



## Reeds Service Dog Certification

Reeds Service Dogs in Minot, North Dakota trains service dogs for clients in need. Our program focuses on our military, veterans, low income, and Native Americans who are struggling with psychological based disabilities. We purchase dogs from breeders, shelters, and local non-profits to be trained as psychological service dogs (PSD). This training takes 6-12 months and offers our clients the ability to have freedom and safety both at home as well as in public.

Reeds Service Dog Program is designed to teach the Client how to recognize issues and alerts through the dog's body language and physical alert. Our dogs are trained respond proactively to external or internal triggers. This is a different approach to many Service Dog organizations, by having the person reacting to a situation, enlist the aid of the dog. The ability of the human and the canine working together is the basis of developing a successful Service Dog Team, .

Reeds Service Dog Program is a 501(c)(3) non-profit program that is supported by donations and grants. All training, travel and our service dogs are **no cost** to our clients. Our programing provides the highest quality dogs we can offer and strive to exceed the minimum 120 hours required by the ADA & IAADP. Our minimum number of hours for the training and testing of the Reeds Service Dog Program 605 hours. **The International Association of Assistance Dog Partners (IAADP) and American Disability Act (ADA) minimum requirement is 120 hours total of training within a 6 month period.**

### Outline

1. Must have a psychological disability that impairs your life in multiple ways.
2. Fill out the preliminary application online for our Service Dog Program.
3. If you are a good fit, we will send you our full application. This includes a Medical Release Form, Health Care Provider Form (proof of disability), HIPPA Compliance Release, 3 Personal Reference Letters, and a Team Sponsor, .
4. Reeds Service Dogs Team reviews applications every month to determine the best fit for the current dogs we have
5. If approved, our team will contact you to schedule the 3-week team training. Typically held 2x a year.
6. We require our applicants to come to our location for 3 weeks to bond with their new dog, learn how to work together and go through the AKC Canine Good Citizen, AKC Community Canine Certification, and demonstrate proficiency in the Public Access Test. This training will consist of 120 hours of team training. If tests are completed the team will go home together.
7. Reeds Service Dogs requires the service dog team to recertify 1 year after placement and then every 2 years after to be considered under the nonprofit insurance. Retesting will take place at Reeds service dog location at no cost to the team.

## Laws & Guidelines

**North Dakota** Law states:

25-03-01 North Dakota Century Code:

"service animal" means any dog trained to do work, perform tasks, or provide assistance for the benefit of an individual with a disability. The term includes a dog trained to provide assistance to an individual with a disability, pull a wheelchair, lend balance support, retrieve dropped objects, or provide assistance in a medical crisis.

25-13-02.1. **North Dakota** Century Code:

### **Trainer and a service animal in training**

- Admission to public places.

1. A trainer with a service animal in training may enter any place of public accommodation, common carrier, facility of a health care provider, and any place to which the public is generally invited, without being required to pay an extra charge for the service animal in training, provided:

- a. The trainer notifies an onsite manager that a service animal in training is being brought onto the premises.
- b. The trainer wears a photo identification card issued by a nationally recognized service animal training program; and
- c. The trainer is liable for any damage done to the premises or facility by the service animal in training.

2. Upon receiving notice as provided in subsection 1, the onsite manager may not deny admission to the trainer and the service animal in training without good cause.

25-13-04. **North Dakota** Century Code:

### **Penalty for interfering or denying use of facilities.**

Any person who denies or interferes with admittance to or enjoyment of the public places or facilities enumerated in section 25-13-02 or otherwise interferes with the rights of an individual Page No. 1 who is blind or visually impaired, or with the rights of an individual who is accompanied by a service animal, is guilty of a class A misdemeanor. This section does not apply to a denial of admission under section 25-13-02.1.

American Disability Act (ADA) States:

Service animals are defined as dogs that are individually trained to do work or perform tasks for people with disabilities. Service animals are working animals, not pets. The work or task a dog has been trained to provide must be directly related to the person's disability. Dogs whose sole function is to provide comfort or emotional support do not qualify as service animals under the ADA. **The ADA training requires a minimum of 120 hours over a 6-month period**

Under the ADA, service animals must be harnessed, leashed, or tethered, unless the individual's disability prevents using these devices or these devices interfere with the service animal's safe, effective performance of tasks. In that case, the individual must maintain control of the animal through voice, signal, or other effective controls.

Under the 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."

## ADA Disability requirements

Under the ADA, you must fall under one of the three definition prongs. 1. A disabled person is someone who has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits a major life activity. 2. If an individual has a history or record of such an impairment. 3. If an individual is considered disabled under the first definition of disability, i.e. if an employer believes that you have such a disability, even if you don't.

Even if a condition is an impairment, it is not automatically a "disability." To rise to the level of a "disability," an impairment must "substantially limit" one or more major life activities of the individual.

### What major life activities are limited by mental impairments (ADA)?

The major life activities limited by impairments differ from person to person. There is no exhaustive list of major life activities. For some people, mental impairments restrict major life activities such as learning, thinking, concentrating, interacting with others, caring for oneself, speaking, performing manual tasks, or working. Sleeping is also a major life activity that may be limited by mental impairments.

**Example A:** An employee has had major depression for almost a year. He has been intensely sad and socially withdrawn (except for going to work), has developed serious insomnia, and has had severe problems concentrating. This employee has an impairment (major depression) that significantly restricts his ability to interact with others, sleep, and concentrate. The effects of this impairment are severe and have lasted long enough to be substantially limiting.

### Physical Impairments:

A physical impairment is a physiological disorder or condition, anatomical loss or cosmetic disfiguration the impacts one or more of these body systems(including but not limited to):

- Neurological
- Special-sense organs
- Musculoskeletal
- Digestive
- Cardiovascular
- Respiratory
- Reproductive
- Hemic and/or Lymphatic
- Endocrine
- Skin
- Genitourinary
- Cerebral Palsy
- Orthopedic, Speech, and Hearing Impairments
- Heart Disease
- Muscular Dystrophy
- Visual Impairments
- Diabetes
- Migraine Headaches

## **Mental Impairments**

A mental impairment is any psychological or mental disorder, such as emotional or mental illness, mental retardation, organic brain syndrome, and learning disabilities (including but not limited to):

- Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)
- Military Induced Anxiety Depression Syndrome (MIADS)
- Military Sexual Trauma (MST)
- Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)
- Major Depression
- Bipolar Disorder
- Anxiety or Panic Disorders
- Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD)
- Epilepsy
- Mental Retardation
- Drug Addiction
- HIV Infection
- Specific Learning Disabilities
- Schizophrenia
- Personality Disorders

Conditions not considered as Disabilities

- Active use of Illegal drugs
- Cancer
- Multiple Sclerosis

## **Examples of Service Animal Work or Tasks**

- Guiding people who are blind or who live with low vision
- Providing non-violent protection or rescue work
- Pulling a wheelchair
- Helping someone during a seizure
- Retrieving items such as medicine, phone, keys, telephone
- Providing physical support and assistance for people who need help with balance and stability
- Helping persons with psychiatric and neurological disability by preventing or interrupting impulsive or destructive behaviors
- Alerting someone before an episode
- Offering post episode support including Deep Pressure, getting health, Lower Leg Lifting