ABOUT ASSISTANCE DOGS AND THE INDUSTRY

**What is an assistance dog?**

The assistance dog is the enabling link to greater self-sufficiency for people with disabilities. Many types of assistance dogs exist in the world today.  The handler, who has a disability has legal rights to have the dog by their side in places where the general public is permitted.

**Guide Dogs**

Become the sight for those with visual impairments.

**Hearing Dogs**

Become the ears for people who are deaf or hearing impaired.

**Service Dogs**

Provide assistance to a person with a disability other than visual or hearing impairment.

* **Mobility Service Dogs (COPE trains Mobility Service Dogs)**

Enhance the mobility of individuals who are physically challenged.

* **Seizure Response Dogs**

 Trained to help an individual who has epilepsy or a seizure disorder.

* **Medical Response Dogs**

 Trained to help mitigate an individual’s medical disability. Many medical response dogs “alert” their partners to conditions before they occur. Dog’s partnered with diabetic person may be trained to detect when the handler’s blood sugar becomes too high or too low.

* **Autism Service Dogs**

 Trained to support families living with autism and related disorder with safety, companionship and independence.

* **Psychiatric Service Dogs**

 Trained to assist their partners with psychiatric disabilities such as post-traumatic stress disorder or schizophrenia.

CANINE ASSISTED INTERVENTION

* These are not assistance dogs
* The handler has no legal rights to have the dog by their side where pet dogs are not allowed

**Facility Dogs (COPE trains Facility Dogs)**

Offer animal assisted therapy/education/intervention with a professional to enhance the services provided by the associated facility.  Their work place includes but not limited to:

* School
* Child advocacy centre
* Hospice
* Therapist office
* Court house

THERAPY DOGS

* These are not assistance dogs
* The handler has no legal rights to have the dog by their side where pet dogs are not allowed

**Therapy Dogs (COPE trains Therapy Dogs)**

Offer therapeutic interaction with people while handled by a qualified handler. The handler is a trained volunteer invited to perform therapy visit with the qualified dog at an establishment.

EMOTIONAL SUPPORT DOGS

* These are not assistance dogs
* The handler has no legal rights to have the dog by their side where pet dogs are not allowed

**Emotional Support Dogs**

Offer comfort and companionship to a person. The dog does not perform tasks to mitigate the person’s disability, if any.

