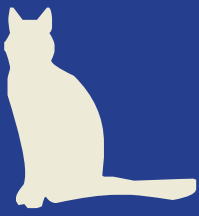


11.18.2018

Understanding Dog Labels

	Service Animal	Therapy Animal	E.S.A.
Must be specially trained to perform a task or tasks	✓	✓	
Granted public access	✓		
Allowed in housing with "no pets policy"	✓		✓
Trained to assist one person	✓		✓
Provides emotional support	✓	✓	✓
Must be certified or registered			

Law: What is it?	What does this law do?
Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) American Federal Law	Provides the majority of Federal Service Dog Laws
Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) A Civil Rights Law	Bestows public access rights to disabled individuals with a Service Animal
Fair Housing Ammendements Act (FHAA) A Civil Rights Law Amendment	Extends ADA protection to disabled individuals with an assistance animal who is seeking housing in the public sector
Air Carrier Access Act (ACAA) Specific Section of the CFR	Ensures access to air transportation on all carriers for all individuals with an assistance animal



A Service Animal

The Americans with Disabilities Act defines a service animal as any guide dog, signal dog, or other animal that is individually trained to aid an individual with a disability. If they meet this definition, animals are considered a service animal under the ADA, regardless of whether they have a license or certification by a state or local government. A service dog must be individually trained to perform a specific task or tasks for an individual who has a disability that hinders a major life function such as seeing, hearing, standing, walking, eating, sleeping, thinking, speaking, or other similar tasks. Service dogs are always trained on an individualized basis. All service dogs must be reliable, controllable, potty-trained and perform at least one or more tasks for the owner that the owner would otherwise be unable to perform without the service dog. Although all animals have the potential to provide emotional support, emotional support is not recognized as an accepted task.

Americans with Disabilities Act requires public and privately owned establishments servicing the public, such as restaurants, hotels, retail stores, taxicabs, airplanes, theaters, concert halls, and sports facilities, to allow people with disabilities to bring their service animal onto business premises in whatever areas customers are generally allowed.

It is illegal to claim that you require a service animal unless you have a disability requiring such an animal. Laws state that a business may ask what tasks the dog is trained to perform but may not ask about an individual's disability. A business may ask you to remove your service animal from its premises if the animal is out of control, the animal is not potty-trained, or the animal poses a direct threat to the health and safety of others.

Service Dog Certification of America recognizes that every person may have some form of disability and everyone could potentially have a service animal. Service animals can benefit people with disabilities associated with many diagnoses, including but not limited to:

- Spinal cord/ head trauma (injury, stroke)
- Visual or hearing deficits
- Diabetes
- Seizure Disorder
- Psychiatric disabilities
- Post traumatic stress disorder

How to get a service dog:

Under the law, training may be completed by yourself, a friend, professional trainer or training organization. It typically takes at least six months to a year (120+ hours) to properly train a service dog. Not all states grant the privileges of ADA public access to service dogs who are in training. The best tool for evaluating a team's readiness for public access is a Public Access Test.

Resources:

www.assistedogsinternational.org
www.leaderdog.org
www.neads.org
www.guidingeyes.org
www.diabetesalertdogalliance.org
www.medicalmutts.com



A Therapy Animal

Animal assisted activities are casual “meet and greet” activities that often include trained pets visiting people in the community. The same activity may be repeated with many people, unlike therapy programs that are tailored to a particular person or medical condition. Animal assisted therapy is a goal-directed animal interaction delivered by a human services professional with specialized expertise. Animal Assisted Therapy is designed to promote improvement in humans’ physical, mental, emotional, social or cognitive functioning. A therapy animal may, for example, visit a long-term care facility to interact with residents or assist a physical therapist to motivate a woman recovering from a stroke to walk again, among other activities.

Therapy animals do not share the same rights as a service animal and are not granted general public access, but they may be allowed to participate at a facility or event that dogs are traditionally not allowed.

Most companion animals including dogs, cats, rabbits, birds, guinea pigs, miniature horses and horses can be used for animal assisted activities and animal assisted therapy. Many programs require that animals are at least one year of age and have lived with the handler for six months or more. Animals may not show shyness, aggression, or fear. Most registering organizations do not allow intact animals to participate in their programs. Animals are required to complete specialized training and registration to participate in most therapy programs.

It is well-known and scientifically proven that interactions with a friendly pet has significant health benefits. Some benefits include, but are not limited to the following:

Physical Health Benefits:

- Lower blood pressure
- Improved cardiovascular health

Mental Health Benefits:

- Lessens depression and lifts spirits
- Decreases feeling of isolation, loneliness, and alienation
- Encourages communication, increases socialization
- Helps children overcome speech and emotional disorders
- Creates motivation for client to recover faster

How to train a therapy dog:

Most therapy dog registering organizations require a therapy dog to complete basic obedience training and socialization before being evaluated to be registered as a therapy team. Start with a dog training class and master the basic skills. Next, find a therapy program to join and follow the requirements to join that program. Each program’s requirements are a little different.

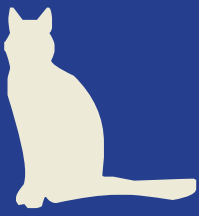
Resources:

www.petpartners.org

www.tdi-dog.org

www.monroehumane.org/vipaws

www.pawsandthink.org



An Emotional Support Animal

An emotional support animal is a companion animal that provides therapeutic benefits to an individual with a mental or psychiatric disability.

The person seeking the emotional support animal must have a verifiable disability and cannot just be in need of companionship. An emotional support animal is not a service animal and therefore is not granted general public access.

The United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) uses the term "assistance animal" to cover any animal that works, aids, or performs tasks for the benefit of a person with a disability, or provides emotional support to alleviate one or more identified symptoms or effects of a person's disability. Under the Fair Housing Amendments Act of 1988 (FHA), an emotional support animal is one type of assistance animal allowed as reasonable accommodation to residence with a "no pets policy". The FHA applies to almost all housing types, including those for sale or rent.

How to get an emotional support animal:

Unlike a service animal, an emotional support animal is not specifically trained to perform tasks. Many housing facilities require a written request for an emotional support animal. According to HUD, a physician, psychiatrist, social worker, or other mental health professional may provide documentation that the animal provides emotional support that alleviates one or more of the identified symptoms or effects of an existing disability.

Resources:

www.humanesociety.org/animals/resources/tips/assistance-animals-tenants-rights.html

<https://adata.org/publication/service-animals-booklet>

About MCHA

The Monroe County Humane Association has been responsibly and compassionately protecting, advocating, and educating for animal welfare since 1966. MCHA is an independent, 501c (3) nonprofit organization providing educational outreach and invaluable community services.

MCHA does not oversee an animal shelter, but acts as an animal welfare and advocacy organization for animals in the Monroe County area. Today, MCHA provides services and programs working with the City of Bloomington Animal Care and Control, local veterinary clinics, national advocacy organizations, and other partners to identify, build resources, and create solutions for animal welfare issues.

Education is the heart of the Monroe County Humane Association. We focus on answering questions about animal related services and issues, teaching responsible stewardship of both domestic and wild animals, and teaching others how to be safe around all animals.
