

Service Dogs, Therapy Dogs, and Emotional Support Dogs: What's the Difference?

Service Dogs:

- Have a right to public access under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)
- Trained to be able to tolerate people, places, noises, and other animals
- Trained to provide assistance to one individual
- Exempted from "no pets" housing policies

Therapy Dogs:

- Do not have public access rights, but are authorized to enter certain establishments by prior arrangement
- Trained to be able to tolerate people, places, noises and other animals
- Trained to provide support to several people or a group of people
- Must abide by pet policies in housing

Emotional Support Animal:

- Do not have public access rights
- May not be trained
- Provides emotional support and companionship to one person but does not have to perform any specific task for its handler
- Exempted from "no pets" housing policies



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