



**Pet Partners**  
Touching Lives, Improving Health

## What makes a therapy animal different?

	Therapy Animal	Assistance Animal	Emotional Support Animal
Primary role is to benefit many people.	✓	✗	✗
Primary role is to support one individual.	✗	✓	✓
Okay to approach and pet in public places.	✓	✗	✗
Has been evaluated to be tolerant of a wide variety of environments.	✓	✓	✗
Able to live in housing with "No Pets" policies.	✗	✓	✓
Special rights of access in public establishments such as stores and restaurants.	✗	✓	✗
May fly in the cabin of an airplane.	✗	✓	✓

#### Service Animals:

- Covered under Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) title II and title III in 2010
- Service animals (dogs and miniature horses) are individually trained to do work or perform tasks for people with disabilities.
- Under the ADA, State and local governments, businesses, and nonprofit organizations that serve the public generally must allow service animals to accompany people with disabilities in all areas of the facility where the public is normally allowed to go.
- Under the ADA, service animals must be harnessed, leashed, or tethered, unless these devices interfere with the service animal's work or the individual's disability prevents using these devices.
- For information and specific rules related to service animals, please see [https://www.ada.gov/service\\_animals\\_2010.htm](https://www.ada.gov/service_animals_2010.htm)

#### Emotional Support Animals:

- Covered under the Fair Housing Act (FHA)
- Any animal that provides emotional support, well-being, or companionship that alleviates the symptoms of disability; not individually trained. Emotional support animals have been proven to help diminish the symptoms of disabilities by providing therapeutic nurture and support.<sup>11</sup>
- FHA assures reasonable accommodations are made "in rules, policies, practices, or services, when such accommodations may be necessary to afford such person [individual with a disability] equal opportunity to use and enjoy a dwelling."<sup>2</sup> "A reasonable accommodation is a change, exception, or adjustment to a rule, policy, practice, or service that may be necessary for a person with a disability . . ."<sup>3</sup>
- There are definitions on what a dwelling and reasonable accommodations are.
- Person with the disability must show a link between their disability and the task the animal provides. This includes a letter from a professional (doctor, therapist etc.)
- Emotional Support Animals are only permitted in certain areas of the dwelling.
- For more information, please see <http://www.disabilityrightsnc.org/sites/default/files/SelfAdvocacyPacket-Animals%20in%20Housing.pdf>

#### Therapy Animals:

- Therapy animals, like those who participate in the Pet Partners Therapy Animal Program, provide affection and comfort to various members of the public, typically in facility settings such as hospitals, assisted living, and schools. These pets have a special aptitude for interacting with members of the public and enjoy doing so. Therapy animal owners volunteer their time to visit with their animal in the community. A therapy animal has no special rights of access, except in those facilities where they are welcomed. They may not enter businesses with "no pets" policies or accompany their handler in the cabin of an airplane regardless of their therapy animal designation. – Pet Partners [https://petpartners.org/learn/terminology/?gclid=EAlaIQobChMI9PHy4oXJ2QIV3Y2zCh0Y\\_A4hE\\_AAYASAAEgl4RfD\\_BwE](https://petpartners.org/learn/terminology/?gclid=EAlaIQobChMI9PHy4oXJ2QIV3Y2zCh0Y_A4hE_AAYASAAEgl4RfD_BwE)