

Assistance & Emotional Support Animals

What is an Assistance Animal?

- An assistance animal provides assistance, performs tasks, or provides emotional support for the benefit of a person with a disability.
- An assistance animal is not a pet.
- An assistance animal may be a reasonable accommodation under the Fair Housing Act.
- Unlike service animals under the Americans with Disabilities Act, an assistance animal is not necessarily limited to a dog or miniature horse. It may be another kind of animal.

What are Emotional Support Animals?

- A type of assistance animal.
- Animals that are identified as emotional support, comfort, companion, or therapy animals are not considered service animals under the ADA. This is true even if there is a medical treatment plan that includes the use of such animals.
- While these animals may provide companionship, relieve loneliness, or help with depression, anxiety, and certain phobias, they do not have the specialized training to perform tasks that assist people with disabilities, nor are they limited to working with people with disabilities.

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**DISABILITY RIGHTS
NORTH DAKOTA**

1-800-472-2670
(701) 328-2950
ND Relay 711 TTY
www.ndpanda.org
panda_intake@nd.gov