





	SERVICE DOGS	THERAPY DOGS	EMOTIONAL SUPPORT ANIMALS	PETS
EXAMPLES				
REGULATIONS	Americans with Disabilities Act	No	No	No
CERTIFICATIONS	Yes, may be visibly displayed (vest). Must be licensed for on campus.	Yes, with test of abilities. May have unique visible display.	“Prescribed” by provider. No visible display required. Must be registered and approved by UNM Accessibility Resource Center.	None required
TRAINING	Usually extensive, 18-24 months (obedience, socialization, public access, specific tasks). Differs by state.	Usually, obedience training, socialization. Differs by state.	No training is required.	No training is required.
ROLE	Human as “handler”. Handler must meet legal definition of disability. Interacts only with handler.	Has handler. Provides comfort and assistance to multiple participants in education and healthcare environments.	Has owner/companion. May interact with other people as permitted by owner.	Has owner. May interact with other people as permitted by owner.
ACCESS	Permission to serve on duty anywhere, anytime.	Works in designated sites (clinics, hospitals, schools, etc...).	In owned and FHA regulated housing only. No public access rights.	In owned and FHA regulated housing only (with fee). No public access rights.
ACTION	Anticipates handler’s needs/condition, intervenes in crises, assists with mobility, safety seeking, other tasks.	Presence during stressful encounters creates calming effect. May demonstrate activities.	Mere presence as comforting for specified emotional distress.	Acts as member of family providing positive animal/human interaction, physical security, play.

Adapted from Wonderpupdogtraining.com and Mollidogs.com/blog

<https://policy.unm.edu/university-policies/2000/2295.html>