

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

By Jan Reisen

Dogs have been aiding and working with humans since ancient times, in everything from farming to hunting to protection and more. <u>Service dogs</u>, working dogs, therapy dogs, and emotional support animals all fulfill important roles in their aid to humans, but the terms are not interchangeable. Each recognization is specifically defined, both in terms of the jobs undertaken and the legals rights offered.

What Do Service Dogs Do?

As defined

by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), service dogs are individually trained to perform specific tasks and to work with people with disabilities. According to the ADA, disabilities can be "physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual, or other mental disability." The work of the service dog must be directly related to the handler's disability. These are just some of the things a service dog can do:

- Guide dogs help blind people navigate in the world.
- Hearing (or signal) dogs alert deaf people to sounds, such as a knock on the door or a person entering the room.
- Psychiatric dogs are trained to detect and lessen the effects of a psychiatric episode.
- Service dogs help those in wheelchairs or who are otherwise physically limited. They may open doors or cabinets, fetch things their handler can't reach, and carry items for their handler.

The deadline for the November issue is October 8

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- Autism assistance dogs are trained to help those on the autism spectrum to distinguish important sensory signals, such as a smoke alarm, from other sensory input. They may also alert their handler to repetitive behaviors or overstimulation.
- Service dogs that are trained to recognize seizures and will stand guard over their handler during a seizure or go for help.

What Rights Do Service Dog Owners Have?

The ADA mandates that service dogs have full public access rights, which means they are allowed to go places where are animals are forbidden. They can be brought into restaurants, stores, libraries, and other public spaces. They must be permitted in housing, even if other pets are not allowed. Service dogs are also allowed on airplanes and other public transport. One caveat: <u>each airline has</u> its own rules regarding service dogs. Most require that the dog sits on the traveler's lap or at their feet. Dogs cannot block the aisle or sit in the emergency exit row. Service dogs are exempt from the pet fees that airlines charge.

What is a Working Dog?

working dog is a purpose-trained canine that learns and performs tasks to assist its human companions. Detection, herding, hunting, search and rescue, police, and military dogs are all examples of working dogs. Working dogs often rely on their excellent senses of smell to help out where humans fall short. Just a few of the jobs performed by working dogs include:

• **Search and rescue.** From missing persons cases to natural disasters, dogs have been an integral part in finding people in dire situations. Search and rescue (SAR) dogs can either use a scent in the air or the scent of a specific object to find who they're looking for. They can be used in many different situations, including disasters, cadaver searches, drowning situations, and avalanches. <u>Bloodhounds</u> are widely used in this role. **Explosives detection.** These canine heroes work with the police, Transportation Security Administration (TSA), and military to locate dangerous materials. The dogs go through an intense training course to learn how to locate and identify a wide variety of explosives and to alert their handlers of its presence. Breeds that excel in this kind of work include the <u>German</u> Shepherd and Belgian Malinois.

Cancer detection. Believe it or not, scientists were able to train <u>Labrador Retrievers</u> to sniff out cancer in patients' breath by smelling samples and sitting down in front of the one that was cancerous. Cancer cells give off different odors than regular cells and they change the way a person's breath smells– a dog's keen nose can tell the difference. In one case in particular, the Lab correctly diagnosed the disease 98 percent of the time, whereas a test that is commonly used found the cancer only 10 percent of the time.

• Allergy alert dogs. These dogs are trained to detect the allergen and its residue at schools, social events, and everyday activities and alert their owner. Their training is similar to that of a police dog learning to track scents or drugs. Breeds commonly trained as allergy alert dogs are the <u>Poodle</u> and the <u>Portuguese Water Dog</u>.

Since working dogs are usually specifically trained to perform certain roles in certain locations, they are not often subject to legal ramifications. When they are on the job, however, working dogs should not be approached or petted, as doing their job properly requires a high level of focus without distractions.

What is a Therapy Dog?

