Service Animals and Animal Therapy

Service animals are defined as dogs that are individually trained to do work or perform tasks for people with disabilities. Examples of such work or tasks include guiding people who are blind, alerting people who are deaf, pulling a wheelchair, alerting and protecting a person who is having a seizure, reminding a person with mental illness to take prescribed medications, calming a person with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) during an anxiety attack, or performing other duties. Service animals are working animals, not pets. The work or task a dog has been trained to provide must be directly related to the person’s disability. Dogs whose sole function is to provide comfort or emotional support do not qualify as service animals under the ADA.

Source: Justice Department
http://www.ada.gov/service_animals_2010.htm

Websites

http://www.assistancedogsinternational.org/
Assistance Dogs International (ADI)
P.O. Box 5174
Santa Rosa, California 95402
E-mail: info@assistancedogsinternational.org
ADI is a coalition of not for profit organizations that train and place assistance dogs. The purpose of ADI is to improve the areas of training, placement, and utilization of assistance dogs as well as staff and volunteer education.

http://www.monkeyhelpers.org/
Helping Hands: Monkey Helpers for the Disabled
54 Cambridge St.
Boston, MA 02134
Phone: 617-787-4419
Email: info@monkeyhelpers.org
Helping Hands is a national nonprofit serving quadriplegic and other people with severe spinal cord injuries or mobility-impairments by providing highly trained monkeys to assist with daily activities. As live-in companions, Helping Hands’ monkey helpers provide 20-30 years of service, bringing the gifts of independence, companionship, dignity and hope to the people they help.
International Association of Assistance Dog Partners (IAADP)
38691 Filly Drive
Sterling Heights, MI 48310
Helpline: 586-826-3938
E-mail: IAADP@aol.com
IAADP is a non-profit, cross-disability organization representing people partnered with guide, hearing and service dogs. The organization has an Information & Advocacy Center which helps people with access issues and other requests.

Merlin’s Kids
PO Box 21
Midland Park, NJ 07432
Merlin’s Kids rescues, rehabilitates and trains shelter dogs to become service dogs that help people with mobility impairments. They provide dogs nationally and at no charge to qualified applicants.

Owner Trained Service (Assistance) Dogs Mailing List
An e-mail discussion list for those who train their own assistance dogs.
(To subscribe send a blank email to: ot-adogs@egroups.com)

Service Dog Census Project
The Service Dog Census Project is a nationwide, independently driven count of service dogs and their owners. The project is currently on hold due to lack of funding.

Top Dog, Inc.
9420 E. Golf Links Rd., Suite 108-355
Tucson, AZ 85730
Phone: 520-323-6677
Top Dog is dedicated to teaching people with disabilities how to train their own dog to become a fully certified service dog. The site includes a store with a range of training materials including books, CDs, and videos.

U.S. Justice Dept.: Frequently Asked Questions about Service Animals and the ADA
July 2015

U.S. Justice Department: Revised Service Animals Regulations
The Department of Justice issued new regulations which took effect on March 15, 2011 on the types of animals and their requirements to qualify as service animals under the ADA.

http://www.usservicedogregistry.org
United States Service Dog Registry
This site offers a free, voluntary, non-governmental, privacy-conscious and secure Service and Assistance Dog registry. There is also a search feature to locate service dog resources.

http://wolfpacks.com/products/servicedog/trainers.html#c
Wolf Packs: Service Dog Trainers
This list of national and regional service dog schools describes the areas served and the specific disabilities the dogs are trained to help.

Note: to find places that provide service dogs to veterans, see our Veterans and Military document.

Animal Therapy
Please see the Therapeutic Riding and Driving factsheet for information on horses as therapy animals.

http://www.islanddolphincare.org/
Island Dolphin Care
150 Lorelane Place
Key Largo, FL 33037
Phone: 305-451-5884
Email: fonzie@islanddolphincare.org
Island Dolphin Care offers dolphin-assisted therapy programs for children and their families who are dealing with developmental and/or physical disabilities, emotional challenges, and critical, chronic or terminal illness.

http://www.curacaodolphintherapy.com/
Curacao Dolphin Therapy & Research Center (CDTRC)
Curacao, Netherlands Antilles
E-mail: info@curacaodolphintherapy.com
CDTRC offers personalized dolphin assisted therapy and rehabilitation programs to people age 3 and older with special needs like autism, Asperger and Down syndrome, or psychological conditions like depression, PTSD and burnout.

http://www.dolphins.org
Dolphin Research Center (DRC)
58901 Overseas Highway
Grassy Key, FL 33050-6019
Phone:305-289-1121
E-mail: drc@dolphins.org
DRC is a not-for-profit education and research facility.
DRC's Special Needs Program assists and enables individuals with various physical or mental challenges, chronic, or life threatening illnesses to participate in any of the public interactive programs offered at DRC.

