



Photo courtesy Disabled World

Can my animal be a Therapy Animal?

Yes, if your animal is controllable, reliable, and predictable. Your animal should also have good manners in public places, and have the social skills to seek out and visit with strangers. The owner too must illustrate they have the skills to work well with their animal and with clients and facilities visited.

For more information, visit Therapy Dogs International (tdi-dog.org).

More information

Billings Fair Housing

www.ci.billings.mt.us/fairhousing

Americans with Disabilities Act

ADA.gov

National Service Animal Resource Center

deltasociety.org

Pet Partners

petpartners.org

International Association of Assistance Dog Partners

assisteddogsinternational.org

Commonly Asked Questions by Business Owners

What must I do when an individual with a service animal comes to my business?

The animal must be permitted to accompany their owner anywhere in the facility where other members of the public may enter; they cannot be separated from other guests due to their service animal.

Can I charge a maintenance or cleaning fee for customers who bring service animals into my business?

No. The only time an additional fee may be added to a service animal's owner is if the animal causes damage to a facility as long as the charge is the same as it is for non-disabled patrons.

Am I responsible for the animal while the person with a disability is in my business?

No. The care and welfare of the animal is the responsibility of the owner and you cannot be forced to provide specific assistance (such as dog food)

What if a service animal barks or growls at other people, or otherwise acts out of control?

If the animal is a direct threat to the safety of others, it may be removed from the premises. However, the owner should be allowed the right to return without the animal.

Service, Therapy and Companion Animals

A guide to rights and regulations

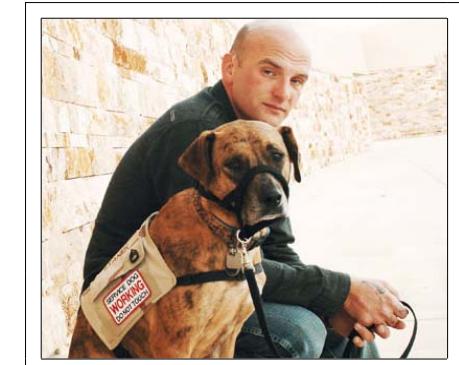


Photo courtesy ABC News



A **service animal** is any dog that is individually trained to perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including a physical, sensory, psychiatric, or other mental disability. **Certification is required.**

— ADA Network

Therapy animals are those that are trained to provide comfort and affection to people in long-term care, including disaster areas. Therapy Animals provide people with animal contact; people who may or may not have a form of disability. Therapy Dogs work in animal-assisted activities and animal-assisted therapy. **Certification is required.**

— Disabled-World

Companion (or assistance) animals can be considered a subcategory of domestic animals. This is a behaviorally trained animal that acts as a source of comfort and support. If an animal is considered to be a companion animal, a person may have more rights in regards to the animal, but also will likely be subject to more statutory responsibilities. **No certification required.**

— Animal Law Review



Photo courtesy Raven Creek K9

Service Animal Regulations

Only dogs and miniature horses are applicable as service animals.

Under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), service animals must be leashed, unless these devices interfere with the service animal's work or the individual's disability prevents using these devices.

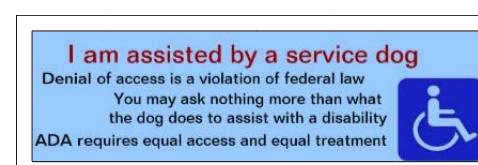
Individuals with disabilities are solely responsible for the conduct of their service animals, and can be held legally responsible for its actions.

Service Animal Rights

Any public organization must allow service animals in all areas of the facility where the public is normally allowed to go.

Staff may only ask two questions: (1) is the dog a service animal required because of a disability? (2) what work or task has the dog been trained to perform?

A person has the right to be accompanied on public streets, public facilities and services, and other public places with an assistance dog without additional cost to them.



Therapy & Companion Dog handlers do not have the same rights as handlers of Service Dogs. Handlers of Service Dogs are protected under the ADA because of the disability the handler experiences, not the animal itself.

Therapy animals provide affection and comfort to various members of the public, typically in facility settings such as hospitals.

A therapy animal has no special rights of access, except in those facilities where they are welcomed. They may not enter businesses with "no pets" policies or accompany their handler into an airplane, as therapy animals are primarily for the beneficial use of those **other than the owner of the animal**. As the owner is not in need of special assistance, the dog has no additional rights.

Companion animals are protected **in regards to housing only**; if an individual has a disability, they may request a reasonable accommodation to their landlord to have their animal reside with them even in a "no pets" facility. The owner of the companion animal is **responsible for all upkeep of the animal and is liable for any damages caused**.