



**Service Dogs** – The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) 2010 Regulations define a service animal as “any dog that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including a physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual, or other mental disability.

**Emotional Support Animals** - provide companionship, relieve loneliness, and sometimes help with depression, anxiety, and certain phobias, but do not have special training to perform tasks that assist people with disabilities.

**Assistance Animals** – Assistance animals fall under the umbrella of service animals and must adhere to the same rules under the ADA. They have the same access rights as service animals. The terminology is usually used when the dog is a medical alert dog, hearing assistance dog, or mobility dog.

**Comfort Animals** – These are pets. They have no rights under the ADA and are not recognized by the ADA. They may provide beneficial comfort to the owner, but they do not have access rights.

**Household pets** - Domesticated animals that:

- Are traditionally kept in the home for pleasure rather than for commercial purposes.
- Can travel in commercial carriers.
- Can be housed in temporary facilities.

Examples are dogs, cats, birds, rabbits, rodents, and turtles. Household pets do not include reptiles (except turtles), amphibians, fish, insects, arachnids, farm animals (including horses), or animals kept for racing purposes.

**Therapy Animals** – certified by a therapy dog organization or testing authority and can only gain access to public places with permission from the establishment they wish to enter. These animals are not recognized by the ADA, nor do they have public access rights of any kind.

Conditions and Capabilities	Service Dog	Emotional Support Dog	Assistance Animal	Comfort Animals	Household Pets	Therapy Animals
Handler must have a disability	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No
Handler must have documentation	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes
Animal must be trained in tasks that mitigate a specific disability	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No
Animal must wear identification such as vest, harness or ID tag	No	No	No	No	No	No
Must be accommodated in public buildings and businesses <i>(Americans with Disabilities Act)</i>	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Must be accommodated in housing <i>(Fair Housing Act)</i>	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Must be accommodated for airline travel <i>(Air Carrier Access Act)</i>	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No