

## Resources for service dogs and emotional support animals

What is the difference between a service animal and an emotional support animal?

Service animals are defined as dogs that are individually trained to do work or perform tasks for people with disabilities. These tasks can include things like pulling a wheelchair, guiding a person who is visually impaired, alerting a person who is having a seizure, or even calming a person who suffers from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. The tasks a service dog can perform are not limited to this list. However, the work or task a service dog does must be directly related to the person's disability. Service dogs may accompany persons with disabilities into places that the public normally goes. This includes state and local government buildings, businesses open to the public, public transportation, and non-profit organizations open to the public. The law that allows a trained service dog to accompany a person with a disability is the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

An emotional support animal is an animal (typically a dog or cat though this can include other species) that provides a therapeutic benefit to its owner through companionship. The animal provides emotional support and comfort to individuals with psychiatric disabilities and other mental impairments. The animal is not specifically trained to perform tasks for a person who suffers from emotional disabilities. Unlike a service animal, an emotional support animal is not granted access to places of public accommodation. Under the federal Fair Housing Act (FHA), an emotional support animal is viewed as a "reasonable accommodation" in a housing unit that has a "no pets" rule for its residents. Usually a letter from a professional is required, stating that the animal is needed for a disability. Emotional support animals are also generally allowed on airplanes, though the rules for this are ever-changing.

**\*The VA does not provide or train service dogs. The following organizations are not connected to the VA and the VA does not necessarily endorse any organizations. This is not an exhaustive list; it is provided just to help give you some information and get you started. If a Veteran is interested in obtaining or training a service dog, it is up to the Veteran to find and research organizations.**

**\*The VA provides benefits (pet insurance and transportation to obtain and train with the dog) for certain service dogs, including those assisting with hearing impairment, mobility and other physical impairment, vision impairment, and mental health mobility impairment (where mental health issues cause the Veteran to have significant mobility problems). It does NOT provide these benefits for other mental health service dogs.**

**\*Only schools accredited by Assistance Dogs International (ADI) or International Guide Dog Federation are eligible for the VA benefit of pet health insurance. There are currently no ADI accredited schools in New Hampshire. The VA benefit can provide transportation for you to obtain and train with your dog if it is through an ADI accredited agency.**

**\*Almost all the organizations raise and provide THEIR OWN DOGS. There are a couple listed that will train YOUR dog to be a service dog (none are accredited by ADI so none are eligible for the pet insurance benefit). Doing your own Internet search will produce more options for training your own dog. Having your own dog trained can be very costly.**

**\*The VA allows SERVICE DOGS on VA property. Emotional support dogs or companion animals are NOT allowed.**

#### Assistance Dogs International, Inc. (ADI)

Search engine for organizations that provide service dogs. It is not exclusively focused on the Veteran population. There may be different costs/restrictions with services – consider it a research tool as it helps find resources geographically.

<http://www.assistancedogsinternational.org/members/programs-search/>

#### International Guide Dog Federation (IGDF)

Has over 90 member organizations around the world, providing guide dogs (seeing eye dogs) for the blind and visually impaired. Based in the United Kingdom. There are approximately 13 accredited schools in the US.

<http://www.igdf.org/uk>

## **Some organizations that are accredited by ADI or IGDF that train and provide service dogs:**

### America's Vet Dogs- the Veteran's K-9 Corps, Inc.

This program is out of New York. All services are provided at no cost to clients. Provides hearing impairment, PTSD (combat related), seizure response, and guide (seeing eye) dogs.

371 East Jericho Turnpike

Smithtown NY 11787

<http://www.vetdogs.org/>

Consumer Service: 866-282-8047. Also 866-838-3647, 800-548-4337.

Email: [ConsumerServices@VetDogs.org](mailto:ConsumerServices@VetDogs.org)

### Canine Companions for Independence

Program that trains predominantly Labrador Retrievers, Golden Retrievers, and a cross of the two and has a Northeast office in New York. Provide physical disability and hearing impairment dogs. There is a page to request an application be sent to you on the website.

<http://www.cci.org/>

Canine Companions for Independence

Miller Family Campus

286 Middle Island Road

Medford, New York

Phone: 1-800-572-2275

### Canines for Service

Program trains dogs as service dogs for Veterans with service-connected disabilities. Provide mobility impairment, PTSD, and TBI (traumatic brain injury) dogs. Specific criteria required for application/package can be found on website.

