



Waratah Puppies

Connection, inclusion & confidence building
through the unconditional love of a puppy

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Pawsable Training

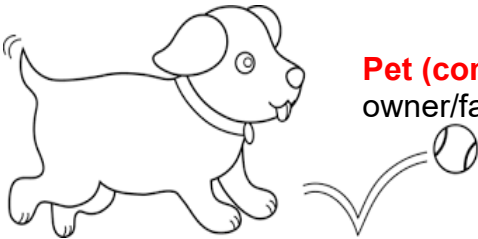


I saw a cute little dog in the shopping centre yesterday.

Can I take MY pet dog to the shops?

Well that depends. Is your dog

a **Pet (Companion) Dog**,
a **Therapy Dog** or
an **Assistance Dog**?



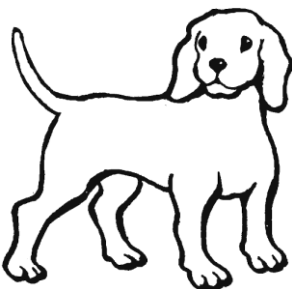
Pet (companion) dogs: provide companionship and comfort to their owner/family. For their owners - they can

- relieve loneliness
- help with depression, anxiety and
- encourage you to get out of the house

These dogs

- do not have specialised training and
- do not have public access rights

(no - they can't go to the shopping centre or movies with you)



Therapy Dogs: provide comfort and affection to other people in designated facilities and **usually wear a bandana or jacket saying they're a Therapy Dog while they are at the facility**

With their owner as part of a Therapy Dog program, they can

- visit nursing homes, schools, hospitals, counselling offices, court
- visit disaster or crisis relief centres

These dogs must be

- well trained in obedience
- be even tempered
- well socialised to many different settings

The facility must grant the dog and it's owner special access to the facility.

These dogs do not have public access rights.

(no - they can't go to the shopping centre or movies with their owner)



Assistance Dogs: while these dogs provide companionship, affection and comfort to their handler **more importantly**

They are

- highly trained for an individual with a diagnosed disability
- trained to perform specific tasks to reduce the symptoms of the disability of their handler, and the tasks they perform are directly related to the person's disability (not all disabilities are visible)

Assistance Dogs usually wear a jacket saying they're an Assistance Dog. For puppies it may also say "Assistance Dog in training"

These dogs **DO** have public access rights under the 'Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (there are only a few places they can't go)

(yes a trained Assistance Dog CAN go to into a shopping centre, or the movies with their handler)

What can you do, or what shouldn't you do, when you see an Assistance Dog and their handler while you're shopping or at the movies?

Please don't -



- touch (don't try to move, or guide the dog in any way)
- feed (don't drop food or offer it 'treats')
- talk to (don't try to get the dog's attention, call it, whistle to it)
- or otherwise distract an Assistance Dog

Some Medical Alert Assistance Dogs are trained to detect changes in their handler's physical condition (eg diabetes) and if they are distracted their handler's health, or life, could be in danger.

If you want to talk to the person with an Assistance Dog, what should you do?

Please –

- respectfully approach the person (to a safe distance to the person and Assistance Dog)
- introduce yourself
- talk to the handler/person NOT the dog

Please don't be offended if –

- the handler doesn't want to talk with you (being in public can be stressful for them)
- doesn't allow you to pet their Assistance Dog

We hope this information is useful to you and will help you understand the vital role Assistance Dogs (and Assistance Dogs in Training) play in the lives of people living with disabilities.

Not all disabilities are visible.