

Overlap of terms between Service Animal and Assistance Animal*

Service Animal

American with Disabilities Act (ADA) term
 Must be a dog or miniature horse
 Must be **trained** to perform tasks to assist the individual with their disability
 Psychiatric service animals are **not** emotional support animals
 Service Animal is allowed to go where members of the public go
 Cannot be asked to provide proof of disability or certification of service animal status



Assistance Animal

A Fair Housing Amendments Act (FHAA) term which overlaps somewhat with Service Animal

Works, provides assistance, or performs tasks for the benefit of a person with disabilities, such as:

- Guiding individuals who are blind or have low vision
- Alerting people to impending seizures
- Providing protection or rescue assistance

Emotional Support Animal

Primarily a Fair Housing Amendments Act (FHAA) term listed under Assistance Animal
 Only applies to housing
 Can be any species
 Not trained to provide a specific service
 Does what animals do naturally to comfort their owners
 Housing provider may ask for documentation from an individual asking for a reasonable accommodation for an assistance animal when it is not clear what the disability or the assistance being provided is



* People tend to use these terms interchangeably, along with many others (e.g. therapy dog, companion animal). It is a professional's responsibility to decipher the difference and determine how to proceed.

Did you know? A **therapy dog** is trained to provide comfort and affection to people in hospice, disaster areas, retirement homes, hospitals, nursing homes, schools and more. Unlike an assistance animal, which is meant to help one person instead of many.