

# Beg Pardon, I'm a Little Horse: ADA Accommodations for Service Animals

By: Tharp and Howell

A California paraplegic man is suing two California retailers that he says violated the Unruh Civil Rights Act as well as the American Disabilities Act by refusing to allow his service animal – a miniature horse named Princess – to accompany him into their establishments.

Mr. Estrada filed complaints against GameStop and Marshalls, and is seeking injunctions and \$4,000 in damages from each retailer. According to the complaint against GameStop, Princess has been trained to pull Mr. Estrada's wheelchair, Mr. Estrada has been trained to control Princess, GameStop's facility is large enough to accommodate Princess, Princess is housebroken, and Princess does not compromise the legitimate safety requirements.

Last year, the ADA provisions were amended to include miniature horses. There are four factors that must be met in determining whether or not a miniature horse can be accommodated in a facility, including:

1. The miniature horse must be housebroken;
2. The miniature horse must be under the owner's control;
3. The facility must be able to accommodate the miniature horse's type, size and weight;
4. The miniature horse must not compromise legitimate safety requirements.

The ADA requires that all employees be informed and trained on proper service animal policy compliance. Our [employment law attorneys](#) can help your business assess risks, understand your rights, and develop strategies for disputes. For further information please contact us at (818) 473-5720 `begin_of_the_skype_highlighting` (818) 473-5720 `end_of_the_skype_highlighting` or email your request to