

Animal Category Comparison

ANIMAL CATEGORY COMPARISON	SERVICE ANIMALS	EMOTIONAL SUPPORT ANIMALS	THERAPY ANIMALS	COMPANION ANIMALS
Rights as outlined by the ADA allowing Service Animals into public places including food establishments	✓	✗	✗	✗
Needs to tolerate a wide variety of environments and people	✓	✓	✓	✓
Specifically trained to assist just one individual with a disability needs	✓	✗	✗	✗
Primary function is to provide emotional support to one individual	✗	✓	✗	✗
Provides support and comfort to many people	✗	✗	✓	✗
Allowed to ride in shopping carts or sit on tables and chairs	✗	✗	✗	✗



COMPARISONS AT A GLANCE

* Comparisons are for general guidance only



Service animal – means any dog or miniature horse individually trained to do work and/or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability.

Emotional support animal – are animals that provide comfort and support in forms of affection and companionship for an individual with various mental and/or emotional conditions.

Therapy animal – is an animal, usually a dog that is trained to provide affection, comfort, and love to people in hospitals, retirement homes, nursing homes, disaster areas, etc.

Companion animal – is an animal, usually a dog that does not “work” by doing specific tasks for a person with a disability, but instead provides companionship for an individual with or without a disability.



The above is not intended to be legal advice.



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