<u>Therapy dogs</u> play a different helping role than service dogs and emotional support animals. They aren't trained to live with a specific handler. Rather, these are dogs that — with their human teammate (often the dog's owner) volunteer in clinical settings, such as

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UPCOMING SPECIALTIES

Roving – Grayslake, II June 19, 2021 Regular Classes: Peggy Beisel-McIlwaine Sweeps:Mary Paisley

> Montgomery County October 10, 2021 Regular Classes: Bruce Schwartz Sweeps: Tatiana Meyers

Roving – Northern Calif Terrier Assn April 16, 2022 conjunction Sacramento Lodi CA Regular Classes: Marcia Feld Sweeps: Amy Gordon

Montgomery County October 9, 2022 Regular Classes: Bergit Coady-Kabel Sweeps: Cheryl Coffman

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hospitals, mental health institutions, hospices, schools, and nursing homes, where they provide comfort, affection, and even love in the course of their work. Therapy dogs are trained to be comfortable in new environments and to interact with different people. They should have a calm temperament, be unfazed by unfamiliar noises and movements, be comfortable being handled, and love people.

Do Therapy Dogs Have Legal Rights? Although they are defined as comfort dogs and often used in therapeutic settings, therapy dogs are not considered service dogs under the ADA and don't have the same legal right to access in public spaces. There are no uniform state or national rules that regulate and certify therapy dogs, and different organizations have different guidelines. As a general rule, therapy dogs should be trained, insured, and licensed by the non-profit that's offering their services.

Can My Dog Be a Therapy Dog?

If you're interested in volunteering and think your dog may be a <u>great candidate to be a</u> <u>therapy dog</u>, organizations like the <u>Alliance</u> <u>of Therapy Dogs</u> test dog for their suitability and, if accepted, have guidelines that must be followed.

While it doesn't certify therapy dogs, the <u>AKC</u> <u>Canine Good Citizen (CGC) program</u> offers their training program to organizations, and the CGC test is often a prerequisite required by therapy dog organizations.

What Do Emotional Support Animals (ESAs) Do?

Emotional support dogs are not considered service dogs under the ADA. They may be trained for a specific owner, but they are not trained for specific tasks or duties to aid a person with a disability, and this is the main difference between ESAs and service dogs. This doesn't minimize the support these dogs provide for people with a psychological disorder. They're considered companion animals and ease anxiety, depression, some phobias, and loneliness. In order to be considered an emotional support dog, it must be prescribed by a mental health professional for a patient with a diagnosed psychological or emotional disorder, such as anxiety disorder, major depression, or panic attacks.

What Rights Do Emotional Support Animals Have?

Unlike service dogs owners, ESA owners have only limited legal rights and those typically require a letter of diagnosis from the owner's doctor or psychiatrist. While they don't have unlimited access to public spaces, the Fair Housing Act mandates "reasonable accommodations" for emotional support animals even in buildings that don't allow pets. As of January 2021, airlines are no longer required to accommodate emotional support animals.

Separation Anxiety in Dogs

By Dr. Jerry Klein, CVO



The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has caused changes in our daily routines. Many of us have taken the opportunity to add pets to our families during this time. And our reduced social schedules have allowed for more quality time with our family and pets. Although our cats may have mixed emotions about this change, our dogs have quickly and happily become accustomed to this new schedule filled with extra company, more attention and longer and more frequent walks.

However, with the eventual resolution of the pandemic, some of us may be returning to our offices full time. Therefore, it's important to be aware of the effects that this may cause on our pets. Dogs that have become accustomed to being walked multiple times per day may find it unsettling to have fewer walks and less quality time with their owners. Dogs are creatures of habit and an abrupt change in their family's schedule may be upsetting to them and can cause disruptive behavioral problems.

