

RESOLUTION #
SERVICE ANIMALS

1 **WHEREAS**, service animals are increasingly in use by people with disabilities; and

2 **WHEREAS**, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) defines “service animals” as
3 only dogs that have been specifically trained to perform an assistive act for the person it
4 accompanies; and

5 **WHEREAS**, a trend among members of the public is to equate “service animals” with
6 “emotional support” or “comfort” animals, even though those animals may not be dogs,
7 leading to people claiming they have the right to take those animals into areas where all
8 other animals, except service animals, are prohibited; and

9 **WHEREAS**, the increased use of service animals and the extrapolation by some
10 people to that definition of many animals not covered by the ADA, have resulted in more
11 people bringing animals (service or not) onto farms that host agri-tourism or other operations
12 that invite people onto the farm; and

13 **WHEREAS**, this increase in animals coming onto the farm raises questions for the
14 farmer about insurance liability, health-code issues, food safety regulations, and waste
15 disposal issues.

16 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that we, the delegates to the 104th State
17 Agricultural Convention, assembled in Atlantic City, New Jersey, on February 6-7, 2019, do
18 hereby urge the appropriate federal and state agencies whose authority covers service
19 animals to educate the public and local officials who may be called into a debate about
20 whether an animal qualifies, about the definition of a service animal and the ADA regulations
21 covering them.

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