

ESA Vs. Service Animal - Main Differences

In the last few years, there has been a great increase in the number of emotional support animals. You have probably used the terms emotional support dog and service dog interchangeably and without giving much attention to it. But in reality, there is a great difference that separates ESA from service dogs. Understanding these differences will help you to properly choose animals for your needs. So, let's see a difference between [kangal shepherd dog](#) and ESA in this article.



What is a service animal?

Under ADA title II and III, a service animal is any dog that is competent and well trained to perform tasks for a person with an intellectual, physical, mental, or sensory disability. Service dogs are selected for their adaptability, calm personalities, and ability to learn difficult and challenging tasks. They go through a process of rigorous training before being qualified as a service dog.

The letter also provides evidence that your dog is a legitimate emotional support dog. If your landlord starts to demand an [ESA letter for housing](#) number so they can search your pet on a registry, then understand that there is no such requirement. Your ESA is protected under the Air Carrier Access Act which allows your ESA to accompany you in the aircraft cabin.

What is an emotional support animal?

ESA is an animal that provides emotional support to people with mental disabilities and does not need any special kind of training. ESA relieves loneliness, provides companionship, and helps people with anxiety, depression, and certain phobias.

Function

The [presa canario](#) have a large list of responsibilities that can range from protecting people from seizures to guiding people who are deaf. These animals are trained to help people suffering from mental and physical disabilities such as PTSD, anxiety, diabetes, seizures, visual impairments, etc. They help them in their daily tasks which otherwise are difficult for their owners to do because of their disabilities. On the other hand, ESAs serve more as a companion for their owners and does not need any specific training to complete tasks.

Protection

Service dogs are more frequently needed as they help their owner in performing physical tasks. Due to this, they are given legal protection under the American Disabilities Act that ESA doesn't get. You can take your service everywhere where you want as they cannot be denied access legally. On the other hand, an ESA doesn't have the same legal protections. If you have an ESA, then it may not be allowed in areas such as shopping malls, hotels, or other public places. Legal protection of an ESA is only limited to air travel and housing. ESA is protected under the Fair Housing Act which states that individuals cannot be discriminated against based on their disabilities when searching for housing.

Certification

The certification for both these animals varies. Understanding the difference between ESA and service dogs will allow you to receive the right certification. Only a specifically trained dog can be legally certified as a service dog whereas any pet can be considered as an ESA. If you are looking to acquire certification, then it is important to have a disability diagnosed by a mental health professional or a doctor or you should carry an [ESA Letter](#) with you. You can also get an **ESA letter online** to enjoy all benefits of living with your pet. They will issue you an ESA letter stating how animals will be of benefit to you.

On the other hand, if you have a service dog then it is best to make him wear a colored vest as it will tell other people that it's a service dog.

More Resources :

[Are Kids Eligible for ESA | Useful Guide 2021](#)

[Understand Differences between Emotional](#)

[Key Features of an ESA Letter | 2021 Guide](#)

[Kinds of Disabilities Assisted by using way 2021 Guide](#)

[Tips to Keep Your ESA Dog Happy in an Apartment | 2021 Guide](#)

[An ESA Letter could be Denied via a Landlord | 2021 Guide](#)