

# **SERVICE DOG ETIQUETTE**

## ***How to behave around a service dog or service dog in training***

- A service dog has to be able to focus on its person to perform its job.
- The handler is trying to go through the day and complete his/her own activities. You may feel that you have a story to tell or questions for the handler, but you are likely the 5<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> person that day.

***Please make sure your behavior does not interfere with the dog's focus or the handler's right to go through the day without constant interruptions.***

***Do not interact with the dog in any way***

Examples of poor etiquette when seeing a service dog:

- Petting or asking to pet the dog.
- Allowing or encouraging your children to approach.
- Calling the dog, whistling, talking, cooing or barking at the dog.
- Commenting or praising the dog for completing a task.
- Tapping your leg or clapping your hands to get the dog's attention.
- Staring, pointing, commenting as the handler and dog walk by you.
- Saying things to the handler such as:
  - "What's your disability?"
  - "What kind of dog is this?"
  - "What happened to you?"
  - "What's his name?"
  - "I used to foster service dogs,..."
  - "I know you're not supposed to pet, but I just can't resist!"
  - "Can you show me what your dog does?"

***The best way to help the handler and the service dog is to respect their space and right to privacy.***

***Thank you!***

For more information about service dogs, visit [MedicalMutts.com](http://MedicalMutts.com)