

SERVICE DOGS, EMOTIONAL SUPPORT DOGS & THERAPY DOGS: WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE?

	<u>Service Dog</u>	<u>Emotional Support Dog</u>	<u>Therapy Dog</u>
Is trained a specific task or behavior to assist a person with a disability	YES	NO	NO
Provides emotional support and comfort to people	NO	NO	YES
In public, displays very good behavior and is comfortable with a variety of people, situations and experiences	YES	NO	YES
Is allowed to fly in the cabin of a plane	YES	YES	NO
May live with a person with a disability even in housing with a no pet policy	YES	YES	NO
Primary role is to be a companion and provide emotional support	NO	YES	NO
Requires very specialized and intensive training	YES	NO	NO
Requires registration or certification	NO	NO	NO
Is protected by Americans with Disability Act (ADA) to bring their dog into public places where pet dogs are NOT allowed (i.e. grocery store, restaurant, etc.)	YES	NO	NO

SERVICE DOG

The Americans with Disability Act (ADA) defines a *Service Dog* as a dog that has been individually trained to perform tasks on cue that assist a person with a disability. The tasks performed by the dog must be directly related to the person's disability.

EMOTIONAL SUPPORT DOG

Emotional Support Dogs provide comfort to their person just by their presence. Providing comfort is not a trained behavior and, therefore, the dog is not considered an assistance (service) dog under the ADA. Emotional support dogs do not have the intensive and specialized training that a service dog receives.

THERAPY DOG

Therapy Dogs are usually a person's own pet dog that the person has had qualified (through a therapy dog organization) to make visits to hospitals, schools, nursing homes, etc. Sometimes health care professionals and teachers incorporate a therapy dog into their work with their clients or students.

As the only ACCREDITED service dog training program in Indiana, ICAN has brought together dogs, inmates and people living with disabilities, providing hope for more enriched and independent living. **To learn more, visit icandog.org or call 317-672-3864.**