



## Do I need a Companion, Service or Emotional Support Dog?

Companion

Emotional Support

Service / Assistance

Therapy

### Public Access

Access to public places including shops and restaurants is only allowed for Service or Assistance Dogs as they have special training to work in public.



### Mitigates a Disability

Service Dogs perform specific tasks to help someone with a disability, including provision of emotional support. This might also involve supporting a therapist treating disabilities.



### Provides Emotional Support

Most dogs provide emotional support however Emotional Support Dogs and Therapy Dogs are trained and/or encouraged to do this.



### Trained and Certified

All dogs should receive training however only Service or Assistance Dogs and Therapy Dogs generally go through a formal assessment or certification process.



### Family pet

Most dogs who live with us are called companions or family pets, however they are unlike Service or Assistance Dogs who have a special legal definition as 'Disability Aids' under the [Disability Discrimination Act \(1992\)](#)



### Visits with a handler

Only trained and certified Therapy Dogs provide supports to clients. Their role is direct opposition to a Service Dog or Emotional Support Dog who must focus only on their handler.

