



A Veteran's Guide to Service Dogs  
Eligibility, Benefits, and Application

Presented by: John Brouse & Sarge (NJ)

## INTRODUCTION

### **JOHN BROUSE**

Past Department of NJ Vice  
Commander

### **SARGE**

Past Department of NJ Vice Commander  
Aide



## MY JOURNEY

## ENLISTMENT TO TODAY



## SERVICE DOGS

### WHAT IS A SERVICE DOG?

**“Service animals are defined as dogs that are individually trained to do work or perform tasks for people with disabilities”**

**- Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)**



## SERVICE DOGS

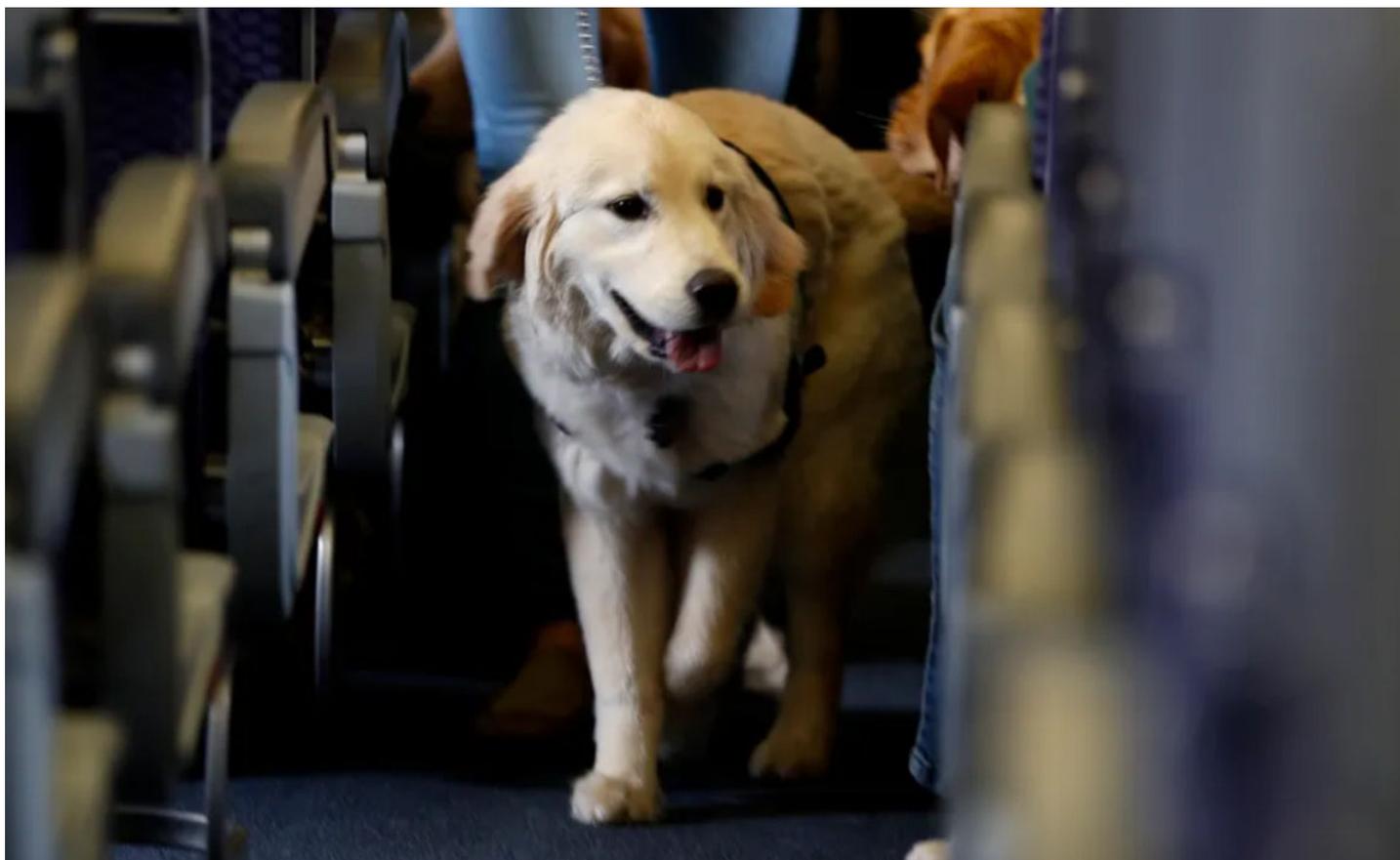
## PUBLIC ACCESS



**By ADA law, any area accessible by the general public must allow service animals.**

## SERVICE DOGS

### AIR TRAVEL & THE TSA



## SERVICE DOGS

## RELIEF STATIONS

**Select area set aside by an airport, amusement park, or other facility where dogs can relieve themselves.**



## BE AWARE OF HEAT CONDITIONS

# Ouch! Hot pavement hurts!



At 125° F, skin destruction can happen in 60 seconds.



