1: POUND, every Friday at 9:30am  
Feb 1: Bootcamp, every Friday at 6:30pm  
Feb 2: Jazzercise, every Saturday at 8:30am  
Feb 4: Bootcamp, every Monday at 5:30am  
Feb 4: Jazzercise, every Monday at 8:30am  
Feb 4: Quilters, every Monday at 12:30pm  
Feb 4: Zumba, every Monday at 5:30pm  
Feb 4: Cheney Sharks Swim Team practice, every Mon, 5:30pm  
Feb 4: Bootcamp, every Monday at 6:30pm  
Feb 4: Total Body Fitness, every Monday at 7:30pm  
Feb 5: Bootcamp, every Tuesday at 5:30am  
Feb 5: Jazzercise, every Tuesday at 6am  
Feb 5: Knitters, every Tuesday at 9am  
Feb 5: 50+ Light Fitness, every Tuesday at 9:30am  
Feb 5: Bridge, every Tuesday at 11:30am  
Feb 5: POUND, every Tuesday at 5:15pm  
Feb 5: Redemption Church FREE dinner every Tue at 5:30pm  
Feb 5: Bootcamp, every Tuesday at 6:30pm  
Feb 6: Jazzercise, every Wednesday at 8:30am  
Feb 6: Senior Yoga, every other Wednesday at 9:30am  
Feb 6: Cheney Sharks Swim Team practice, every Wed, 5:30pm  
Feb 6: Beginning Yoga, every Wednesday at 6pm  
Feb 7: Jazzercise, every Thursday at 6am  
Feb 7: Zumba every Thursday at 6pm  
Feb 7: POUND, every Thursday at 6pm  
Feb 8: West Plains Arts Academy preschool art class, 10am  
Feb 9: West Plains Arts Academy youth art class, 9:30am  
Feb 9: Daddy/Daughter Dance, 5pm  
Feb 11: Garden Club meeting, every 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday at 6:30pm  
Feb 14: Senior games, every 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday at 10am  
Feb 15: Senior ping-pong, every 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday at 10:45am  
Feb 15: Mom/Son Game Night, 5pm  
Feb 16: Specialized Recreation Valentine's Dance, 7pm  
Feb 18: First Aid/CPR class, 1pm  
Feb 19: Senior Dinner Club, 4pm  
Feb 22: Mystery Party, "Oscar Vanishes," 5pm  
Feb 23: Specialized Recreation movie & dinner, 2pm  
Feb 25: Senior games, every 4<sup>th</sup> Monday at 10:30am  
Feb 27: Senior trip to Coeur d'Alene Casino, 9am

### **Lodging Tax Grant Applications Accepted**

The City of Cheney continuously accepts applications for funding for events that promote tourism in the city of Cheney. The sources of the funds are the lodging taxes that are collected on overnight stays in lodging establishments within the city. The application form is available on our website, [www.cityofcheney.org](http://www.cityofcheney.org), then go to the Finance Department page under the Government heading. For more information, contact Finance Director Cindy Niemeier at (509) 498-9209.