

WHAT IS A SERVICE DOG?

A service dog is a dog that has been trained to work or perform tasks to help mitigate a disability for its handler. Service dogs come in many breeds and sizes, and may or may not wear special vests or gear while working.

HOW CAN I TELL IF A DOG IS A SERVICE DOG?

If it is not obvious what work or task the dog has been trained to perform for its handler, the Americans with Disabilities Act allows a covered entity (usually a business or establishment) to ask the handler 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?**

The answers to these questions will help to determine if the dog is a service dog. If the person does not have a disability, or the dog is not trained to perform a task to mitigate a disability, the dog is not a service dog and may be denied entry.

I.D. CARDS/CERTIFICATION

In the United States of America, the Department of Justice does not recognize registries, I.D. cards or certificates as proof that the animal is a service animal. [Covered entities may not require documentation, such as proof that the animal has been certified, trained, or licensed as a service animal, as a condition for entry.](#)



Additionally, these types of documents, I.D. cards and certificates do not convey any rights under the Americans with Disabilities Act.



SERVICE DOG GUIDE

THANK YOU FOR READING

We appreciate your interest in service dog education and taking the time to read through this informational guide. This pamphlet is meant to be used as an educational resource for businesses, employees, the general public, and service dog handlers. If you have any further questions, comments or concerns, please visit our website or contact the ADA information hotline listed below.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



ADA INFORMATION HOTLINE

800-514-0301 (Voice)
800-514-0383 (TTY)

M-W, F 9:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m., Th 12:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. (EST)

https://www.ada.gov/service_animals_2010.htm

MORE INFO ON SERVICE DOGS

www.waservicedog.org

SERVICE DOG GUIDE

ADA | WA STATE

AN INFORMATIONAL GUIDE TO SERVICE DOGS AND PUBLIC ACCESS RIGHTS



www.waservicedog.org