



COMPARISON

SERVICE DOGS

THERAPY DOGS

EMOTIONAL SUPPORT



ADA covered: Rights to bring animal into public establishments



Needs to tolerate a wide variety of experiences, environments, people



May live with their Disabled owners, even if "No Pets" policy in place



Primary function is to provide emotional support, through companionship



Specifically trained to assist just one person



Provide emotional support and comfort to many people





Service Dog

A service dog is specifically trained to mitigate their handler's disability. The handler must be disabled, and the dog must be trained tasks that help with the disability.

- *Fly in cabin? **YES**
- *Live in no-pets housing? **YES**
- *Mitigates a disability? **YES**
- *Brings comfort to many people? **NO**
- *Allowed in no-pets hotels? **YES**
- *Allowed in taxis, buses, and trains? **YES**
- *Allowed in public no-pets places? **YES**
- *Must have ID? **NO**
- *Must be registered/certified? **NO**



Emotional Support Dog

An emotional support dog mitigates their handler's disability by naturally bringing comfort to their handler. The handler must be disabled, and the dog must help with the disability, but there are no training requirements.

- *Fly in cabin? **YES**
- *Live in no-pets housing? **YES**
- *Mitigates a disability? **YES**
- *Brings comfort to many people? **NO**
- *Allowed in no-pets hotels? **NO**
- *Allowed in taxis, buses, and trains? **NO**
- *Allowed in public no-pets places? **NO**
- *Must have ID? **NO**
- *Must be registered/certified? **NO**



Therapy Dog

A therapy dog is a pet that volunteers with its handler to visit places such as schools and hospitals by invitation to bring comfort to many people. The handler does not have to be disabled. Typically, a therapy dog is tested and insured by an organization to make sure the dog is suitable and to cover the team in case of accidents.

- *Fly in cabin? **NO**
 - *Live in no-pets housing? **NO**
 - *Mitigates a disability? **NO**
 - *Brings comfort to many people? **YES**
 - *Allowed in no-pets hotels? **NO**
 - *Allowed in taxis, buses, and trains? **NO**
 - *Allowed in public no-pets places? **NO**, unless invited for therapy visit only
 - *Must have ID? **NO**, unless organization requires it
 - *Must be registered/certified? **YES**, if facility requires it
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