



Tips on Service Dogs

Facts on Service Dogs:

- Service Animals is defined as a specific breed that is trained to perform specific tasks for a person with a disability.
- Each disability requires a unique kind of Service Dog.

7 Types of Service Dogs:

1. **Canine Vision** for people who are blind or visually impaired.
2. **Hearing** for people who are deaf or hard of hearing.
3. **Autism Assistance** for children who have autism spectrum disorder.
4. **Service** for people who have a physical or medical disability.
5. **Seizure Response** for people who have epilepsy.
6. **Diabetic Alert** for people who have diabetes with hypoglycemic unawareness.
7. **Facility Support** for professional agencies assisting individuals in traumatic situations.

Indications that this is a Service Dog:

1. Your first clue will be what the animal is wearing. Service Dogs normally sport a vest or other item emblazoned with "Service Dog," "Working Dog" or "Do Not Pet."
2. Your second indication will be the dog's behaviour. Service dogs are generally calm and focused on their work. They are not necessarily quiet, though; some Service Dogs are trained to bark as a way to signal their handlers.

Guidelines people should follow when in the presence of a Service Dog to allow for the safety of the dog and its handler. Disregarding these guidelines can distract the dog, which can create a dangerous situation for the dog and its handler.

- Please do not touch, talk, feed or otherwise distract the dog while they are wearing their harness or vest. You should allow the dog to concentrate and perform for the safety of his handler.
- Do not treat the dog as a pet; give him the respect of a working dog.
- Speak to the handler, not the dog. Some handlers will allow petting once they take their harness or vest off the dog which allows the dog to know they are not working.
- If the handler says no when you ask to pet the dog, do not be offended. The dog (or handler) might be having a bad day, or he might be in a hurry. Remember, a Service Dog is as vital to a disabled person as a wheelchair or cane. You would not ask to pet their wheelchair or get mad if they would not let you pet their cane.
- The handler is the only one who gives the dog commands.
- When walking with a Dog Guide or Service Dog team, you should not walk on the dog's left side, as it may become distracted or confused. Ask the handler where you should walk. Depending on the situation, they may ask you to walk ahead of them on their right side, or behind them by their right shoulder.
- Never attempt to grab or steer the person while the dog is guiding or attempt to hold the dog's harness. You should ask if the handler needs your assistance and, if so, offer your left arm.

"With Thanks to the A-16 Accessibility Committee"