While everything may quickly return to normal as your dog becomes accustomed to the new schedule, some dogs could suffer from separation anxiety. True separation anxiety in dogs is a condition in which a dog exhibits excessive distress and anxious behavior when it is separated from its owner. This type of behavior often starts within minutes of the owner's departure. It is not fully understood why some dogs suffer from separation anxiety and

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How Your Dog's Whining Affects You

Analysis by Dr. Karen Shaw Becker

According to a study published last year by Aarhus University researchers in Denmark, pet parents are very tuned in to the sounds that dogs make when they're looking for attention.1 According to the university's news release on the study, canine companions communicate distress to humans more effectively than cats, and in fact, "... adults rate dog whines as sounding just as sad as a human baby's cries."2

"Pet ownership is associated with greater sensitivity to pet distress sounds, and it may be part of the reason why we are willing to spend large amounts of time and resources on our domestic companions," says lead study author Christine Parsons, an associate professor based at the Interacting Minds Centre at the Department of Clinical medicine at Aarhus University.

"It might also explain why we find interacting with pets so rewarding, and are emotionally impacted by both positive communication signals, like purring and negative, like meows or whines."3

The study, titled "Pawsitively sad: pet-owners are more sensitive to negative emotion in animal distress vocalizations" was part of a project to build a major database of emotional sounds, the original intent of which was to test the instinctive responses parents have to their children.

Dogs Sound Sadder Than Cats to Both Dog and Cat Owners

For the study, researchers tested more than 500 young adults and found that dog whines sounded sadder to both dog and cat owners compared to people without pets. Cat meows sounded sadder only to cat owners.

"The result suggests that dogs, more effectively than cats, communicate distress to humans and that pet ownership is linked to greater emotional sensitivity to these sounds. For sounds that we need to respond to, like a dog that is utterly dependent on its human host for food and care, it makes sense that we find these sounds emotionally compelling," says Parsons.

Study co-author Katherine Young makes the point that generally speaking, dogs require more dedicated care than cats. For example, dogs need to be walked. In addition, whereas dogs are considered fully domesticated, cats are semi-domesticated and more independent (not to mention more mysterious). They more often prefer to do their own thing.

"This difference in animal dependence may explain why dog whines are rated as more negative than cat meows by all adults, including cat-owners. Dogs may simply have more effective distress signals than cats," says Young. Dogs Rarely Whine for No Reason It's important to keep in mind that when your dog communicates with you, she has a purpose in mind and it's your job to figure out what she's trying to tell you. Professional dog trainer Pat Miller, writing for Whole Dog Journal, lists several potential causes for whining, including pain or discomfort, stress or anxiety, frustration, excitement, and appeasement.4

• Pain or discomfort whining — The when and where of your dog's whining is important in narrowing down its cause. For example, if she's normally happy in her crate at night but suddenly starts whining in the wee hours, and especially if she also starts soiling or throwing up in her crate, she very likely has a digestive or urinary tract problem that needs attention.

If your older dog whines instead of jumping up onto the couch or into the car as she always has, she may be dealing with arthritis or another condition that is limiting her mobility and causing her discomfort.

A good rule of thumb is that if your dog begins whining in normal, everyday situations and/or at unexpected times of the day or night, a visit to your veterinarian is in order to investigate whether a painful or uncomfortable underlying medical condition is in play.

• Stress and anxiety whining — As Miller points out, "Anything that causes [your dog] to be fearful can contribute to ... whining, and some breeds even seem to have a genetic predisposition to whining."

If your furry companion whines as you're preparing to leave the house, he may have separation anxiety, which is an increasingly common problem in dogs today. Miller offers the following suggestions for dealing with anxiety-related whining:

"To help him be less anxious so he will whine less, make a list of things that cause your dog fear or stress, and pick two or three to start counter-conditioning, that is, changing how he feels about those things, so they no longer cause him stress or fear.

When you can tick one stressor off your list, pick another to begin working on, until you have addressed enough of them that whining is no longer a problem.

Additionally, anxiety-induced and the other types of whining may improve with the application of the ever-growing list of various tools and protocols we have to help our dogs be calm." (More about those shortly.)

• Frustration whining — Miller also calls this "demand whining" because in most cases, dogs become frustrated when their demands aren't being met. The best way to curb frustration whining is to observe when it occurs, and then head it off at the pass by either giving your dog what she's waiting for before she has a chance to whine for it, or by offering a distraction such as a food-dispensing toy before she starts whining.

