

Falsifying a Service Animal

Future In Sight

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RSA 167-D:8

Passing your Pet off as a Service Animal is a **Misdemeanor** in NH

1. It is *unlawful* to fit a domestic animal with a collar, leash, vest, sign, harness, or tag that designates it as a *service animal* if said animal is *not* a service animal.
2. It is *unlawful* to impersonate a disability, by word or action, for the purpose of receiving service animal accommodations or accessories.
3. It is *unlawful* for any person to willfully interfere or attempt to interfere with a service animal.

What Is a Service Animal?

A service animal **is a dog** that is individually trained to work, or perform tasks, for a person with a disability.



Images from flickr.com

Why it's important

Untrained domestic animals:

- Cause distractions for legitimate service animals;
- Endanger their handlers; and
- Leave a bad public impression about service animals.



What Business Owners Can Do:

Can ask if the service animal is required because of a disability and whether the dog has been trained to do specific tasks.

Can ask to have an animal removed if:

- (1) The dog is out of control and the handler does not take effective action, or
- (2) The dog is not housebroken.

Cannot ask for any documentation and should not accept any false proof of service animal.

How Can You Identify a Service Animal?

Service Animals Should:

- Be under their handler's control at all times
- Be even-tempered
- Ignore other dogs and distractions
- Be well-groomed
- Sit or stay quietly to remain unnoticed

Service Animals Should NOT:

- Urinate or defecate inappropriately
- Jump, scratch, bark or exhibit other disruptive behavior
- Engage with other dogs, people, children, or distractions
- Smell or appear unkempt in any way
- Be anxious, agitated, or aggressive
- Sneak or steal food

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