



## SERVICE DOG OR THERAPY DOG?

### Two of the Most Common Questions Project Canine Gets Are

- Can you help me find a service dog?
- Can you train my dog to be a service dog?

Project Canine is a therapy dog organization and therapy dogs are very different than service dogs. The easiest way to explain the difference is that Service Dogs have legal rights under the Americans with Disabilities Act because they are trained to support an individual person with a disability. Therapy dogs are companion animals with no additional legal rights to access public spaces and have been temperament tested for their appropriateness to visit with people in environments like eldercare facilities, hospitals, homeless or domestic violence shelters, libraries and many more. For more information clarifying the differences between therapy dogs and service dogs please click here <http://ow.ly/SZpfp>

### Resources About Service Dogs

For the specifics about whether or not an animal will qualify as a service animal please see this link to the Americans with Disabilities Act section on service animals including a phone number you can call with questions: [http://www.ada.gov/service\\_animals\\_2010.htm](http://www.ada.gov/service_animals_2010.htm)

A great summary about Service Animals and Emotional Support Animals is published by the ADA National Network here <https://adata.org/publication/service-animals-booklet>

For more information about rights, laws and access for service animals:

- **The Northwest ADA Center:** [nwadacenter.org/toolkit/service-animals](http://nwadacenter.org/toolkit/service-animals)
- **Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs:** <http://www.dva.wa.gov/program/service-service-washington-goes-dogs>
- **Disability Rights Washington:** [disabilityrightswa.org/service-animals](http://disabilityrightswa.org/service-animals)
- **Washington State Human Rights Commission:** [hum.wa.gov/FAQ/FAQServiceAnimal.html](http://hum.wa.gov/FAQ/FAQServiceAnimal.html)
- **Rooted in Rights:** <http://www.rootedinrights.org/serviceanimals/>

### Finding and/or Training Service Dogs

The following are service dog organizations that we are aware of in Western Washington, Oregon and beyond. Please note that we do not have direct relationships with these organizations and by providing their contact information we are not implying any endorsement, recommendation, or specific knowledge about their programs:

- **Summit Assistance Dogs**, Anacortes, WA: <http://summitdogs.org/>
- **Brigadoon Service Dogs**, Bellingham, WA: <http://www.brigadoondogs.org/>
- **Cascade Service Dogs**, Olympia, WA <https://www.cascadeservicedogs.com/>
- **Paws-abilities (for owner-trained service dogs)**, Fife, WA <http://pawsabilities.com/collections/owner-trained-service-dogs>
- **Dogs for Invisible Disabilities**, Lebanon, OR <http://www.dogsforinvisibledisabilities.com/>
- **Canine Companions for Independence**, national organization, based in California <http://www.cci.org/>
- **Paw-Pals**, Falcon, Colorado <http://www.paw-pals.org/>