Now, we're assuming here that what your dog is demanding is legit, such as her morning walk, her afternoon ball-chasing session, or some other fun activity she counts on each day. But if she's whining for your ice cream cone or a sip of your beer, it's a whole different ballgame.

In this case, your dog is frustration-whining because she wants something she shouldn't have. Since presumably she's been conditioned to want it, instead of giving it to her, you'll need to work to extinguish her expectation that she'll get it.

• Excited whining — As Miller observes, "... some dogs whine just because they are so happy they can barely contain themselves." This type of whining tends to happen leading up to an adventure, which for your dog can include a car ride, an offleash hike, or even just a walk around the block. As whining goes, the excited variety is probably something we should accept and even be grateful for!

• Appeasement whining — This somewhat uncommon type of whining, according to Miller, generally occurs in social interactions between dogs. "In this case," she writes, "it is a healthy communication, and not one you want to interfere with." Advertisement

10 Tips to Help an Anxious Dog

No matter the reason for your dog's vocalizations, most canine companions can benefit from a reduced amount of stress in their lives.

When you must leave your dog at home alone, leave him with an article of clothing or blanket with your scent on it. Also leave a treat-release toy for him to focus on in your absence. Place small treats around the house for him to discover, along with his favorite toys.

Add a flower essence blend like Separation Anxiety from Jackson Galaxy's Solutions to her drinking water. This works wonders for some dogs. And put on some soothing doggy music before you leave. If you've adopted a dog who may have had a rocky start in life, I also highly recommend a program called A Sound Beginning, which is designed to help rescue dogs and adoptive guardians learn to communicate effectively and form a lifelong bond. Invest in an Adaptil collar or diffuser for your dog. These products release a pheromone that's designed to have a calming effect on dogs.

WHINE..con't on p. 4

NEW APPLICANTS

Grigore Beldean

8995 Camp Creek Rd. Lucasville, Ohio 45648 Kennel name: V.Brukenthal

Greg would like to join to be in contact with other breed enthusiasts, to learn, and to help others. Also, to be a part of the most reputable breed club. He has been involved with Min. Schnauzers in conformation for more than 30 years and breeding for over 26 years. He attends more than 30 shows per year. His first purebred was a Giant Schnauzer in 1983. A few years later he purchased the first Mini. and started V. Brukenthal Kennel back in Romania. His goal is to breed to improve the breed by combining the European with American lines and increase the gene pool. He will help the club with good breed knowledge and history, good organization skills, good teamwork, and eager to learn as well as teach. Greg owns and operates a Transportation Company.

Sponsors: Gail Schnetzer, Andrew Deer

Kimberly Lamb

P.O. Box 476

Hampden, MA 01036Kim would like to join AMSC in order gain more knowledge. She uses the AMSC website often but would like to have member access. She has been a breeder for 29 years and has had three litters in the past five years. Kim shows in Conformation (18 yrs.), Rally (5yrs.) and Barn Hunt (4 yrs.).She has belonged to the Holyoke KC for over 20 years and is presently on the Board and several committees. She is also the current President of the Paul Revere MS Club and has been a member for 11 years. Her first show dog was co-owned with Geri Kelly. Geri taught her a lot about breeding and showing. She says the dogs are her family and the dog show people are her other family. She is willing to help where ever needed. Sponsors: Vicki Kubic, Pam Schott



Melissa Delatorre

Luis Delatorre 806 Centre Avenue Lindenhurst, NY 11757 Melissa and Luis would I

Melissa and Luis would like to join the AMSC so they can support the breed that they love and to support and be a part of the Schnauzer community. They have read and agree to abide by the Code of Ethics and Breed Standard. They are breeders of one litter in the past five years. Their Miniature Schnauzer breeder is Geri Kelly and their Giant Schnauzer breeder is Frances Faberge. They have been involved in Conformation for seven years and for one year in Agility. They attend 6-10 events per year. They belong to the All-Breed Club: Suffolk County Kennel Club (Board member & Chairperson))

Group Club: Big Apple Working Group Club (Board members)

Parent Club: Giant Schnauzer Club of America (members)

Melissa and Luis are social and outgoing and are willing to help in any way to preserve our breed.

