

Meeting a service dog...

- The service dog should never be distracted from his or her duty.
- ALWAYS ASK before petting the dog.
- DO NOT feed the dog; that is the handler's job.
- DO NOT call the dog when it is working as that will distract the dog and can be dangerous
- Service dogs can have fun too! When they are not working they can be treated as pets.
- Service dogs make mistakes from time to time and need to be corrected by their handlers in order to keep up their training
- Remember that service dogs are allowed everywhere that the general public is.

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Service Animal Information



**ORANGE COUNTY
DEAF
ADVOCACY
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"RE-INVENTING ADVOCACY"

- **What is an assistance/service animal?**

Assistance/Service animal covers a broad range of specifically trained groups of animals, primarily dogs, which assist persons with disabilities. They are Seeing Eye/Guide/Sight Dogs, Signal/Hearing Dogs, Helping/Alerting/Service Dogs, or other dogs specifically trained to assist any person with a visible or non-visible disability. A person who is disabled has a legal right to be accompanied by a service animal in all areas opened to the general public (Americans with Disabilities Act 208, Code of Federal Reg., Part 36, Sec. 36.104 & 36.302).

- **What does a seeing eye/guide dog do?**

A guide dog assists its blind or partially sighted handler safely through obstacles, such as curbs, stairs, and doors. If the dog sees something dangerous then it will stop, backup, or pull forward to get its handler out of harms way.

- **What does a signal/hearing dog do?**

A hearing dog alerts its deaf or hearing impaired owner to sounds such as the telephone/TTY, the owner's name, a baby crying, someone knocking at the door, fire and carbon-monoxide alarms, alarm clocks, directional location, etc.

- **What is a seizure alert dog?**

A seizure alert dog warns its handler of oncoming seizures. Normally these dogs start out being trained as service dogs or as pets. At some point they are exposed to a person with a seizure disorder and are noticed doing some behavior right before the person has the seizure. That behavior is then molded, through training, into a way of alerting their handler that a seizure is coming. The handler can then get on the floor or a soft surface so that they will not fall and get hurt while having the seizure.

- **What does a mobility dog do?**

A mobility dog is trained to pick things up, open doors, help with balance and even pull a wheelchair. The dog's handler may have trouble standing, walking, or moving any part of their body.

- **What other kinds of disabilities can a dog be trained for?**

Dogs can be trained to help out with all kinds of disabilities. There are dogs that help people with Alzheimer's, autism, chemical sensitivity emotional disabilities, and many more.

- **Are other animals used?**

Yes, there have been other animals used such as parrots, ferrets, cats, rabbits, potbellied pigs, miniature horses, monkeys, and many more.