




What Are the Differences Between Paws for Heroes Emotional Support Dogs and Service Dogs ?

		
SERVICE DOGS Any dog trained to perform tasks for an individual with a disability.	EMOTIONAL SUPPORT DOGS Medically prescribed animals providing therapeutic benefit through dedicated companionship.	THERAPY DOGS Animal-assisted therapy involving animals as a form of treatment.
IS THE ASSISTANCE ANIMAL LEGITIMATE - CAN I ASK?		
No - it's against the law! Legally, the handler can only be asked TWO questions about their relationship with the dog: 1) Does your dog provide a service? and 2) What is your dog trained to do?	There is no law against asking. Only airline employees, landlords, and educational facility administrators have a legal right to ask for medical documentation from the handler to allow access.	Yes. Although pet owners do not have a legal right to bring these animals into public places that aren't pet friendly, certain institutions such as hospitals and libraries may provide access by prior agreement.
ARE THEY LEGALLY ALLOWED HERE?		
Yes, if it's any place the public is allowed, at no added cost, as per the ADA Law. (Only religious institutions are exempt.)	Only on airplanes, in housing and in educational institutions.	They are only allowed in non-pet friendly venues by special permission.
ARE THEY EVEN ALLOWED IN RESTAURANTS?		
Yes, but that doesn't mean they can eat at the table.	No, unless by special permission.	No, unless by special permission.
WHAT IF THEY ARE MISBEHAVING?		
The Law stipulates that a service dog must not cause a disruption in public. The dog must be under the handler's control at all times. Otherwise it can be legally removed from an establishment.	They can be excluded anywhere not regulated under the pertinent laws listed here.	Not allowed anywhere there is a "no pets" rule, except through prior special agreement.
CAN I PET THEM?		
No. They are working and by distracting them you could put their handler in jeopardy.	No, similar to Service Dogs.	It depends on the circumstances. Ask the handler/owner first.
WHAT KIND OF ANIMALS ARE ALLOWED?		
The ADA Law stipulates dogs only. They can be any breed or size. Municipalities cannot ban specific breeds.	Any type of animal. (Animals other than dogs will be considered on a case by case basis by airlines.)	Any type of animal.
CERTIFICATION OR IDENTIFICATION REQUIRED?		
No. They are not required to wear a special vest, badge, etc. There is no national registry and no certification is necessary.	No.	Generally, yes, depending on hosting entity's requirements.
HAVE THEY BEEN SPECIALLY TRAINED?		
Yes. They have been extensively trained to perform specific service(s) for their disabled owner/handler.	No, not necessarily, though they should be well-behaved and obedient.	They should have been screened for temperament and obedience trained.
DOES THE ANIMAL HAVE TO BE LEASHED OR RESTRAINED?		
Yes. Unless it interferes with the task the dog has been trained to perform.	Yes.	Yes.
ARE THEY PETS?		
No. They are not considered pets under the law.	No. They are not considered pets under pertinent laws.	Yes, they are someone's pet.
SUBJECT TO NORMAL LICENSING & VACCINATION RULES?		
Yes.	Yes.	Yes.
DO SOME PEOPLE LIE ABOUT THEIR ASSISTANCE ANIMAL'S STATUS?		
Yes, though misrepresentation is punishable by law.	Yes. Some people misrepresent their pets in order to get around landlords' "no pet" rules or to avoid paying extra to fly with their pet. Misrepresentation may be punishable by local law.	It's possible, but there's nothing to gain by doing so, since these animals enjoy no legal access protection.