Sponsors: Geraldine C. Kelly, Vicki Kubic

Tammy Stannert

Scott A Dures

406 E. 5th Ave. South Williamsport, PA 17702

Their interest in the AMSC is to absorb as much education it has to offer and also to support the preservation of the breed. They own Black Miniature Schnauzers bred by Geraldine Kelly. They are involved in conformation, agility and obedience and attend 12-18 shows per year. They are not members of any other clubs. Tammy is self employed business owner and Scott is a retired civil/engineer. They will use their skills to encourage others. **Sponsors:** Geraldine C Kelly, Joeanne

Reidley

Patricia A Case-Standing P.O. Box 522

Saint James City, FL 33956 Patricia would like to become a member because she has owned three Miniature Schnauzers, one was a rescue and another is a champion AKC black from breeder Marie Pletsch. She has read and agrees to abide by the AMSC Code of Ethics and the Breed Standard. She is not a breeder, but is involved in Conformation. Patricia attends between five and ten events per year. She does not belong to any other dog clubs at this time, but has helped at the AKC booth in Orlando International dog show in 2019. **Sponsors:**Marie Pletsch, Carol Ann Meitzler

Congratulations to the following AMSC members:

25 years

Brown, Bryan W. (Bill) Fredette, Susan R. Harding, Marian Keyes Bonnie G. Kidd, Tania S. Ledgerwood, Mack Lyons, Cherryl E. Teets, Sharon Wallace, Florence

5 years

Bankston, Cindy Barbour, Lynn Christensen, Rebecka Harris, Jackie Hawkins. Liz Henning, Carol Hoffmann, D.V.M. Karen S. Ingram, Amanda M. Konkel, Monica Payne McArdle, Mary McGovern, Amy Means, Katherine (Kathy) Mendez, Eduardo Orr. Heather Prokopetz, Karen Rousey, Kerrie Rowe, John Scott JoAnne Tibbs. Paula Viggiano, Yolanda Williams, Mary Ann "Annie"

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Make sure your dog gets plenty of exercise (like an all-out 40-minute run prior to being left alone all day), playtime, mental stimulation and TLC. The fuller her life is when you're around, the calmer she'll be when you're not. Play calm, soothing music before a possible stressor occurs. This may relax your dog and have the added bonus of drowning out distressing noises.

If your dog seems to respond well to pressure applied to her body, there are wraps available (e.g., Thundershirt, TTouch anxiety wrap) that many pet parents and veterinarians find extremely helpful.

Ttouch is a specific massage technique that can help anxious pets.

Consult your integrative veterinarian about calming nutraceuticals, or look for pet herbal blends that include holy basil, I-theanine, rhodiola, ashwagandha, GABA, 5-HTP and chamomile.

The essential oil of lavender can also reduce your dog's stress response. I recommend placing a few drops on his collar or bedding before a stressor occurs, if possible, or diffuse the oil around your house for an overall calming effect. There are also great oil blends specifically for calming animals.

If your dog's anxiety seems to be getting worse instead of better, consider an individualized approach to managing her stress by allowing her to choose what best soothes her via applied zoopharmacognosy (self-healing techniques offered through a trained professional), blended with fear free behavior modification.

For some Clubs, Contact names and emails are definitely out of date. Some members of AMSC also need to update their information For the webpage, we want our local club information to be as up to date as possible. Please check your club's current listing on our web site and send any corrections to Bonnie Keyes (treasurer@amsc.us) and to Carla Borrelli (cborr@aol.com) Thank you!

AMSCOPE

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others do not, though there may be a past learned experience or even a genetic tendency in some dogs that predispose them to this type of behavior.

It is important to understand that separation anxiety can sometimes be secondary to an underlying medical condition. Anytime your dog starts to exhibit unusual or excessive behavior, have them checked by your veterinarian as soon as possible to rule out any underlying medical issues.

