

## What's a Facility Dog?

A facility dog is expertly trained to work with a professional in the workplace to accomplish client-related goals. This dog and handler typically work together fulltime and live under the same roof. **THIS TYPE OF DOG IS NOT LEGALLY RECOGNIZED BY LAW.**

### THEIR PARTNERS

Facility dogs can work with many types of partners: teachers, counselors, social workers, physical therapists, occupational therapists, recreation therapists, victim advocates, and others.

### WHERE THEY WORK

Facility dogs can work in special education classrooms, physical therapy clinics, mental health settings, military bases, courthouses, and other places.

### WHAT THEY DO

A facility dog can be paired with a professional partner in a wide variety of workplace settings. The work a facility dog does is quite varied and is determined by the partner's work goals. Two examples are: a facility dog paired with a Victim Advocate in a court system sits with an anxious child testifying, and a facility dog working on a military base could participate in therapeutic sessions for ill or injured service members.

### WHERE ALLOWED

Facility dogs can go to the professional's specific workplace and where pets are allowed. They are not allowed inside restaurants or on planes.

### TRAINING

Facility dogs are typically trained for 18-24 months in obedience, specialized tasks, and public access skills.

### CERTIFICATION

Both the handler and facility dog are often certified by a recognized organization accredited by Assistance Dogs International to work only in the professional's workplace.



## What's a Service Dog?

A service dog is expertly trained to take a specific action, when required, to assist a person with a disability. The dog and partner live together. **THIS DOG IS LEGALLY RECOGNIZED BY LAW AND PROTECTED BY THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT. THIS DOG ENGAGES ONLY WITH HIS/HER PARTNER.**

Service dogs are NOT considered pets. The work or tasks performed by a service dog must mitigate the partner's disability or disabilities. Neither guarding nor emotional support qualify as service dog tasks.



### THEIR PARTNERS

The service dog's partner typically has one or more recognized disabilities: physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual, or other mental disabilities.

### WHERE THEY WORK

Service dogs work at their partner's side: at home, in the workplace, and in public locations.

### WHAT THEY DO

Service dogs can support partners with many types of disabilities: mobility, visual impairment, hearing impairment, psychiatric, autism, medical alert, and more.

The following are examples of tasks a service dog might perform:

- provide physical support, balance, and stability to individuals with mobility disabilities
- retrieve items such as medicine or the telephone
- assist individuals who are blind with navigation
- alert individuals who are deaf to the presence of people or sounds
- assist an individual during a seizure
- help persons with psychiatric and neurological disabilities by preventing or interrupting impulsive or destructive behaviors

### WHERE ALLOWED

Service dogs can accompany their partners ANYWHERE the general public is allowed.

### TRAINING

Service dogs receive extensive training for an average of 18-24 months in obedience, specialized tasks, and public access skills.

### CERTIFICATION

The service dog and partner are often certified as a team by a recognized organization accredited by Assistance Dogs International.

## What's a Therapy Dog?

A therapy dog is a pet dog trained to provide therapeutic support and comfort. **THIS TYPE OF DOG IS NOT LEGALLY RECOGNIZED BY LAW.**

### THEIR PARTNERS

Therapy dogs are generally the personal pets of their owners and work with their handler/owner to provide services to others.

### WHERE THEY WORK

Therapy dogs work in schools, hospitals, assisted living facilities, rehabilitation centers, airports, courts, military bases, and more.

### WHAT THEY DO

A therapy dog can offer a calming presence to patients in hospitals, nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and school campuses during finals; comfort clients with mental health challenges; and participate in school activities with special needs students. Spending time with a therapy dog has been shown to reduce blood pressure, heart rate, and anxiety.

### WHERE ALLOWED

Therapy dogs are allowed in places where they have been specifically invited to work and in places where pets are allowed. Therapy dogs are not allowed inside restaurants or on planes.

### TRAINING

The owner arranges for a high level of obedience training and socialization for the therapy dog in order to meet therapy certification standards. Therapy dogs do not have to be trained to perform specific tasks like service dogs.

### CERTIFICATION

A therapy dog and its handler are often assessed and certified as a therapy team by a recognized organization such as Alliance of Therapy Dogs, Love on a Leash, Therapy Dogs International, or Pawsitive Teams, Inc.





## What's an Emotional Support Animal?

An Emotional Support Animal is an unofficial term for an animal that provides comfort, companionship, and/or therapeutic support for someone with emotional or psychological needs. Any type of animal can provide emotional support: dogs, cats, rabbits, birds, reptiles, etc. **AN EMOTIONAL SUPPORT DOG OR OTHER ANIMAL IS CONSIDERED A PERSONAL PET AND IS NOT LEGALLY RECOGNIZED BY LAW.**

### THEIR PARTNERS

Emotional support animals are their owners' private pets.

### WHAT THEY DO

Emotional support animals provide emotional support and comfort to their owners.

### WHERE ALLOWED

Emotional support animals can go where pets are allowed. They are not allowed inside restaurants or on planes. Emotional support animals ARE allowed in public housing where pets are NOT allowed under the Fair Housing Act once certain conditions are met.

### TRAINING

Emotional support animals do not require specific training.

### CERTIFICATION

Certifications for emotional support animals are not available.

## What's a Working Dog?

A working dog is a dog trained to perform highly specialized tasks for our health and safety. These include:

- Police
- Military
- Search & Rescue
- Crisis Response
- Drug Detection
- Bomb Detection

## Learning about the ways dogs help people helps us ALL.

*Pawsitive Teams, Inc. is pleased to provide you with this brochure.*

**Pawsitive Teams** is a San Diego, California, nonprofit organization dedicated to enhancing the lives of individuals with special needs who live in San Diego County by using the skills of highly trained service dogs, facility dogs, and therapy dogs.

**Pawsitive Teams depends on donations and grants** to provide all of our services. Please consider supporting us!

### How to donate:

Online at [pawsteams.org/donate](https://pawsteams.org/donate) or by mail:  
7031 Carroll Road, San Diego, CA 92121



Pawsitive Teams, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Tax ID 33-0851474.

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For more information about dogs trained to help people, please visit: [pawsteams.org/definitions-and-access](https://pawsteams.org/definitions-and-access)

DOGS HELPING PEOPLE!

