

Idaho Service Dog Statutes

Title 56, chapter 7
changes
Effective 1 July 2019

Idaho Service Dog Statutes Updated

- Definitions: service dogs; dogs in training; disabilities.
- Two categories of handlers: disabled handlers and non-disabled handlers.

Service Dog Definition

Service dog means any dog that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including a physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual, or other mental disability. Other species of animals, whether wild or domestic, trained or untrained, are not service animals for the purpose of this definition. The work or tasks performed by a service animal must be directly related to the individual's disability.

Examples of work or tasks include, but are not limited to, assisting individuals who are blind or have low vision with navigation and other tasks, alerting individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing to the presence of people or sounds, providing non-violent protection or rescue work, pulling a wheelchair, assisting an individual during a seizure, alerting individuals to the presence of allergens, retrieving items such as medicine or the telephone, providing physical support and assistance with balance and stability to individuals with a mobility disabilities, and helping persons with psychiatric and neurological disabilities by preventing or interrupting impulsive or destructive behaviors.

The crime deterrent effects of an animal's presence and the provision of emotional support, well-being, comfort, or companionship do not constitute work or tasks for the purposes of this definition.

These three slides are the new service dog definition as of 1 July 2019 for Idaho Code that meets ADA definition under Title II/Title III. This is the new IC 56-701A(5).



- There were two sections that we made significant changes to. 1) definition of disabilities and 2) the section for “in training” public access.
- Prior to the updates, not all disabilities were covered under Idaho State statutes while the dog was being trained. Now all disabilities as of 1 January 2019 as defined by ADA, are covered.

- Prior to the update, all dogs “in training” had to be under the umbrella of a training organization if they wanted public access to non-pet friendly places of public accommodation.
- Now handlers who are disabled have the *right* of public access while training in places of public accommodation.
- Dog must be identified as “in training.”
- No ID card required.

- Non-disabled handlers have the *privilege* to take dogs in training to places of public accommodation
- If asked, the non-disabled person MUST present an ID card from a trainer or training organization.
- The handler is not a protected class.
- The dog must wear identifying garb as “in training” and should identify the organization that it belongs to.



- The handler could be a puppy raiser, non-disabled trainer, or volunteer dog training club member.
- These are the major changes to the statute.
- Questions?

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The Bill is officially signed with the sponsors and the Governor!