
GONE TO THE DOGS

SERVICE DOGS IN SCHOOLS AND TRANSITION SETTINGS

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Iowa Department of Education
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WHO I AM

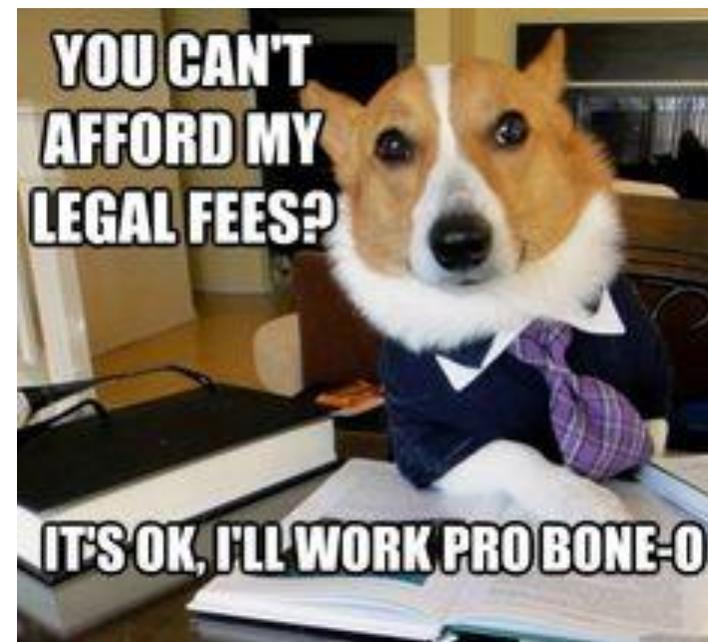
- Certified ADHD Coach
- Licensed teacher and school counselor
- Business owner
- Wife, mom, and friend
- Person with disabilities



WHO I AM NOT

- Attorney
- Law maker
- Education administrator
- School board member
- Anyone else who makes or interprets regulations

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SERVICE DOG BASICS

DEFINITION AND GOVERNING LAWS



FEDERAL DEFINITION

- “Service animal means any dog that is individually **trained to do work or perform tasks** for the benefit of an **individual with a disability**, including a physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual, or other mental disability.”



PUBLIC ACCESS



- “Individuals with disabilities shall be permitted to be accompanied by their service animal in **all areas of a public entity’s facilities** where members of the public, participants in services, programs, or activities, or invitees, as relevant, are allowed to go.”

SERVICE DOG LAWS

Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990

- **Title I – Employment**
 - Employers with 15 or more employees must provide reasonable accommodations (Enforced by Equal Employment Opportunity Commission)
- **Title II – State and Local Government**
 - Also includes public transportation (Enforced by Dept. of Justice)
- **Title III – Public Accommodations in Private Entities**
 - hotels, restaurants, retail merchants, doctor's offices, golf courses, private schools, day care centers, health clubs, sports stadiums, movie theaters, etc. (Enforced by Dept. of Justice)

SERVICE DOG LAWS

Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990

- **Title IV – Telecommunication**
 - Telecommunication relay services and closed captioning on federally funded public service announcements (Enforced by Federal Communications Commission)
- **Title V – Miscellaneous**
- **Transportation**

SERVICE DOG LAWS

Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990

- Updates in 2010 went into effect March 2011.
- ADA Amendments Act Final Rule (Signed by the Attorney General on July 15, 2016, published in the Federal Register on August 11, 2016, and will take effect 60 days after publication, on October 11, 2016.)

State Laws: <https://www.animallaw.info/topic/table-state-assistance-animal-laws>

SERVICE DOGS ARE NOT PETS



What's the difference?

