



BULLDOG CLUB OF AMERICA

Position Statement

USE OF DOGS FOR ASSISTANCE AND SERVICE

The Bulldog Club of America strongly supports the training and use of dogs to provide assistance and service to humans. Service animals are animals trained to assist people with disabilities in the activities of normal living. Dogs provide valuable service as: seeing eye dogs; hearing dogs; therapy dogs; handicapped assistance dogs; drug, bomb, and arson detection dogs; and tracking dogs to locate missing persons and fugitives.

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) defines service animals as follows: ". . . . any . . . 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 who are hearing impaired to intruders or sounds, providing minimal protection or rescue work, pulling a wheelchair or fetching dropped items."

This definition acknowledges that:

- An individual must have a disability as defined by the ADA, and
- The accompanying animal must be trained to do specific tasks for the qualified individual.

If an animal meets this definition, it is considered a service animal regardless of whether it has been licensed or certified by a state or local government or an animal training programs.

The BCA opposes those who seek to define the assistance and service dogs provide to humans as exploitative. The BCA encourages the continuation and further development of the use of dogs for these and similar purposes.