



# Service Animal Reference



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- Under the Americans with Disabilities Act, service animals must be allowed to accompany someone with a disability to all areas where the public is allowed.
- Service animals are individually specially trained working dogs (or miniature horses) which perform tasks for people with disabilities.
- When it is not obvious what service an animal provides, to assess whether someone's animal is a service animal you may ask:
  - Is the service animal required because of a disability?
  - What tasks have the animal been trained to perform?
  - You may **not** ask about a person's disability, require medical documentation, require special identification, or ask the dog to demonstrate its tasks.
- Valid Reasons to ask for the removal of a service animal:
  - The animal is out of control and the handler cannot take effective control
  - The animal is not house broken
  - The animal is creating a real threat
  - Fear of dogs and allergies are **not** valid reasons to deny access to service animals.
- Examples of service animal tasks:

Guiding the blind, alerting the deaf, pulling a wheelchair, assisting the mobility impaired, reminding to take medications, calm someone with PTSD during an anxiety attack, monitoring blood sugar levels.
- The Americans with Disabilities Act specifies the regulations for service animals in places of employment (Title I), State and local government services (Title II) and public accommodations and commercial facilities (Title III). These are federal regulations and apply to all of the USA.
- Other types of support animals are not service animals including emotional support animals and therapy animals.

## **Mission Statement**

*The mission of BRiDGES is to provide advocacy & leadership in the creation and development of an accessible and integrated community for people with disabilities, so that they may pursue lifestyles of their choice.*