




Service Animals, Emotional Support Animals, and Therapy Animals

Definitions	Service Animal (ADA) - A dog (or a miniature horse) that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for people with disabilities.
	Emotional Support Animal - A pet that provides therapeutic support to a person with a diagnosed mental health problem.
	Therapy Animal - Part of an animal-handler team (pet) that has been trained and evaluated to visit/work with clients who enjoy animals.

Comparison Chart

	Species	Legal Location Access	Access Laws	Other Names Used	Proof/ID Required	Training	Misbehavior, Disruptive, Damage	Allowed Questions to Handler
Service Animals 	Dogs; Miniature Horses only	Any public place, business or public transportation.	Federal Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). State laws. This is a working animal . May be thought of as an assistance device. ACA - allowed in airplane cabin.	Service dogs, assistance dogs, guide dogs, seeing-eye dogs, hearing ear dogs, balance dogs, psychiatric service dogs, seizure alert dogs, diabetes alert dogs, more.	Not required by ADA, but individual states may provide registration IDs for those meeting qualification standards.	Animals are trained to serve their handler's needs and display good behavior in public.	Proprietor has the right to ask owner to remove animal.	Public facility staff may ask 2 questions: (1) Is the dog a service animal required because of a disability? (2) What work or task has the dog been trained to perform?
Emotional Support Animals 	Any	Housing only. Not public places, business or transportation. (ACA changed in 2021 and no longer allows ESA cabin privileges on flights.)	Fair Housing Amendments Act (FHAA); This is a pet .	Assistance dogs, comfort animal, personal therapy animals, prescription pet	Letter from mental health professional within the past year is required for housing or cabin airline travel at no charge.	Not required	Landlord has the right to ask the handler to remove animal.	Public facility staff may ask the questions above if an animal is brought into their establishment. Landlord should ask when access is requested: <i>May I see your letter from a licensed mental health professional stating your need?</i> Rabies vaccine status should be assessed.
Therapy Animals 	Domestic animals, pets		None for pets. Some therapy animals are also service animals (off duty), or emotional support animals.	Pet Partners, TDI dog, others	Yes, when volunteering as a therapy team. Usually handler ID card and special tag for the animal.	Trained to meet standards of registering agency	May be asked to leave and may lose registration.	Any of the above questions of the handler if team is in a public facility or requesting cabin airline travel w/o cost.