



GUIDE TO ASSISTANCE DOGS IN THE COMMUNITY

WHAT IS AN ASSISTANCE DOG?

An Assistance Dog is a dog that is specially trained to mitigate the effects of a person or persons' disability. A Service Dog is a type of Assistance Dog who is further trained and certified to perform these duties in public alongside their user, so you might see a Service Dog working somewhere pets are not allowed.



IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS

- 🐾 A person's disability might not be obvious to you, that does not mean they do not "need" their Service Dog's Assistance.
- 🐾 Please do not try to pet or otherwise distract a Service Dog, they are working and should not be disturbed.
- 🐾 A person may not be asked "why" they need a Service Dog. They may be asked what tasks the dog is trained to perform.
- 🐾 A Service Dog should be wearing identification & be under control and unobtrusive to the public at all times. However, a vest is not required and neither is paperwork.
- 🐾 A Service Dog may not be asked to leave due to preferences or allergies. They may be asked to leave if they are repeatedly disruptive or at all aggressive.

WHAT TASKS MIGHT A SERVICE DOG PERFORM?

Some examples include, but are not limited to:

- 🐾 Retrieving objects, carrying items, & operating doors for a person with mobility limitations.
- 🐾 Preventing or interrupting disruptive behaviors for a person with a psychological condition; such as interrupting a flashback for a veteran with PTSD.
- 🐾 Retrieving medications and pushing an emergency alert button for a person having a seizure.
- 🐾 Alerting to dangerous blood sugar levels for a person with Diabetes.
- 🐾 Important Note: Providing emotional support is not a recognized task and does not warrant public access for a Service Dog. Emotional support only warrants Fair Housing Access for a therapy dog.

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Assistance Dogs Transforming Lives