<https://www.caninesforservice.org/>

Canines for Service

P.O. Box 12643 Wilmington, North Carolina 28405

Phone: 910-362-8181

Email: [information@caninesforservice.org](mailto:information@caninesforservice.org)

### Freedom Service Dogs of America

No charge for services . Dogs are approximately 2 years old. Provide physical disability/mobility, TBI and PTSD dogs. Approved veterans participate in two week placement class. FSD uses rescue dogs from around the country. 12-18 month wait list.

<https://www.freedomservicedogs.org/>

Freedom Service Dogs of America

7193 S. Dillon Court

Englewood, Colorado 80112

Phone: 303-922-6231

### K9s for Warriors

Program provides canines to Veterans who served on or after 9/11. No charge for dogs. Provide PTSD and TBI service dogs. They rescue shelter dogs. There is an application available on the website for print or to be mailed to you. Your training with the dog is 3 weeks. Wait list is 1 year.

<https://www.k9sforwarriors.org>

K9 for Warriors

114 Camp K9 Road Ponte Vedra FL 32081

Phone: 904-686-1956

Email: [info@k9sforwarriors.org](mailto:info@k9sforwarriors.org)

### NEADS

Also known as Service Dogs for Veterans. Approved veterans receive dog for free. 10-14 day stay at campus to receive training with new canine. Wait list ranges from 9 months-year. Serve post 9/11 combat Vets with PTSD, Veterans with hearing impairment or physical (not mobility) impairment.

<https://www.neads.org/>

NEADS

P.O. Box 1100

Princeton, Massachusetts 01541

Phone: 978-422-9064

Email: [info@neads.org](mailto:info@neads.org)

### Patriot Paws

Program out of Texas. Provide Veterans with service dogs at no cost. Mobility impairment and PTSD dogs. Vets must have served during Desert Storm or after, and have a combat related service connected injury. There is an application on the website. Veteran training with the dog is 10-12 days. Wait list is 3 years or so.

<http://www.patriotpaws.org/home.html>

Patriot Paws Service Dogs

254 Ranch Trail, Rockwall, Texas 75032

Office: 972-772-3282

Email: [office@patriotpaws.org](mailto:office@patriotpaws.org)

### Service Dog Project

Based in Massachusetts. Provide dogs for mobility/balance impairment only. Trains great Danes. They host a free Open House every Sunday afternoon.

<http://www.servicedogproject.org>

37 Boxford Rd Ipswich, MA 01938

Phone: 978-356-0666.

Email: [info@servicedogproject.org](mailto:info@servicedogproject.org)

### Warrior Canine Connection

Veteran-trained dogs. Approximately 2 years of age. Service Dogs for disabled combat veterans. Veterans attend a 2 week boot camp (dog and training provided at no cost), veterans responsible for food/lodging. Two year wait list to receive dog. Mobility impairment and anxiety disorders service dogs..

<http://www.warriorcanineconnection.org/>

Warrior Canine Connection

14934 Schaeffer Road

Boyd, Maryland 20841

Phone: 301-260-1111

**Other organizations that train service animals (but are not accredited by ADI or IGDF, so would not be eligible to receive pet insurance benefit through the VA):**

Assistance Canine Training Services

501(c)(3) non-profit. Generally dogs have completed training by 14 months. Veteran and service dog complete two weeks of training. A.C.T.S. primarily trains dogs for mobility issues. Physical disabilities, balance dogs. Cost is approx. \$3,500.

<http://www.assistancecanine.org/>

Assistance Canine Training Services

P.O. Box 86

Center Tuftonboro, New Hampshire 03816

Phone: 781-856-0055

Email: [info@assistancecanine.org](mailto:info@assistancecanine.org)

Hero Pups

Located in Stratham, NH. Trains service dogs for Vets with PTSD. Vets have to be actively receiving mental health care. Veterans train with the dog extensively, including after they are paired. There is no charge for dogs. There is a wait list.

[www.heropups.com](http://www.heropups.com)

Ph. 603-397-7444

Contact: Laura Barker

Operation Delta Dog

501(c)(3) non-profit. No charge for services. Provide service dogs for PTSD and TBI only. Program is unique in that the dogs are trained briefly, then paired with a Veteran and trained WITH the Veteran for 12-15 months, 2 or more times a week. Transportation/lodging/food is responsibility of veteran. They have a training facility in HOLLIS, NH.

<https://www.operationdeltadog.org/>

Operation Delta Dog, Inc.

