

ASSISTANCE DOGS



Understanding
common terms

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.

Titles

Assistance dog

A dog who can mitigate their handler's disability and has had appropriate behaviour training for it to be reasonable to allow access.

Guide dog

One type of assistance dog that is trained to help the visually impaired.

Service dog

A dog that works with the police or military.

Emotional support dog

An American term used to describe a dog that provides comfort to a non-disabled handler.

Legislations

Equality Act 2010

This is the legislation that protects assistance dog handlers in England, Scotland and Wales.

Disability Discrimination Act 1995

This is the legislation that protects assistance dog handlers in Northern Ireland.

Animal Welfare Act 2006

This is the legislation that requires all dog owners to meet their dog's welfare needs.

Dangerous Dogs Act 1991

This is the legislation that requires owners to be in control of their dogs and places restrictions on breeds.

Equality Act 2010

Disability

The Equality Act 2010 defines a disability as a protected characteristic.

Reasonable adjustments

This is what a service provider must do to accommodate clients with disabilities.

Discrimination

Treating someone less favourably due to their protected characteristic (disability).

Auxiliary aid

Medical equipment that mitigates the disabled person's disability. An assistance dog is a type of auxiliary aid.

Training methods

Pre-trained

Trained by a company and then placed with the disabled handler.

Owner trained

Trained by the disabled owner/handler.

Organisation

A company that supports the training of assistance dogs.

ADUK/ADI

An optional accreditation for assistance dog organisations.

Working

Public access

A location where dogs are not usually allowed.

Access rights

The handler's right to access locations/services with their assistance dog.

Access refusal

When a service provider refuses to allow a disabled person access to their locations/services due to them having an assistance dog. This is usually unlawful.

Unreasonable locations

Areas where access refusals are permitted due to extenuating circumstances, e.g. sterile wards and food preparation areas.

Training

Disability mitigation

Assistance dogs must be able to mitigate their handler's disability.

Tasks

The dog's behaviour that mitigates disability.

Behaviour training

Learning how to behave appropriately in public locations.

Assistance Dog in Training

A dog that has not yet learnt to mitigate disability and/or not yet learnt appropriate behaviour.

A dog that is not accompanied by a disabled handler.

Puppy prospect/Assistance Dog Prospect

A young dog who will be trained in assistance dog work in the future.

Gear

Gear

The equipment/items that a dog wears or uses whilst working.

Vest

A fabric jacket worn by the dog. Usually has “Assistance Dog” written on the sides. Can come in many different colours and styles.

Lead slip

A fabric strip that attaches to the leash. Usually has “Assistance Dog” written on it.

Cape

Similar to a vest, but is worn behind a mobility harness.

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

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