### 7-second rule:

Press back of hand against the asphalt for 7 seconds. If it's too hot for you, it's too hot for your dog's paws.



If it's too hot for bare feet, it's too hot for bare paws

Air temp	Asphalt temp
77°	125°
86°	135°
87°	143°
90°	150°



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## CARING FOR YOUR DOG



- Regular vet checkups
- Brushing teeth, cleaning ears, brushing hair, etc.
- Bi-monthly washing
- Washing and maintenance of the harness/vest, leash, and other equipment
- Hitch swivel step for vehicle access
- High heat/hot asphalt awareness

YOUR DOG

## ADA LAWS AND EMERGENCY PERSONNEL

**Do you know your rights in the  
event of an emergency?**



## DOS AND DON'TS

### DON'T

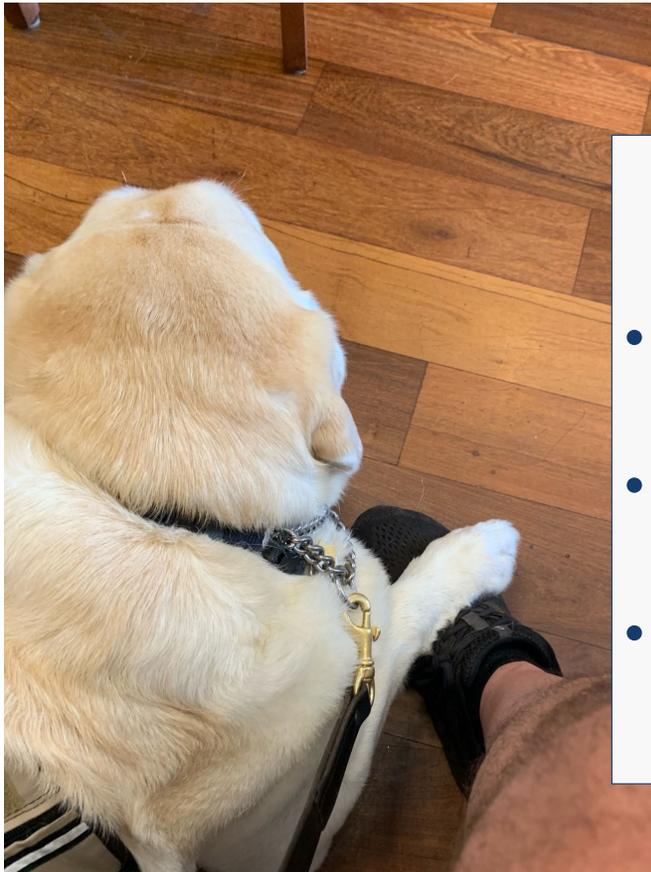
1. Don't touch, talk, feed, or otherwise distract the dog while he is wearing his harness or vest that identifies him as a service dog. As much as possible, ignore the presence of the service dog.
2. Don't allow pets to challenge or intimidate a service dog
3. Don't let the dog out of the house unsupervised.

### DO

1. Do allow the dog to concentrate and focus on its work for the safety of his handler.
2. Do allow them to meet on neutral ground when all parties can be carefully supervised
3. Do follow an unattended service dog that is trying to get your attention



## CONSIDERING A SERVICE DOG?



- **Eligibility**
- **Research**
- **Application process**

## HOW TO

# Veterinary Health Insurance Benefit (VHIB)

- Annual visits for preventative care
- Maintenance care
- Immunizations
- Dental cleanings
- Screenings
- Urgent/Emergency care
- Prescription medications

