



SERVICE DOGS

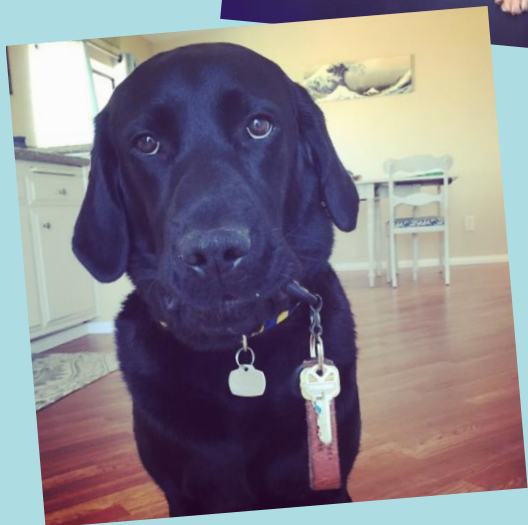
Chelsea Calabria

Co-Owner and Head Trainer at Rockem Dog Training

- **EMOTIONAL SUPPORT ANIMALS (ESA):** Any animal that provides emotional support alleviating one or more symptoms or effects of a person's disability. Emotional support animals do not have special training to perform tasks that assist people with disabilities. Emotional support animals are not limited to dogs. These animals do not have public access.
- **THERAPY DOG:** A dog that provides people with healing contact, typically in an institutional or clinical setting, to improve their physical, social, emotional, or cognitive functioning. While these types of animals receive training and may interact with all sorts of people, including an individual with a disability, they are not trained to perform a specific task for an individual with a disability. These dogs can only go into public spaces where they are scheduled for a therapy dog visit (hospital, library, retirement community).



- **SERVICE DOGS**, as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act, are individually trained to do work or perform tasks for people with disabilities.
- These dogs have public access, only granted with the person who has a disability.
- Service Dogs in public must remain under control and may not cause a disruption. Service Dogs are not allowed to excessively bark, toilet inside a public place or aggress towards the public.
- The term 'Service Dog' encompasses all types of assistance dogs.



WHAT CAN THEY DO TO MITIGATE A DISABILITY:

Tasks range and vary widely!

Retrieve

Tug

Medical Alerts

Deep Pressure Therapy

Guide work

Behavior Interruptions

Create space in public

Alert to sounds in environment

Counter balance

Forward momentum

Find chairs and exits

INHERENT BENEFITS OF SERVICE DOGS:

Companionship
Social bridge for children
Motivating
Mirroring and Mimicking
Play
Attunement



HOW TO GET A SERVICE DOG:

1. ORGANIZATION (non-profit and for profit)

PROS:

Can be more cost effective

Dogs are already trained

Avoid puppyhood responsibility

CONS:

You don't pick your dog

Long waitlist

Can not always have every task you are looking for





HOW TO GET A SERVICE DOG:

2. OWNER TRAIN

PROS

- Pick your dog
- Involved in training
- Customize tasks

CONS

- Financial investment
- Requires time, patience, consistency (especially in the puppy stage)
- No guarantees

FAQs:

Does a service dog ever get to 'just be a dog'?

Can my pet dog become a service dog?

Can any breed be a service dog?

I'm interested in getting a service dog for myself, my child or my facility. Where do I start?

