

ADA Regulations

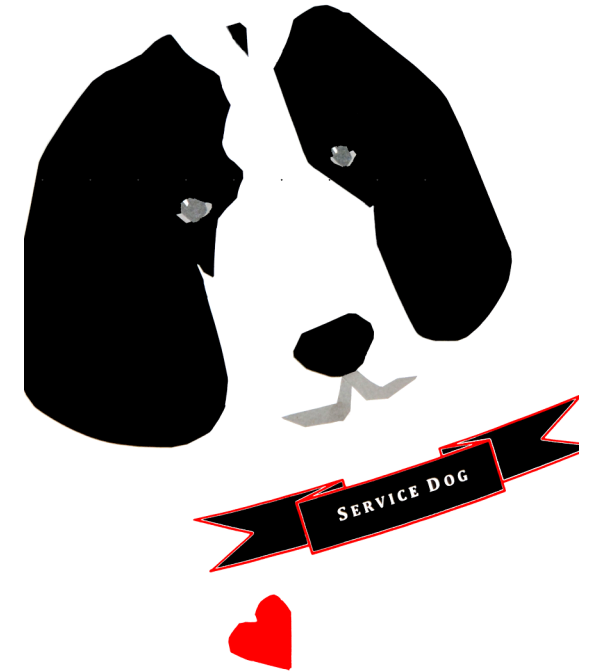
Under the **ADA** a business or entity may ask **ONLY two questions** of a Service Dog Handler. They are:

- 1) Is the dog a **Service Animal** required because of a disability?
- 2) What work or task has the dog been trained to perform?

They may **NOT** ask about the person's disability, require medical documentation, require a special identification card or training documentation for the dog or ask that the dog demonstrate its ability to perform the work or tasks.

Additionally: Under Washington State **RCW 9.91.170** Interfering with dog guide or service animal. (1)(a) Any person who has received notice that his or her behavior is interfering with the use of a dog guide or service animal who continues with reckless disregard to interfere with the use of a dog guide or service animal by obstructing, intimidating, or otherwise jeopardizing the safety of the dog guide or service animal user or his or her dog guide or service animal is guilty of a misdemeanor, except as provided in (b) of this subsection. (b) A second or subsequent violation of this subsection is a gross misdemeanor. (2)(a) Any person who, with reckless disregard, allows his or her dog to interfere with the use of a dog guide or service animal by obstructing, intimidating, or otherwise jeopardizing the safety of the dog guide or service animal user or his or her dog guide or service animal is guilty of a misdemeanor, except as provided in (b) of this subsection. (b) A second or subsequent violation of this subsection is a gross misdemeanor. Cited in Part - For Complete Act Known as Layla's Law Please See:

<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?Cite=9.91.170>



SERVICE DOGS What You Need To Know

It's About Access

He [my service dog] allows me to live a life in balance while I live with a movement disorder.

— Renee Le Verrier

My life will never be as it was before MS but because of her [my service dog], in some ways, it's actually better.

— Lynne Emerson

SERVICE DOGS LEAD from the HEART

For more information on Service Dog access, awareness and education, contact:

Northeast: Wilamenapants@icloud.com
Pacific Northwest: renee@limyoga.com

Or visit www.aboutaccess.org

Service Dogs What You Need To Know
© 2014 Emerson/Le Verrier

ADA Information Line
800-514-0301(Voice) 800-514-0383(TTY)

What Service Dogs Do

Service Dogs do many things. They assist visually impaired people as guide dogs, provide hearing alert tasks for the hearing impaired, aid mobility challenged people by providing balance and stability, pull wheelchairs, alert for seizures, assist those with PTSD by interrupting fear paralysis, retrieve medications and the list goes on. Service Dogs have come a long way from being recognized only as Guide Dogs.

Where Can Service Dogs Go?

As per the ADA Service Dogs must be allowed access generally anywhere the public is allowed. This includes restaurants, hotels, stores, hospitals, schools, government offices and essentially anywhere else the handler goes.

It is of great importance that a Service Dog never be separated from their handler.

Do Not Pet - Why?

When Service Dogs are working you often will see them wearing a vest that says 'Do Not Pet.' The reason is that when they're working their attention must be solely on their handler and their job. Should they become distracted by being petted, called, or even spoken to, it may put the handler at risk of falling or other injuries. Petting is distracting and is akin to taking away a person's glasses, hearing aid, cane or walker.

We don't pet you while you're working do we?

Are Service Dogs Specially Trained?

Absolutely! Not every dog is capable of being a Service Dog. It takes a very special combination of intelligence, willingness and desire to work, temperament and appropriateness of breed or type for the job. For example, A Toy Poodle would not be a good balance dog.

Regardless of whether they begin their training as young puppies or are rescue dogs, Service Dogs all undergo extensive socialization, obedience training, temperament evaluation and finally extensive training for the specific work they'll need to perform.

In fact, the ADA defines Service Animals as dogs that are individually trained to do work or perform tasks for people with disabilities.

Emotional Support or Therapy Dogs Are Not:

Service Dogs! While both of these provide valuable service they are not Service Dogs and are not provided the same protections under the ADA.

May A Service Dog Be Removed?

Yes. A Service Dog must be under the handler's control. It may be removed if the dog is out of control and the handler does not take effective action to control it or the dog is not housebroken.



Remember, Service Dogs are NOT pets. They are needed by their person for essential daily functions.



Are Service Dogs Certified or Licensed?

No. There is no certification or licensing for Service Dogs. While many Service Dog training organizations furnish graduates with identification this serves predominantly for their own organizational as well as recovery purposes should the dog ever become lost. There is no certification, registration or licensing requirement under the ADA. In fact, websites offering to certify dogs as Service Dogs only perpetuate the growing problem of Service Dog fraud.

Do They Ever Get To Be 'Just Dogs?'

Yes! They run, play and are just as spoiled as any other dog, if not more so. They have their "off duty" time when they simply relax and enjoy playing with other dogs, friends and family members.

Resources

Additional information regarding Service Dogs may be found at:

Americans with Disabilities Act - ADA.Gov

International Association of Assistance Dog Partners (IAADP) - IAADP.ORG

Assistance Dogs International –
Assistancedogsinternational.org