



ASSISTANCE DOG ETIQUETTE

Please Assist Assistance Dog Teams by understanding how to give ASSISTANCE!

ASK– Don't ask the Handler personal questions, give them space, respect their privacy, allow them to go about their day.

STARE – Don't stare at the Dog or the Team, and don't take photos.

SEPARATE – NEVER separate the dog and the Handler. If a Handler is in any sort of episode, it is even more essential the dog remains with them. Its what they are trained to do.

INTERRUPT – Don't interrupt a Handler just because you want to pat the dog, talk to the dog or ask the Handler questions, does not mean they want to speak to a stranger, when they are just trying to get through their day.

SPEAK to the Handler, NOT the dog. The dog is there for its Handler not for your amusement or satisfaction. If you must speak, speak to the Handler, and ignore the dog.

TOUCH – Don't Touch, Pat or Distract the Assistance Dog. It has a job to do. Its focus is on its Handler. It is not interested in you. You put the dog and the Handler at risk by distracting it.

ASSUME – NOTHING! You have no idea, and its not your business why a Handler has an Assistance Dog, why it has that breed, sex, age or size. Assistance Dogs meet the needs of their Handler, how or why is not your business.

NO FOOD – Do not try to feed or entice an Assistance Dog with food or anything else. Please know that many human foods and medications are fatal to dogs.

CONFUSE – Don't call, whistle, talk or otherwise distract an AD. It is in public because it has been trained to work, not play with you. You are also very likely to be causing the Handler distress as they need their dog's full attention.

EDUCATE – Yourself, others, children, and workplaces about Ads. 1. Not all Disabilities are Visible. 2. A person's disability is none of your business. 3. Why they have an Assistance Dog, or why they have that particular Assistance Dog – also none of your business. 4. If you want to know more, do your own research, don't interrupt a Handler while they are going about their day. 5. Keep educating yourself and others, starting with this Etiquette list.

To know more go to www.pawsomeassistancedogs.org