SERVICE DOG, EMOTIONAL SUPPORT DOG OR THERAPY DOG?

Definitions

The term **Service Animal** is defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the ADA Amendments Act of 2008 (ADAAA), and state law. The public access that is granted to a Service Dog permits the dog to accompany his or her Partner (human) generally wherever the public is allowed to go. In addition to being appropriately trained to be well behaved in public and to focus just on his or her Partner while working, a Service Dog must be individually trained to do work or tasks that directly help with the Partner's disability or disabilities, which could include sensory, physical, intellectual, psychiatric, or other mental disability. The disability might not be visible. Examples of work/tasks include: alerting to a change in medical condition, reminding the Partner to take medication, or assisting the Partner to manage symptoms of PTSD.

Emotional Support Animal (ESA) does not have as many legal rights for public access: these are defined by state or local government law (which varies), not federal law. However, states generally permit an **Emotional Support Dog** to go many places where pets are not allowed. An Emotional Support Dog provides a comforting presence to his or her Partner. The dog must be trained to behave appropriately in public places where pets are not allowed. An Emotional Support Dog does not do work or perform tasks to help with a disability. Both Emotional Support and Service Dogs should be trained to be attentive only to their Partner in public settings

A **Therapy Dog** is trained to engage (and disengage) politely on cue with other people in a setting where the team has been invited. The Therapy Dog must keep his or her energy under control at all times and it is the Handler's (the person paired with the dog)'s responsibility to manage this by giving the dog cues and resting the dog when appropriate. The purpose of a Therapy Dog is to provide affection, interaction and a comforting presence to people in settings such as hospitals, nursing homes, hospices, or schools, for example. Some Therapy Dogs are trained to help mental healthcare workers provide individual and/or group therapy.

For references and additional information, please visit the "Resources" page of our website.

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CUSTOM CANINE EDUCATION

RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF SERVICE TEAMS

A **Service Team** is defined as an appropriately trained Service Dog and his or her Partner. Appropriate training means that the dog fits the definition on page one (above). The Service Dog does not need to be certified by a certain type of program or trainer if the dog meets this definition. The dog must be harnessed, tethered or leashed unless this interferes with the work or tasks that the dog is trained to do and in that case, the dog must be responsive to cues.

The team be denied access or asked to leave if:

1) The dog has not been licensed and/or vaccinated according to current city/county and/or state ordinances;

2) The dog has an out of control behavior and the Partner does not take immediate and effective action to bring the dog under control;

3) The dog urinates or defecates in an inappropriate place;

4) The presence of the dog would pose a direct threat to health or safety or fundamentally interfere with the nature of goods or services provided;

5) The dog is up on a chair or table in a place serving food. The dog is allowed under the table or on the floor by the Partner's side as long as the dog does not obstruct a walkway;

6) The Partner (or caretaker of the Partner) is unable to manage the basic physical needs of the dog (feeding, watering, taking the dog to urinate or defecate in an appropriate place, or cleaning up after the dog has defecated).

It is not legally permissible to ask the Partner to show documentation of disability, whether or not the disability is visibly apparent. You may ask:

1) Is the dog a Service Dog required because of a disability?

2) What work or task has the dog been trained to perform? (The Service Team is not required to perform the work or task for you on request.)

For references and additional information, please visit the "Resources" page of our website.

2