

## **Service Dogs and Federal Law**

Have a question? Call the U.S. Department of Justice Civil Rights Division at 1-800-514-0301.

The owner/handler of this Service Dog is presenting this card voluntarily and is NOT REQUIRED by Law to do so. It is against United States Federal Law to discriminate against those with Service Dogs.

A Service Dog can be used for the Visually Impaired, for Seizure Alert, PTSD, Mobility, Hearing Impaired, and many other disabilities.

The Service Dog and their access to all public places and commercial carriers is protected under Federal Law. For questions regarding the ADA, please contact the U.S. Department of Justice at 1-800-514-0301. For questions regarding canine activity, call the D.O.T. between 9-5 EST at 1-800-778-4838.

U.S. Dept. of Justice website: [www.usdoj.gov/crt/ada/adahom1.htm](http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/ada/adahom1.htm)

28 CFR 35.102, Subpart A, became effective 3/15/11 granting Federal statutory protection to this Service Animal.

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

**What is a service animal?** According to U.S. Law, a service animal is defined as a dog that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for people with disabilities.

**Where are service animals allowed?** 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.

**Does a service animal have to be under control?** Yes. 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. In that case, the individual must maintain control of the animal through voice, signal, or other effective controls.

**How do I know for sure it's a real service dog?** When it is not obvious what service an animal provides, only limited inquiries are allowed. Staff may ask two questions: (1) is the dog a service animal required because of a disability, and (2) what work or task has the dog been trained to perform. Staff cannot ask about the person's disability, require medical documentation, require a special identification card or training documentation for the dog, or ask that the dog demonstrate its ability to perform the work or task.