	Service Dogs	Therapy Dogs	Emotional Support Dogs
Covered by ADA laws: handler with dog has public access	✓	✗	✗
Specially trained to do specific tasks	✓	✗	✗
May live with people who are disabled in housing with a "No Pet" policy	✓	✗	✓
Trained to assist only ONE person	✓	✗	✗
Provide emotional comfort to many people	✗	✓	✗
Primary function is to provide emotional support through companionship	✗	✗	✓
Needs to tolerate a variety of experiences, environments, and people	✓	✓	✗
Must be certified or registered	✗	✗	✗

TYPES OF SERVICE DOGS

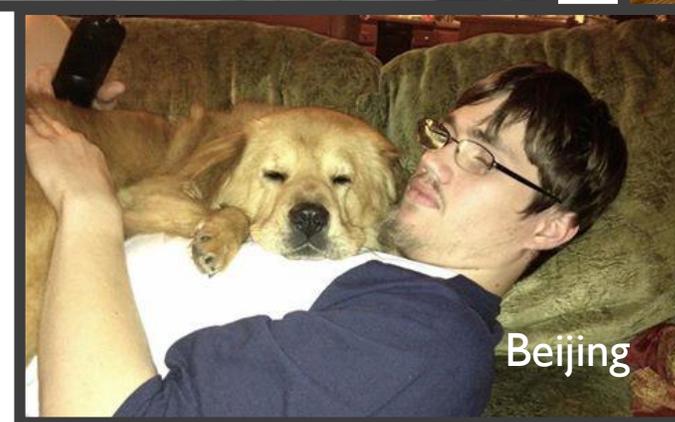
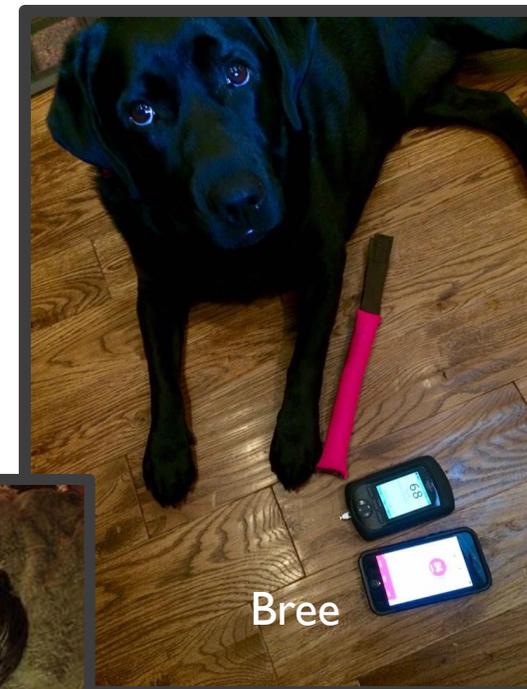
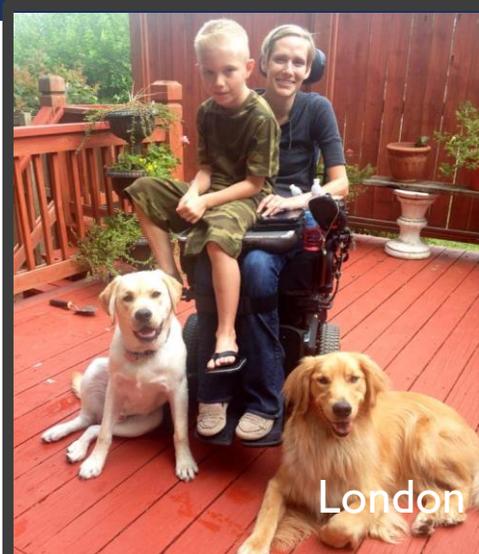
WHAT DO THEY DO?



