required because of a disability? and (2) what work or task has the dog been trained to perform? Partners don’t have to disclose their disability or demonstrate work/tasks. ID cards, vests, or certification are not required.

**What about allergies or fears?**

These are not valid reasons for denying a service dog team. If the allergy or fear is disabling, both people must be accommodated. Usually the two parties stay away from each other.

**What if a service dog barks?**

First, ask if they need assistance. The dog might be alerting to a medical condition, it might have been stepped on, or it might be a puppy learning manners. If the dog continues to be disruptive or destructive, the business can legally ask for its removal.

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**Psychiatric Service Dog Partners**

Purpose is to promote the mental health of people using service dogs for psychiatric disabilities by educating, advocating, providing expertise, facilitating peer support, and promoting responsible service dog training and handling.

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**Service Dog FAQ**

*answers to common questions about psychiatric service dogs*

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**Resources**

- **Psychiatric Service Dog Partners**
  - www.psych.dog
  - info@psych.dog
  - (805) 876-4256

- **Department of Justice**
  - ADA FAQ & phone line
    - www.ada.gov/regs2010/service_animal_qa.html
    - (800) 514-0301

- **Table of state service animal laws**
  - www.animallaw.info/topic/table-state-assistance-animal-laws
What is a service dog?

A dog of any breed or size, trained specifically to do work or tasks to assist with a person's disability, and prepared to behave in public.

What is a disability?

It is a physical or mental condition that severely limits a major life activity—the disability may not be visible!

Who trains service dogs?

They can be trained by the disabled partner, nonprofits, schools, or private trainers. Training takes about 2 years. If you're interested in a program, write to a program's partner, nonprofit, school, or private trainers. Nonprofits or private trainers are not paid by the disabled person.

Can I get a vest for my pet?

Service dogs are not pets! They must be trained to help with the partner's disability, and to behave stably in public. Otherwise, calling a dog a service dog is offensive and illegal. People with therapy dogs that are permitted to visit hospitals, help kids read, etc., do not have the same access rights. Neither do those with emotional support animals (ESAs), whose mere presence helps with an individual's psychological condition.

Do they get to “just be dogs”?

Yes! When off-duty, service dogs act like regular dogs. Many compete in and enjoy sports and activities like agility, swimming, playing fetch, playing with other dogs, and even chasing squirrels.

How can I help?

If a service dog team is denied access, speak up for (or with!) them. Share service dog etiquette with others. If you can, call the service dog's handler. Psychiatric service dogs are allowed anywhere the public is. This includes restaurants, hospitals, stores, movies, hotels, public transportation, and many state laws. Under the Americans with Disabilities Act and many state laws, service dogs are not pets. They must be trained to help with the partner's disability, and to behave in public. Otherwise, calling a dog a service dog is offensive and illegal. People with therapy dogs that are permitted to visit hospitals, help kids read, etc., do not have the same access rights. Neither do those with emotional support animals (ESAs), whose mere presence helps with an individual's psychological condition.

What can service dogs do?

They can guide people, pick up items, alert to sounds, assist with balance, seizures, diabetic shock, chemical sensitivities, etc. Psychiatric service dogs can help through exposure therapy to relieve anxiety or depression, etc. Determining what is a hallucination, provide pressure therapy to relax the mind, or assist in response to mood swings; help through flashbacks, assist in response to hallucinations; alert to panic attacks, etc. Psychiatric service dogs can alert to panic attacks, etc. Psychiatric service dogs can help through exposure therapy to relieve anxiety or depression, etc. Determining what is a hallucination, provide pressure therapy to relax the mind, or assist in response to mood swings; help through flashbacks, assist in response to hallucinations; alert to panic attacks, etc.

What identification is needed?

Two questions can be asked: (1) is the dog a service animal? (2) is the dog in relation to them. Tell partners that might be approached, play with, or bark at a service dog.

If you have a dog, don't let it kontakt the person. Ask the person what their disability is. Don't ask the person, not the dog. Talk to the person, not the dog. Don't distract the dog with noises. Food, or attempts to pet. Don't touch the dog. Showing respect takes learning.

Service dog etiquette:

If you can, ask the person what their disability is. Psychiatric service dogs can help with anxiety, panic attacks, etc. Don't touch the dog. If a service dog team is denied access, speak up for (or with!) them. Share service dog etiquette with others. If you can, call the service dog's handler. Psychiatric service dogs are allowed anywhere the public is. This includes restaurants, hospitals, stores, movies, hotels, public transportation, and many state laws. Under the Americans with Disabilities Act and many state laws, service dogs are not pets. They must be trained to help with the partner's disability, and to behave in public. Otherwise, calling a dog a service dog is offensive and illegal. People with therapy dogs that are permitted to visit hospitals, help kids read, etc., do not have the same access rights. Neither do those with emotional support animals (ESAs), whose mere presence helps with an individual's psychological condition.

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