

SOME SERVICE DOG TASKS

Diabetic alert- Low/High blood sugar alert

Low/High blood pressure alert

Autism support- contain person, provide full “body hug” during episode, provide focal point, interrupt unwanted behaviors.

Seizure alert/response- give notice of pending seizure, provide contact that brings person out of seizure faster such as licking their face, pawing at them or using nose pokes, remind person to take meds, retrieve the phone/meds.

Mobility Assistance- provide balance point, pull wheelchair, assist fallen person, pick up dropped items, reach high/low items for person in wheelchair, open/hold doors, retrieve the phone/meds/cane.

Sound alert dog for deaf/hard of hearing- alert person to doorbell, alarms, approaching sirens, someone calling their name, ringing phone.

Allergy detection- body blocks and pulls person away from allergens such as smoke, chemicals or peanuts.

PTSD mitigation- “clear” a room or home before the person enters, recognize panic attack and get person out of area or provide mitigating contact/pressure, body block to keep people out of handler’s space.

Guide Dog- operates as the handlers eyes, leads person to doors, seating, favorite locations and more.

THANK-YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST IN MY SERVICE DOG

SERVICE DOG 101

WHAT SERVICE DOG USERS WANT **YOU** TO KNOW



Proper Etiquette

PLEASE IGNORE US



By law, a Service Dog may accompany it's disabled handler anywhere the person may go.

The handler is just trying to go about their life as you are.

But being stopped by people to answer the same questions over and over is a frequent occurrence and can seriously impact the person's day.

So here are a few things that people with Service Dogs would like you to know, but may be too polite to tell you...

◇ Don't ask personal questions.

How would you feel if every time you went in public, strangers approached you to ask about the results of your last pap smear or prostate exam. A person's health and disability is none of your business.

◇ Don't ask what the dog does.

This is very similar to the health questions. The dog is trained to do tasks that help the person with their disability. Several tasks are listed on this brochure.

Not all disabilities are obvious.

◇ Don't point at or talk about the person or their dog.

While it's good to explain to children that the dog is working and should not be bothered, it is rude to talk about someone as if they can't hear you. Seeing a Service Dog may be uncommon, but it's not a magical unicorn. So keep calm and go about your day.

◇ We don't care to hear about your dog.

Yes, we love our dog dearly. And yes, we know you love your dog too. But we just want to do what we set out to do today and being polite to 10+ people per day telling us all about their dogs is rather exhausting.



◇ IGNORE THE DOG!

Even if it doesn't appear to be working, if it is with it's handler it IS working. Talking to the dog, making noises at it, trying to pet it, etc. are all very distracting to even the best trained dog. If the dog is focused on you, it is not focused on it's job and that can be dangerous for the handler. It could miss the scent of an on-coming seizure, or allergen. It could get off-course while guiding it's vision impaired handler. Or it could miss a request from the handler.

The dog is for it's handler, not for your attention and enjoyment.

◇ Service Dogs come in all breeds, mixes and sizes.

While most Service Dogs wear a harness or vest, such things are not required by law. Not all disabilities require a large dog. But all Service Dogs MUST be well mannered and not disruptive.

◇ If you have your dog with you, please stay back

Another dog can be a distraction for a Service Dog and a distracted Service Dog is not doing it's job. It may be a felony to cause harm to a Service Dog including allowing your dog to do harm. Unfortunately, dog attacks on Service Dogs are common and can end the dog's career due to emotional or physical damage.

◇ Yes, they get off-duty play time!

Service Dogs, even those who are technically always looking out for their handler's well-being, DO get time to just be a normal dog. They play, have canine friends and some engage in canine sports. They are VERY loved and get the best care. The bond between and Service Dog and it's person is like no other.

