

No One Left Behind: Evacuation of People with Disabilities & Service Animals

Presented By:

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Goals of the Workshop

Participants will learn about emergency preparedness and response for people with disabilities and assistance / service animals

- Different types of Assistance / Service Animals
- Laws associated with Assistance / Service Animals
- Assistance / Service Animal etiquette in general and in emergency response
- Addressing needs in local emergency plans

Definition of Service Animals



Definition of a Service Animal

“Service animal means any guide dog, signal dog or other animal individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability including, but not limited to guiding individuals with impaired vision, alerting individuals with impaired hearing to intruders or sounds, providing minimal protection or rescue work, pulling a wheelchair or fetching dropped items.” (Federal Register, Feb. 22, 1991)

Assistance / Service Animals

- An animal that is specially trained to help people who have disabilities with specific tasks
- There are different types of assistance animals depending upon what type of disability an individual has
 - Guide
 - Service / Mobility
 - Hearing Ear
 - Seizure Alert
 - Emotional Support

Assistance / Service Animals Laws

- People with disabilities who have service animals have civil rights protection under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990
- Remember service animals are NOT pets. Therefore local laws that restrict pets do not apply.
- While you may ask if an animal is a service animal who performs tasks that assist someone with a disability, you can not ask about the person's disability.
- Identification / Certification is also not required.

Assistance / Service Animals Etiquette

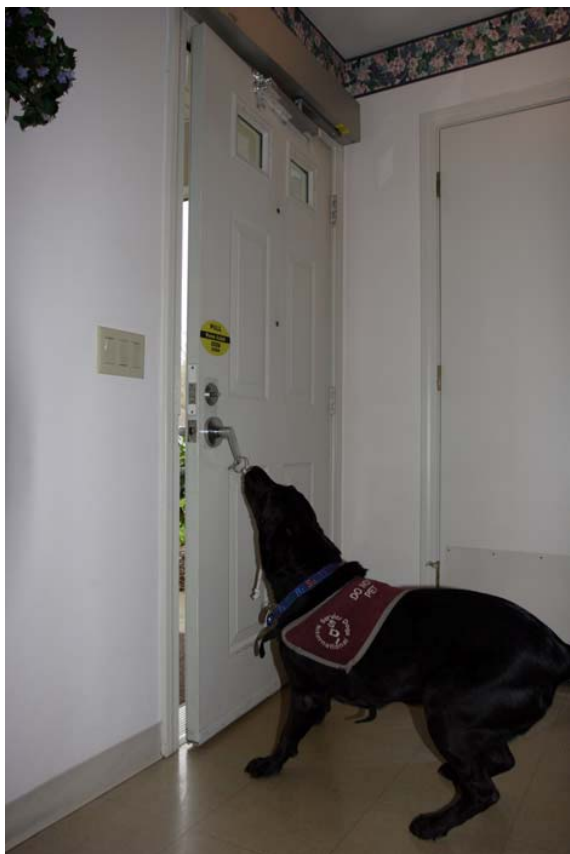
- Speak to the person first.
- Do not try to pet the service animal. The service animal is working.
- Never make noises to the service animal when working.
- Never try to help someone with a disability or their assistance animal without asking if they need help first.

Assistance / Service Animals

Etiquette and Emergency Response

- Look for an indication that the animal is a service animal (i.e. harness, cape, collar, ropes on doors)
- Reassure the service animal that you are there to help
- Do not separate the person and the service animal (i.e. put animal in other room) – they must stay in sight of the person (okay to use a leash if needed and when taking the animal with the person)

Examples of Indicators



Rope on Door



Harness



Orange Collar



Cape

Addressing Needs in Local Plans

- PETS Act of 2006 - Federal
- CT General Assembly Bill # 5186 - “An Act Concerning Evacuation of Pets & Service Animals”
- Universal Access Shelters
- Education / Involvement of People with Disabilities in Planning and Response Efforts

Universal Access Shelters

- Group or congregate public shelters
- Planned, equipped and operated to meet the sheltering needs of a wide variety of community members, including **most** people with disabilities and older adults
- **Goal:** Keep citizens with disabilities and the elderly together with their support network



Shelters & Service Animals

- By law, service animals are allowed to remain with their partner with a disability in a shelter.
- Allergy or Phobia Issues may arise
- Equipment Needed
- Location of Accessible Shelters



Education / Involvement

- Education on personal preparedness
 - Vial / File of Life
 - Disability Specific Inventory
 - Emergency Preparedness Kits for People and Service Animals
 - ICE – for people and service animals
- Education and involvement of people with disabilities in all phases of emergency preparedness and response is critical
- “Nothing about us without us”

Remember...

What occurs or doesn't occur during an evacuation may impact the needs of someone during the post evacuation, response and recovery phases.

Questions



Contact Information

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