ACCORDING TO FEDERAL LAW

- “The work or tasks performed by a service animal **must be directly related to the individual’s disability.**”
- Tasks include, but are not limited to:
 - Assisting individuals who are blind or have low vision with navigation and other tasks
 - Alerting individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing to the presences of sounds
 - Providing non-violent protection or rescue work
 - Pulling a wheelchair
 - Retrieving items such as medicine or telephone
 - Assistance with balance or stability
 - Preventing or interrupting impulsive or destructive behaviors for individuals with psychiatric or neurological disabilities

SERVICE DOGS ARE TASK TRAINED TO MITIGATE A DISABILITY



SERVICE DOGS CAN HELP WITH:

Medical Alert and Response

- Seizures, Diabetes, sudden drop in blood pressure
- Alert to impending episode, get help, retrieve medical supplies

Mobility Support

- Stroke, inner ear diseases, physical disabilities
- Retrieve, support, balance, open doors, pull wheelchair, prevent falls

Psychiatric Disorders

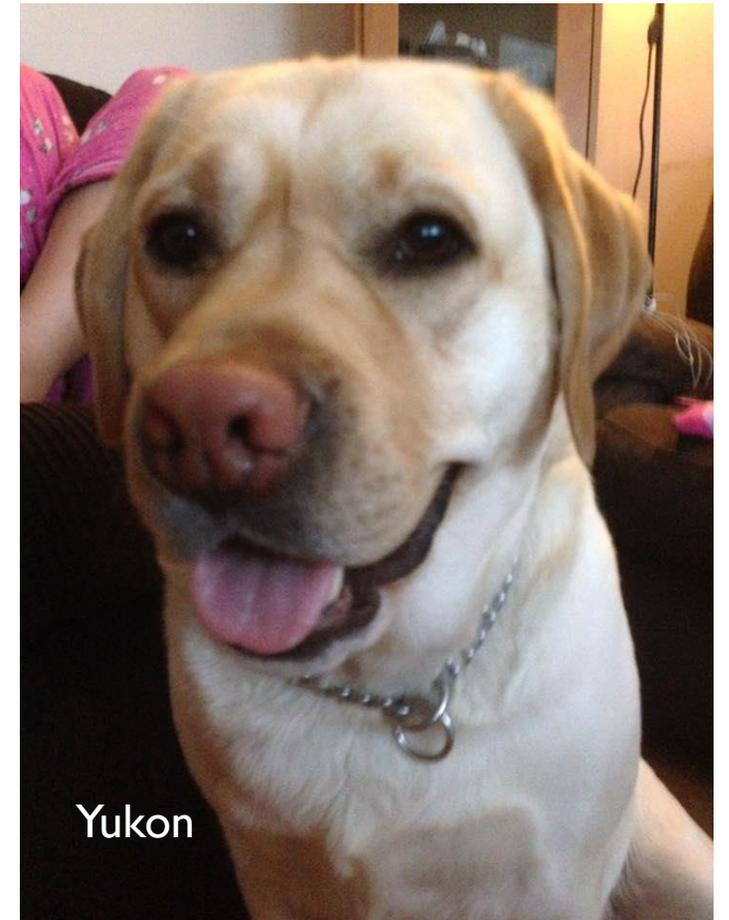
- PTSD, autism, bipolar disorder, anxiety disorders
- Med reminders, behavior disruption, find exit, deep pressure, interrupt night terrors, provide barrier

Hearing

- Alert to timer, doorbell, phone, smoke alarm, or dangers, carry notes to others

Vision

- Avoid obstacles, alert to changes in elevation, locate and retrieve items



Yukon

SERVICE DOG TRAINING

MORE THAN JUST AN OBEDIENT ANIMAL



SELECTION

All puppies and dogs admitted into training programs are temperament tested to determine if they are good candidates:

- How eager are they to work and please people?
- How quickly do they recover from startling experiences?
- How do they greet or approach people?
- How accepting are they of being held and touched?
- Do they follow if a person walks away?
- How forgiving are they?
- What temperament do the parents have?
- Are there any health issues?
- What prior socialization have they had? Riding in cars, being around people, exposure to various types of flooring or household and outdoor noises?



