

ASSISTANCE DOGS



All kitted out!

by PAWtected CIC

Introduction

Who are we?

PAWtected CIC is a non-profit organisation in the UK supporting owners to train and work their own assistance dogs. We were founded in 2017 and have worked with many teams during this time. More information about our services can be found on our website at www.pawtected.co.uk

About this booklet

This information booklet refers to British law. Please be aware that information relating to the handler's rights and responsibilities will differ in other countries.

We have designed this booklet to be accessible and easily understood. For further information, please consider our "Assistance Dog Awareness" course which goes into more detail.

What is kit

Kit is the term used to describe the equipment that an assistance dog handler uses whilst working.

The specific kit used may vary depending on the situation and the persons needs.

There are several different types of kits:

- Equipment
- Essentials
- Gear/identification
- Additional items

Equipment

Generally, the equipment used may include the following:

- Collar
- Harness
- Leash

These should be safe, well-fitting and clean.

Essentials

These are essential items needed to ensure your dogs safety and welfare whilst working. We advise carrying the following:

- Water/bowl
- Food/bowl (for longer durations)
- Treats/toys
- Towel or wipes
- First aid kit
- Settle mat or blanket
- Car restraint
- Spare equipment

Additional items

Some additional items that you may find helpful to have available for your dog when needed:

- Waterproof coat
- Warm coat/jumper
- Cool vest/mat
- Boots
- Spare gear
- Bed

Gear

It is good practice to make use of gear to clearly identify your dog as an assistance dog while you are working. Professional gear helps to prevent problems whilst working.

Types of gear:

- Vest
- Cape
- Harness
- Lead slip
- Bandanna
- Patches (don't use too many)

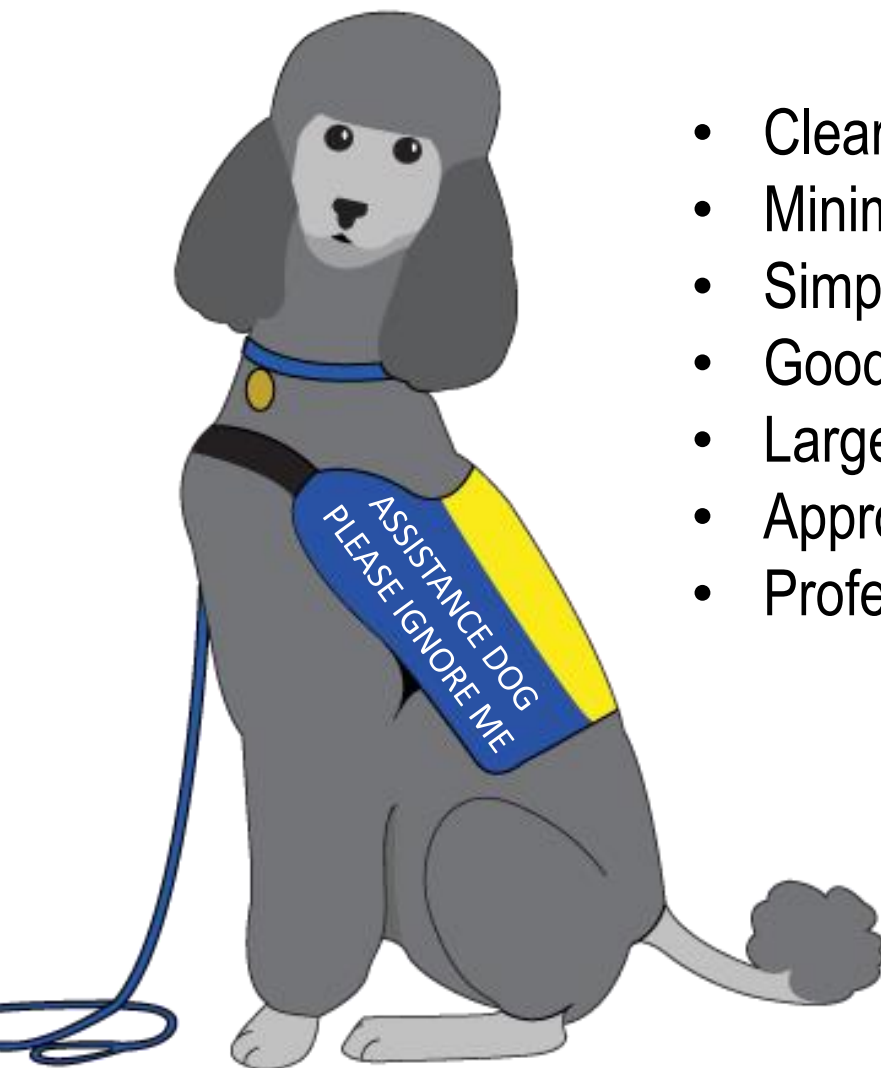
Equality Act 2010

The law makes no mention of requiring an assistance dog to wear any form of gear or identification. However, it is good practice to make use of gear.

Choosing gear

Gear can be any colour or design, but here are some top tips to help ensure that your gear is effective for its purpose.

Some organisations make their uniform a requirement for your membership.



- Clear terms
- Minimal words
- Simple instructions
- Good contrast of colours
- Large font
- Appropriate language
- Professional appearance

This publication and more are available for
download at:
www.pawtected.co.uk

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