



BELIEVET™
CANINE
SERVICE PARTNERS



Responsibilities of Service Dog Handlers

Service dog handlers bear significant responsibilities to ensure the well-being of their service dogs and to foster a harmonious coexistence in public spaces. These devoted handlers understand that their service dogs are more than just companions; they are lifelines for individuals with disabilities. Responsible service dog handlers prioritize comprehensive training to

equip their canine partners with the necessary skills to assist with specific tasks related to their handler's disability. They also maintain strict control over their service dogs, ensuring they remain well-behaved and focused on their duties in public environments. Additionally, they prioritize the health and care of their service dogs, diligently addressing medical needs and hygiene

while fulfilling legal requirements to uphold the rights of service dogs in various settings. By embracing these responsibilities wholeheartedly, service dog handlers create a positive impact, fostering inclusivity and accessibility for individuals with disabilities, and exemplifying the unwavering dedication and bond between a service dog and its owner.

- **Proper Training:** Ensuring that the service dog receives appropriate and specialized training to perform tasks or work directly related to the owner's disability. The dog should be well-behaved and capable of following commands reliably.
- **Public Etiquette:** Educating the public about the role of service dogs and promoting respectful interactions. Owners should discourage people from petting, distracting, or engaging with the service dog while it is working, as this can disrupt the dog's ability to perform its duties.
- **Health and Care:** Providing the service dog with regular veterinary care, vaccinations, and necessary health check-ups to ensure its well-being. Owners should maintain the dog's hygiene and grooming standards to keep it healthy and presentable.
- **Control and Safety:** Keeping the service dog under control at all times, either on a leash, harness, or tether, unless the owner's disability prevents its use or it interferes with the dog's task performance. Owners should ensure that the dog does not pose a threat to others or cause disruptions in public settings.
- **Clean-Up:** Being responsible for cleaning up after the service dog in public places. This includes promptly disposing of the dog's waste to maintain cleanliness and public hygiene.
- **Legal Compliance:** Understanding and complying with relevant service dog laws and regulations, both at the federal and state levels. This includes knowing the rights and responsibilities as a service dog owner and ensuring the dog is properly identified with appropriate gear, such as a service dog vest or identification cards, where required by law.
- **Health and Safety Precautions:** Ensuring the service dog is up-to-date on vaccinations and takes necessary precautions to protect the dog from potential health hazards in public environments.
- **Training Maintenance:** Continuously reinforcing the dog's training and skills to ensure it remains proficient in performing its tasks. This may involve ongoing training sessions and practice in various environments.
- **Awareness of Dog's Well-being:** Being attuned to the service dog's physical and emotional well-being. Recognizing signs of stress or fatigue and providing appropriate rest or breaks when needed.

Remember that the responsibilities of service dog handlers are critical to the success of the service dog-human partnership and to maintaining the positive reputation of service dogs in public spaces. By fulfilling these responsibilities, service dog handlers help promote inclusivity and accessibility for individuals with disabilities and their invaluable canine companions.