

# SERVICE ANIMALS WELCOME!

Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA)



## Question: What is a “Service Animal”?

**ANSWER:** An animal, usually a DOG, that is **individually trained to perform specific tasks** for the benefit of a person with a disability. Service animals are working animals, not pets. Service dogs are always under owners’ control.

## Question: What are examples of tasks performed by a “Service Animal”?

**ANSWER:** Guiding a person who is blind (“guide dog”), alerting a person who is deaf to certain sounds (“hearing dog”), or for seizure or other medical alerts (“medical alert dog”), wheelchair assistance etc (“service dog”)

## Question: Are companion dogs or other companion pets protected under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)?

**ANSWER:** No, animals that provide only emotional support (“therapy animals”) and companion animals are NOT service animals under the ADA and may be denied access to public places.

Some, but not all, service animals wear special collars and harnesses, and these are not required. Some, but not all, Service Animals are licensed or certified and have identification papers, and these papers are also not required.

For detailed ADA information, visit [www.ada.gov](http://www.ada.gov) or call (800) 514-0301 (voice) or (800) 514-0383 (TTY).

This poster is informal guidance and is neither a determination of a person’s legal rights and representation under the ADA, nor binding on any agency with enforcement responsibility under the ADA.

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