Department of Veterans Affairs		AUTHORITY FOR ISSUANCE OF SPECIAL AND/OR EXPERIMENTAL APPLIANCES		
<i>INSTRUCTIONS: Prepare this form, save a copy and e-mail a copy to (10FP).</i>				
<b>SECTION I - (To be completed by station)</b>				
<b>TO</b>	VHA Chief Prosthetics and Clinical Logistics Office (10FP) Department of Veterans Affairs Central Office Washington, D.C. 20420	VETERAN'S NAME (Last, First, Middle)	VETERAN'S ADDRESS	
		LAST 4 DIGITS OF SSN	DATE OF REQUEST	VETERAN'S STATUS AND ELIGIBILITY <input type="checkbox"/> SC <input type="checkbox"/> NSC
SPECIFIC DISABILITY REQUIRING SPECIAL ITEM AND ICD 9 CODE				
FULL DESCRIPTION OF ITEM REQUESTED (Attach descriptive literature if available. ATTACHMENTS WILL NOT BE RETURNED.)				
ITEM NAME		WEBSITE		
MAKE		VENDOR		
MANUFACTURER		COST		
FDA APPROVED <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO				
FULL MEDICAL JUSTIFICATION FOR SPECIAL ITEM (Use reverse or attach additional sheets if necessary. ATTACHMENTS WILL NOT BE RETURNED.)				
NAME, TITLE, AND MEDICAL SPECIALTY OF PRESCRIBING PHYSICIAN		CERTIFICATION: I certify that the requested item has been prescribed as medically necessary for treatment of the prosthetics disability listed, and that funds for procurement are available.		
NAME AND LOCATION OF REQUESTING STATION		SIGNATURE OF PROSTHETICS CHIEF		
<b>SECTION II - (To be completed by Central Office)</b>				
DATE RECEIVED	ACTION <input type="checkbox"/> APPROVED <input type="checkbox"/> DISAPPROVED <input type="checkbox"/> DEFERRED PENDING FURTHER JUSTIFICATION		DATE OF ACTION	
CONCURRENCES				
SYMBOL	REMARKS AND/OR INSTRUCTIONS/ REASON FOR DISAPPROVAL			
INITIALS				
SIGNATURE AND TITLE				
<b>SECTION III - (To be completed by Prosthetics Chief)</b>				
IF APPROVED:		VENDOR		
HCPCS		COST		
NATIONAL ITEM FILE NUMBER		DATE PURCHASED		
VA FORM 10-2641 JUN 2008				



VA » Health Care » Rehabilitation and Prosthetic Services » Service Dog Veterinary Health Benefit

## Rehabilitation and Prosthetic Services

Service Dog Veterinary Health Benefit

### What is the Service Dog Veterinary Health Insurance Benefit?

The Service Dog Health Insurance Benefit is provided to Veterans who are prescribed guide or service dogs under [38 CFR 17.148](#) for the purpose of the Veteran being diagnosed as having a visual, hearing, or substantial mobility impairment. VA



does not provide service dogs (SD) but does provide veterinary health care and other benefits in support of guide dogs and hearing and mobility service dogs to maximize the life and utility of these specialized dogs.

Title

# Education and Outreach

Caption



**National American Legion College  
Class of 2023**



Join

Renew

Donate

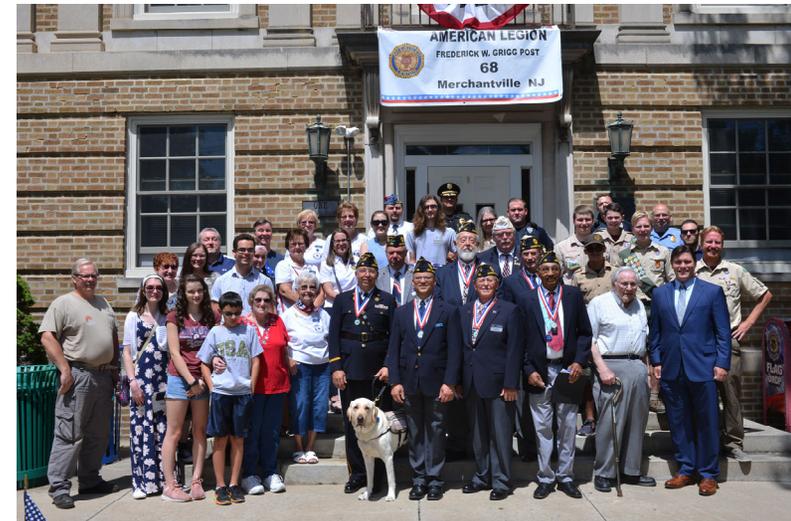


## Here is a pawsome PSA!

By Sarge the Service Dog

JAN 03, 2024

Did you know that I'm a 2023 National American Legion College graduate? I graduated with my veteran handler, John Brouse of New Jersey, in November of 2023.



## SERVICE DOG RESOURCES

- **ADA:** [www.ada.gov/topics/service-animals/](http://www.ada.gov/topics/service-animals/)
- **State and local laws**
- American Legion Officers Guide

THANK YOU





DISCUSSION AND QUESTIONS