Email: specialneeds@dolphins.org

**Financial Assistance:**

http://www.assistancedogunitedcampaign.org/
Assistance Dog United Campaign (ADUC)
5860 Labath Ave
Rohnert Park, CA 94928
Phone: 707-545-0800
E-mail: info@assistancedogunitedcampaign.org
ADUC provides financial assistance to individuals who have the need for an assistance dog but have difficulty in raising the necessary funds and to people and programs whose purpose is to provide assistance dogs to people with disabilities.

http://www.cdss.ca.gov/cdssweb/PG82.htm
California Department of Social Services: Assistance Dog Special Allowance (ADSA) Program
This page has information on eligibility for the ADSA program which provides a monthly payment of $50 to eligible persons who use a guide, signal, or service dog to help them with needs related to their physical disabilities. The allowance is to help pay the costs of food, grooming, and health care for the dogs. This is only open to residents of California.

---

**REEVE FOUNDATION**

**LENDING LIBRARY**

The following books and videos are available for free loan from the PRC library. For more information, please visit the online catalog at:

http://www1.youseemore.com/ReevePRC/default.asp

Books


• Epp, Alexander. Waggy Tails & Wheelchairs. Dorchester, England: Hubble & Hattie, 2010. The book talks about life as a dog owner if one is a wheelchair user. This is not about training a service dog.
• Fridono, Judy. **Ricochet: Riding a Wave of Hope with the Dog Who Inspires Millions.** Deerfield Beach, FL: Health Communications, Inc., 2014
Ricochet is a golden retriever service dog who surfs with people with disabilities.

Children’s book.

• Irick, Angela. **Sampson to the Rescue.** Bloomington, Ind.: AuthorHouse, 2011.
Children’s book about black lab service dog and how he helps his owner Josh, a little boy who is a wheelchair user, in school.

Children’s book

Children’s book.

Children’s book.

Children’s book


• Montalvan, Luis Carlos. **Tuesday Tucks Me In: The Loyal Bond between a Soldier and His Service Dog.** New York: Roaring Brook Press, 2014.
Montalvan is a former U.S. Army Captain in the Iraq War. This children's book explores the relationship between service dog and master and explains what a service dog does.

Montalvan is a former U.S. Army Captain in the Iraq War.

• Murray, Julie. **Service Animals.** ABDO Publishing Company, 2009. (Going To Work series)

Children’s book.


- Rogers, Ellen. **Kasey to the Rescue: The Remarkable Story of a Monkey and a Miracle.** New York: Hyperion, 2010. Rogers’ son becomes a quadriplegic and Kasey is his capuchin monkey service animal.


• Tuohy, Tom. **Kiss of a Dolphin.** Richton Park, IL: Lumen-us Publications, 2006. Vignettes about Dreams for Kids, a foundation that helps children participate in sports and recreation. One of the stories is about a spinal cord injured young man who swims with dolphins.

• Zajac, Kristen K. **Ebeneezer’s Cousin.** St. Louis, MO: Guardian Angel Publishing, 2010. Maria’s dad is a soldier who is injured in Afghanistan. The family gets a service monkey for him. Ebeneezer is Maria’s toy monkey. Children’s fiction.

**Videos**


• **Through a Dog’s Eyes: Service Dogs and the People Whose Lives They’ve Changed.** Twin Cities Public Television, 2010. Distributed by PBS. DVD. (60 minutes)

The following streaming video from the Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation can be viewed for free at [www.paralysis.org](http://www.paralysis.org). To view, click *See All Videos* on the top, then click the *Paralysis Resource Center* tab and scroll through the videos listed on the right.

• **Service Dogs**

The information contained in this message is presented for the purpose of educating and informing you about paralysis and its effects. Nothing contained in this message should be construed nor is intended to be used for medical diagnosis or treatment. It should not be used in place of the advice of your physician or other qualified health care provider. Should you have any health care related questions, please call or see your physician or other qualified health care provider promptly. Always consult with your physician or other qualified health care provider before embarking on a new treatment, diet or fitness
program. You should never disregard medical advice or delay in seeking it because of something you have read in this message.

This project was supported, in part by grant number 90PR3002, from the U.S. Administration for Community Living, Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, D.C. 20201. Grantees undertaking projects under government sponsorships are encouraged to express freely their findings and conclusions. Points of view or opinions do not, therefore, necessarily represent official Administration for Community Living policy.