



Service, Emotional Support & Therapy Animals **Fact Sheet**



Service animals

- Dogs are trained to do specific tasks for people with disabilities.
- They are sometimes called by the name of the task they do.
- Some are a guide dog, hearing dog, mobility dog, medical alert dog, or psychiatric service dog.
- They may guide persons with hearing or vision loss, alert a person for seizures or block the person from danger.
- The American with Disabilities Act allows them to go with a person with a disability to public spaces of the government, businesses, or nonprofits that serve the public.
 - A business may ask if a dog is a service dog due to a disability and ask what task it has been trained to perform. They may ask that the dog be removed if it is out of control.
 - Hotels cannot charge for service dogs.
 - Service dogs may live in housing with “no pets” rules. The landlord should make reasonable rules.
 - Airlines post service dog rules on their websites.
- Dogs must be well trained.
 - The American Kennel Club provides training info at <https://www.akc.org/expert-advice/training/service-dog-training-101/>
 - A person may train their own dog.
 - Paid trainers can cost a lot. Many companies do training.
- Dogs do not need to be certified or registered or wear identification.
 - Many owners use special vests to help others know it is a working dog.
 - There are many groups who offer info and registration, but this is not required.

Resources:

- The American Service Dog Access Coalition is a group that works to make rules for service dogs. <https://servicedogs4vets.org/american-service-dog-access-coalition/>
- Assistance Dogs International is a group of non-profits that train and place dogs. <https://assistancedogsinternational.org/>
- Canine Companion for Independence has a Central Indiana Chapter at <https://www.cci.org/>
- Indiana Canine Assistance Network is a local accredited program for training. <https://www.icandog.org/>

Emotional support animals

- Dogs are not trained for a specific task.
 - They provide emotional support as companions.
 - They can be called therapy, companion, or comfort dogs.
 - They help keep their owners calm when stressed. They are useful for persons with anxiety or a history of trauma.
- A mental health professional must write a letter to show the need for the dog. They are not covered by the ADA.
 - They are generally not allowed in public like restaurants or stores.
 - Hotels can charge for the pet.
 - Landlord should make reasonable rules.
 - Airlines post their emotional support dog rules.
- Training is not required, but animals should be well behaved.

Resources:

- The American Kennel Club sponsors the Canine Good Citizen training program and testing. They have more programs for community and urban training. You can find local trainers at <https://www.akc.org/products-services/training-programs/canine-good-citizen/>

Therapy animals

- Provide support to people other than their handler.
- They visit schools, libraries, nursing homes, hospitals.
- The host should have insurance to invite these dogs into their facilities.
- They are treated as pets in all non-invited settings.

Resources:

- Riley Hospital for Children has a Therapy Dog program.
<https://www.rileychildrens.org/support-services/pet-therapy-program>
- Eskenazi Health has a Pet Therapy program.
<http://eskenazihealthfoundation.org/where-to-give/eskenazi-healths-pet-therapy-program/>

