Love, Respect, & Work:
Service Dogs, Emotional Support Dogs & Older Adults

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Why animals?

Nobel Laureate Konrad Lorenz:

“The wish to keep an animal usually arises out of general longing for a bond with nature...analogous with those human functions that go hand in hand with love & friendship in the purest & noblest forms”

(Hines, 2003)
ReCHAI’s Research Program

- Veterans and Shelter Dogs (Banfield, Pedigree Found & WALTHAM)
- Dog’s Clinical Outcomes of Owner visits in MU’s VMTH ICU (Waltham Found.)
- Dog Presence & Children’s Stress During Forensic Interviews for Child Abuse (NIH)
- Puppies for Parole (Mizzou Advantage)
- Walk a Hound Lose a Pound (ReCHAI)
- Walk a Hound for Seniors (WALTHAM)
- Role of Family Pets with Autistic Kids (Mizzou Advantage)
- Therapeutic Horsemanship in Veterans (Horses & Humans Found.)
- Dog Ownership & Health in Older Adults (HABRI Found.)
- Stress in Horses working in THR (USDA)
- Feline Friends for children with ASD (HABRI & Winn Feline Founds.)
Human-Animal Interaction

Pet ownership

Animal Assisted Activity: Therapy animals visit acute care, LTC, or people go to the animals

- **Goal:** Diversion & companionship

Animal Assisted Therapy: Therapy animal is part of patient’s treatment plan

- **Goal:** Improving function

Assistance/Service Animals

- **Goal:** Enhance independence

Emotional Support Animals

- **Goal:** Promote anxiety reduction
Service Animal Definition

“animals that are individually trained to perform tasks for people with disabilities such as guiding people who are blind, alerting people who are deaf, pulling wheelchairs, alerting and protecting a person who is having a seizure, or performing other special tasks. Service animals are working animals, not pets.”

Emotional support animals, comfort animals, and therapy dogs are not service animals under Title II and Title III of the ADA.
# How Psychiatric Service Dogs Help

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Symptoms</th>
<th>Tasks</th>
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<tr>
<td>Re-experiencing (nightmares, panic attacks)</td>
<td>Awakens owner</td>
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<td>Turns on lights</td>
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<td>“Pops corners”</td>
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<td>Enables exits</td>
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<td>Social Distancing</td>
<td>Gives unconditional love</td>
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<td>Social lubricant</td>
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<td>Topic of conversation</td>
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<td>Agoraphobia</td>
<td>Provides a focus</td>
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<td>Creates personal space</td>
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<td>Watches back</td>
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Puppies Behind Bars places dogs trained by prison inmates with MMs who have PTSD (Dog Tags program) http://www.puppiesbehindbars.com/

Prison inmates who raised a puppy in their cell had improved self-esteem and internal locus of control

(Suthers-McCabe, 2004)
Since 2002, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs has paid veterinary bills to veterans with guide or service dogs for physical disabilities.

In 2010 “Service Dogs for Veterans Act” passed introduced by Sen. Al Franken from MN.

Provided for study of benefits of SDs to veterans.

Study due to be completed 2018.
Americans with Disabilities Act (1990)

“Disability” means, with respect to an individual

– a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more of the major life activities of such individual;

– a record of such an impairment; or

– being regarded as having such impairment.”
Provision of the Law

“Businesses and organizations that serve the public must allow people with disabilities to bring their service animals into all areas of the facility where customers are normally allowed to go. This federal law applies to all businesses open to the public, including restaurants, hotels, taxis and shuttles, grocery and department stores, hospitals and medical offices, theaters, health clubs, parks, and zoos.”
Recent Service Dog Research & Legislation

New VA initiative: Office of Patient Centered Care and Cultural Transformation demonstration project of deployment of complementary integrated care (including SDs and Therapeutic Horseback Riding)

Study of Veterans & Svc Members:
- Clinically significant reductions in PTSD after receiving service dog, not during usual care alone
- Lower depression
- Higher quality of life & social functioning
- No differences in employment status, but lower absenteeism because of health (O’Haire & Rodriguez, 2018)
- Misuse and misunderstanding of regulations and laws regarding service dogs in CA (Yamamoto, Lopez, & Hart (2015))

[Image of a document titled "SECOND REGULAR SESSION [PERFECTED] HOUSE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 2031 99TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY"

AN ACT
To repeal section 209.204, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof one new section relating to service dogs, with penalty provisions.


Impersonating a service dog: Class C Misdemeanor – up to fifteen days in jail a fine of up to $750

Senate public hearing 4-18-18
Emotional Support Animals & Challenges

No federal or state definition

Legal standing in Fair Housing Act

Air Carrier Access Act (ACAA): a service animal is any animal that is individually trained or able to provide assistance to a person with a disability; or any animal that assists persons with disabilities by providing emotional support.
Issues with SAs & ESAs

Fraud:
- Vests purchased online
- Animals with no training

Behavior issues:
- Animals creating disturbances/biting

Animal Welfare:
- Ability of client to provide animal care
- Health risks associated with assistance work
Useful and Credible Resources

https://adata.org/publication/service-animals-booklet


https://disability.mo.gov/serviceanimals.htm