

# SERVICE ANIMALS VS. EMOTIONAL SUPPORT ANIMALS

Animals can be loving companions, but for some people, they're essential for daily life. Guide dogs help the blind navigate, and diabetic alert dogs signal low blood sugar. Others provide emotional support for mental health conditions like anxiety. While both service animals and emotional support animals assist with health needs and have legal protections, they differ in purpose and requirements. Understanding the difference can help you choose what's best for your needs and plan accordingly.

## Service Animals

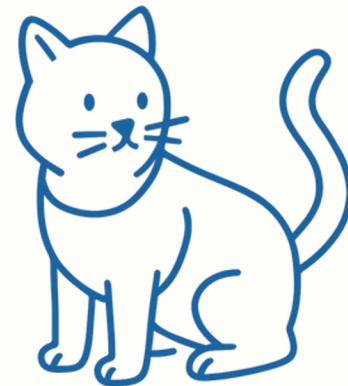
Service animals are specially trained dogs that assist people with physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual, or other disabilities. **Only dogs** qualify and are often identified by a red vest. They're allowed in public and private spaces unless their presence poses a safety risk—such as in hospital operating rooms. Common places where service animals are permitted include:



- Restaurants
- Airplanes
- Schools
- Stadiums
- Office Buildings
- Amusement Parks

## Emotional Support Animals

Emotional support animals provide comfort and companionship to people with mental health or psychiatric conditions. They are **not service animals** and don't have the same legal rights. ESAs can be restricted from public places like restaurants and airlines, depending on individual policies. However, they are legally allowed in:



- College or University housing
- Housing with a no pet policy
- Rental housing
- Airplanes - Varies by location policy
- Public places - Varies by location policy