Service Dogs:
Companions and Life Changers

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What is a Service Dog?

“...a dog that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for a person with a disability” (U.S. Department of Justice, 2010).

“Under the ADA, State and local governments, businesses, and nonprofit organizations that serve the public generally must allow service animals to accompany people with disabilities in all areas of the facility where the public is normally allowed to go” (U.S. Department of Justice, 2010).
Examples of Service Dogs

- Guide dogs
- Assistance dogs
  - Hearing impaired
  - Physically disabled
- Assistance dogs for veterans
- Medical detection dogs
My Experience

- Volunteering with Southeastern Guide Dogs
- Puppy Raiser
- Tracker and C-C
Guide Dogs

- Guide dogs lead their visually impaired handlers
- Ensure safety of the handler
- Practice intelligent disobedience when necessary
Assistance Dogs for Veterans

- Posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD)
- Stability assistance
Benefits of Service Dogs

- Social effects
- Psychological effects
- Daily living tasks
- Caregiver benefits
- Health benefits

(Rintala, Matamoros, & Seitz, 2008; Winkle, Crowe, & Hendrix, n.d.; Yount, Olmert, & Lee, 2012)
View Stories of Three Individuals Who Use Guide Dog:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uxsYYtOkj3k