P.O. Box 121

Chelmsford, MA 01824

Email: [info@operationdeltadog.org](mailto:info@operationdeltadog.org)

### Paws for Purple Hearts

501(c)(3) non-profit. Veteran trained service dogs undergo 18-24 months of training. Service dogs are provided to approved veterans at no charge. For veterans with combat related injuries including physical impairments, PTSD.

<https://www.pawsforpurplehearts.org>

Paws for Purple Hearts

5860 Labath Avenue, Suite A

Rohnert Park, CA 94928 \*

Phone: 707-238-5110

\*Also have a location in Virginia

### Helping Hands Monkey Helpers

Boston-based program that trains capuchin monkeys to be service animals for clients with spinal cord injuries and other mobility issues. \*Although they may be service animals, monkeys are NOT allowed on VA property\*.

[www.monkeyhelpers.org](http://www.monkeyhelpers.org)

541 Cambridge St Boston MA 02134

Ph. 617-787-4419

### **Organizations that can train YOUR dog to be a service dog: (not eligible for pet insurance because they're not accredited by ADI or IGDF)**

#### Dee Ganley Dog Training Services

Provides education, training, and resources in relation to training service dogs. Pay to train.

<http://www.deesdogs.com/>

Dee Ganley Dog Training Services

P.O. Box 19

East Andover, New Hampshire 03231

Phone: 603-735-5543

Email: [dee@deesdogs.com](mailto:dee@deesdogs.com)

## No Monkey Business Dog Training

Training lasts at least one year. Pay to train.

<http://www.nomondybusinessdogtraining.com>

141 Old Turnpike Road

Concord NH 03301

Phone: 603-856-7509

Email: [helen@nomonkeybusinessdogtraining.com](mailto:helen@nomonkeybusinessdogtraining.com)

## **Some organizations that provide pets or emotional support animals:**

### Pets for Vets

Program matches Vets with rescued shelter animals, usually dogs, that can provide support and comfort, then trains the animal in basic obedience. Only covers Maine and Massachusetts residents.

PO Box 4058 Nashua NH 03061

[www.petsforvets.com](http://www.petsforvets.com)

email: [petsforvetsnh@gmail.com](mailto:petsforvetsnh@gmail.com)

ph. 910-622-5225

### Chris' Pets for Vets

Work with local animal shelters to pair Veterans with a pet for emotional support. This is a program under "Annie's Angels".

[www.anniesangels.org/project/chris-pets-for-vets/](http://www.anniesangels.org/project/chris-pets-for-vets/)

email: [bill@anniesangels.org](mailto:bill@anniesangels.org)

Ph.: 603-686-4224

### 4 Paws 4 Vets

A program through the Friends of the Manchester Animal Shelter (FMAS) that provides pets to Veterans.. Provide spaying, vaccinations, microchipping, and other things.

[www.manchesternaimalshelter.org/programs-services/pets-vets/](http://www.manchesternaimalshelter.org/programs-services/pets-vets/)

Ph.: 603-628-3544



## **Other Resources: Clinics, shelters, etc.**

### Animal Rescue League of NH

Beside having pets for adoption, has a pet food pantry for temporary assistance feeding pets, low cost spaying, “safe haven temporary housing” for pets in cases of domestic abuse. They also have a comprehensive list of community resources for financial assistance with veterinary bills, pet-friendly apartments, etc.

Ph. 603-472-3647

[www.rescueleague.org](http://www.rescueleague.org)

### Manchester Animal Shelter

Has pets for adoption, runs the 4Paws4Vets program, and low cost spaying.

Ph. 628-3544

[www.manchesteranimalshelter.org](http://www.manchesteranimalshelter.org)

### Guardian Angels for Soldier’s Pet

Provides foster home care or pays for pet boarding for pets of Veterans in extreme circumstances (hospitalizations, homelessness, etc). Based in Texas but serve the entire US.

Ph.: 254-248-1818

[www.guardianangelsforsoldierspet.org](http://www.guardianangelsforsoldierspet.org)

### Kitty Angels

No-kill shelter for cats. Located in Tyngsboro, MA.

Ph. 978-649-4681

[www.kittyangels.org](http://www.kittyangels.org)

### Merwin Memorial Free Clinic for Animals

Located in Allston, Massachusetts. Provides free veterinary care on a walk-in basis. Medicine available at reduced rates.

Ph.: 617-782-5420.

[www.merwinclinic.org](http://www.merwinclinic.org)

Animal Allies

Can provide lower cost assistance for spaying in NH, mostly cats.

[www.animalallies.org](http://www.animalallies.org)

603-228-6755

(800)990-7729 (spay/neuter hotline)