



Recognizing a Service Dog

Service dogs are allowed to go anywhere with their handler, including restaurants and cafés! The only exceptions are private clubs and churches.

Sometimes you can't be sure if a dog is a service dog or not, in situations where it is not obvious that the dog is a service animal, staff may ask only two specific questions:

- (1) is the dog a service animal required because of a disability? and
- (2) what work or task has the dog been trained to perform? Staff are not allowed to request any documentation for the dog, require that the dog demonstrate its task, or inquire about the nature of the person's disability.

It is extremely easy for people to get away with claiming any dog to be a service dog, but legally, you are only allowed to bring a **fully trained** service dog anywhere! It is hard these days to know if a dog is a service dog, there are so many types and with there being so many now for PTSD, you really wouldn't be able to tell right off. Here are some helpful tips to recognize a fully trained service dog:

Most, but not all service dogs, have a vest or harness, if you see someone carrying a dog, it's probably not a service dog. Fully trained service dogs are taught to walk by their owners side on a leash! Some exceptions include; a person who uses a wheelchair may use a long, retractable leash to allow her service animal to pick up or retrieve items. She may not allow the dog to wander away from her and must maintain control of the dog, even if it is retrieving an item at a distance from her.

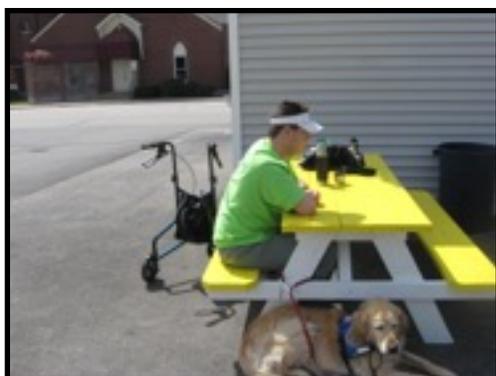
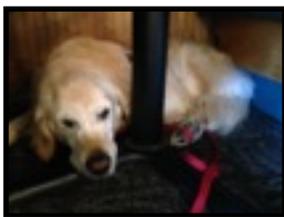
Or, a returning veteran who has PTSD and has great difficulty entering unfamiliar spaces may have a dog that is trained to enter a space, check to see that no threats are there, and come back and signal that it is safe to enter. The dog must be off leash to do its job, but may be leashed at other times.

The ADA requires that service animals be under the control of the handler at all times.

What Does “Under Control” mean?

Under control means that a service animal should be leashed or tethered in most situations (unlike examples like those stated previously) also to not be allowed to bark repeatedly in a lecture hall, theater, library, or other quiet place. However, if a dog barks just once, or barks because someone has provoked it (which some people like to do, believe it or not) this would not mean that the dog is out of control.

Most fully trained service dogs are trained lay quietly by their handler. For example, in a restaurant, the dog can lay under the table or if there’s no room, lay quietly by the side of the table, but not in the way of the waitstaff. It would be helpful if the host or hostess could direct patrons with service dogs to the best location.



Or, when at a retail store, they are supposed to stay, sit, or lay right next to their handler who is shopping, not be wandering around!



Service dogs are also allowed into the exercise gym with their handler. This is another *very* good reason people should not be slamming down weights! It would be very helpful for a trainer or other employee to point out a good location for the dog. Remember, the handler needs to be in physical control of the dog, or in hearing range of the dog. For example, if they are using a pool to work out, the dog needs to be laying by the side of the pool, but remember, not too close as to be splashed or laying in a puddle of chlorinated water, which can cause a rash!



Workers with service dogs usually have them under their work desk, beneath their register, behind a work counter, or in another area close to their workspace but out of theirs and customer's way.



A service dog with someone at work **cannot** be petted, played with, or otherwise distracted! With having a dog around, it can be very tempting to want to do these things, but remember, even though it doesn't *seem* to be

working, it is still important not to distract it. This is so the dog knows that this is still a time to behave and not get relaxed and let loose!

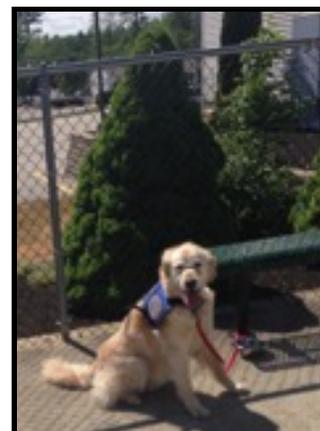
At Bellaviso Salon and Spa, Barrington, NH
574 Franklin Pierce Highway (Route 9)
At the intersection of routes 9 & 125, this service dog lays under the counter close by the handler.



When their handler is busy at recreational activities, the dog should still be close at hand, but if they need to be out of the way, they should be tethered nearby. For example, at the driving range at Hilltop Funcenter, Route 108 Somersworth, NH, this service dog is tethered to a telephone pole or the fence while his handler has fun using the golfing range,



or a bench at the batting cages. Don't forget, always try and have a cold bowl of water available to the dog, it would be helpful for an employee to help with this!



While his handler enjoys a movie at the theater, this service dog takes a little break from working, but don't be fooled, he's still keeping one eye open and his ears are keeping him alerted! Notice, he is not sniffing around everywhere eating all the candy off the floor (although, it was tricky on the way in, he wanted to eat leftover popcorn off the floor and kept on having to be reminded not to)!



One thing some service dogs are trained to do is give a cashier money so their handler doesn't have to reach over the counter, this is especially important for those in a wheelchair!



A common job for a service dog, pressing the handicap button to open the door!



An important job at home, as well!



Unfortunately, when service dogs are hurt on the job, this severely limits their ability to help their handler! Not only that, but there's no workman's comp in this line of work making the handler completely responsible for all the medical bills.



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