Dogs exhibiting separation anxiety may bark and howl excessively when left alone, dig, chew or destroy furniture or walls in a frantic attempt to escape. A dog who may be otherwise well trained or housebroken may urinate or defecate in the house in their anxious or panic behavior. When these types of problems are accompanied by other distressful behaviors, such as drooling and pacing when his owners leave the house, this is evidence that the issue isn't just improper training but rather that the dog is suffering from separation anxiety. In these instances, dogs can not only cause damage to your home, but also to themselves.

Not all dogs that have some of these signs have true separation anxiety. Many dogs may just need mental stimulation, and some dogs can become disruptive when left alone because they're bored and looking for something to do. These dogs usually don't otherwise appear anxious or stressed.

Providing physical and mental stimulation is a vital part of treating many behavioral problems, especially those involving anxiety. Additionally, a physically and mentally tired dog doesn't have much excess energy to expend when he's left alone.

• Consider giving your dog at least 30 minutes of quality aerobic activity every day such as vigorous walks or play time. Signing up for a program such as <u>AKC Fit Dog</u> encourages regular exercise to keep you and your dog healthy.

• Try to exercise your dog right before you leave him by himself. This might help him relax while you're gone.

• Take different routes and visit new places as often as possible so that he can experience novel smells and sights.

• Provide safe food puzzle toys. You can feed your dog his meals in these toys or stuff them with a little peanut butter, cheese or yogurt. • Get involved in dog sports, such as agility, freestyle dancing or flyball with your dog.

• Enroll in a training class such as <u>AKC Canine Good Citizen</u> to increase your dog's mental stimulation and enhance the bond between you and your dog. Hire a Certified Professional Dog Trainer for group or private classes that can give you and your dog lots of great skills to learn and games to play together.

• If feasible, hire a dog walker to take your dog out every 4-6 hours you are not at home.

Don't wait until your schedule changes to get your dog accustomed to being alone. Start now by leaving your dog alone for brief periods of time. It's always a good idea to give your dog a treat or toy to keep him occupied for the first several minutes after you leave. That is a good distraction for your dog.

If in fact your dog has actual separation anxiety, partner with your veterinarian to address the issue. Your veterinarian may be able to prescribe medication or recommend other items that can help ease your dog's anxiety while it leans to be comfortable being left alone.

After you have talked with your veterinarian, consult with a Certified Applied Animal Behaviorist (CAAB or ACAAB) or a board-certified veterinary behaviorist (Dip ACVB). If you can't find a behaviorist, you can opt for a Certified Professional Dog Trainer (CPDT). Make sure they are qualified and have experience in treating fear with desensitization and counterconditioning. This kind of expertise isn't required for CPDT certification. Make sure whoever you work with uses only positive reinforcement to retrain your dog. Negative or harsh training techniques can lead to additional, long-term problems.

Do not scold or punish your dog. Anxious behaviors are not the result of disobedience or spite. They are distress responses! Your dog displays anxious behaviors when left alone because he's upset and trying to cope with a great deal of stress. If you punish him, he may become even more upset and the problem could get much worse. Stay calm, patient and be safe.



AMSCOPE

Carla M. Borrelli, Editor **1799 South Creek Road** Derby, NY 14047-9729



If you are intersted in these lovely gol MS earrings contact George Armstrong sundownms@att.net

In Memorium



Finch, also known as MACH4, PACH Southcross Vote For Me, VCD3, UD, TDX, GO, RA, EE, MXP, MXJP, XF, T2B, AMSC VAX, gently left me on June 21. She was my "one in a million dog". She loved to do everything as you can see from her titles. Agility, Obedience, Rally, Tracking and Earthdog. Whatever she did, she did with awesome enthusiasm. Her theme song was MY GIRL by The Temptations. I played it for her all the time. She certainly was "my girl". Thanks to Sonny Lelle who "insisted" I should have her. Godspeed Finchy Lou!

FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE: The following information is given to help conduct AMSC business more efficiently. Please remember that the Secretary and the AMSCOPE editor should BOTH be notified of address changes, club officers and specialty results.

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