TRAINING

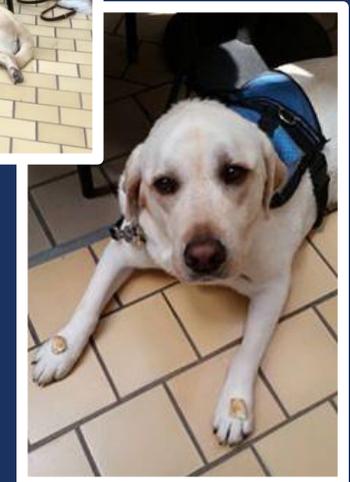


Documentation of training is not required by law, and while training can vary, all service dogs **MUST:**

- demonstrate basic obedience skills
- be housebroken
- not demonstrate aggressive behaviors
- be under the control of the handler
- be trained to do specific tasks directly related to the handler's disability

TESTING

- Documentation of testing is not required by law.
- There is no official certification or service dog registry.
- Handler/owner is responsible for dog's behavior in public.
- Some states require an ID card.
- There are several public access tests that are used by reputable trainers to ensure that dogs are well-behaved, that the handler has control over the dog in public, and that the service dog team is not a threat to public safety.



ASSURING SAFETY

SCHOOLS AND BEYOND



WHAT QUESTIONS CAN BE ASKED OF A SERVICE DOG OWNER?

- Do you need/require this animal because of a disability?
- What work or task has the dog been trained to perform?

These questions can only be asked if it is not readily apparent that the animal is trained to do work or perform tasks for an individual with a disability.

WHAT QUESTIONS CANNOT BE ASKED?

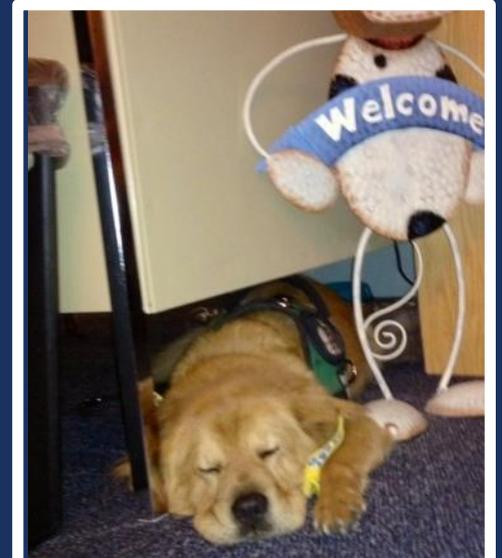
- What is your disability?
- Do you have proof that the dog is trained/tested?
- Can you demonstrate the tasks your dog does?
- Can you provide a doctor's note documenting a need for a service dog?

WHAT ABOUT ALLERGIES OR PHOBIAS?

- If allergies or phobias of others are determined to be a disabling condition under the ADA, then the organization must accommodate both disabilities.

OFF TO WORK

SERVICE DOGS IN THE WORK SETTING



REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS IN THE WORKPLACE

- Employee requests accommodations. (Also can be requested by another person.)
- Request does not have to be in writing.
- Request can be made at any time during employment or application process.
- Employer and employee discuss needs and nature of limitations.
- Accommodations must not create undue hardship for employer.

REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS IN THE WORKPLACE

- Employers may be concerned about possible allergies in the workplace or the dog being a distraction
- In the end, the employee with a service dog has responsibilities:
 - Health care
 - Grooming
 - Training
 - Any risks that may be present by having a dog

Q & A



A light-colored dog, possibly a Weimaraner, is sitting in a field of tall green grass and numerous yellow sunflowers. The dog is looking towards the left of the frame with its mouth slightly open. The background is a clear blue sky. The entire image is framed by a dark blue border at the top and sides.

“Life is not easy for any of us. But what of that? We must have perseverance and above all confidence in ourselves. We must believe that we are gifted for something, and that this thing, at whatever cost, must be attained.”

~Marie Curie

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