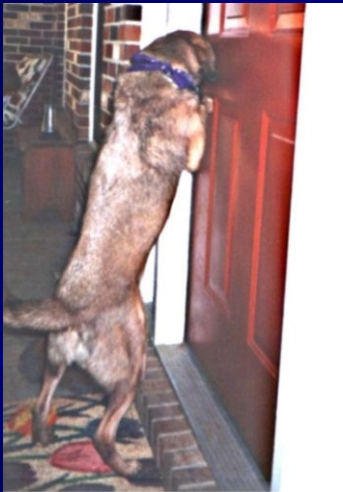


The Use of Dogs In Healing Trauma



Dogs Help in Trauma Healing in Multiple Roles:

- ❖ Definition of working animals
- ❖ ADA
- ❖ Service animals
- ❖ Service animals in training
- ❖ Emotional support animals
- ❖ Therapy animals
- ❖ Facility dogs

As we review, implications for healthcare professionals will be identified.



Working Animals



These are animals that perform actual duties to enable the completion of one's career tasking and/or activities of daily living.

Working Animals

These include animals used by:

- ❖ Armed Forces
- ❖ Police, Fire, Park, and Security Departments
- ❖ Governmental Agencies such as the FBI, Homeland Security, and TSA (airport)
- ❖ Professional Search and Rescue Groups
- ❖ Persons with Disabilities



Animals Commonly and Incorrectly Referred to As Working Animals:

❖ Sport

- ❖ Schutzhund
- ❖ Agility
- ❖ Rally

❖ Therapy

- ❖ Pet Partner
- ❖ Therapy Dog International
- ❖ Therapy Dog Inc.
- ❖ Facility Dogs

❖ Obedience and Conformation



Our First Implication

- ❖ *As care professionals, it is our responsibility and duty to use correct terminology. Correct use of terminology is the first step in increasing awareness and providing education to the public.*



ADA (Americans with Disability Act)



- ❖ This act was signed into federal law under George W. Bush (1990) and is designed to ensure equal opportunity to individuals with disabilities. (ADA Law, page 1, www.ADA.gov)
- ❖ The ADA only applies to the United States and is exempt in some locations such as military bases, religious facilities, and private clubs.

ADA Definition: Individual with a Disability?

An individual with a disability is defined as a person who has:

- ❖ a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities
- ❖ a person who has a history or record of such an impairment
- ❖ a person who is perceived by others as having such an impairment.

The ADA does not specifically name the impairments that are covered.



A little more info:



The ADA is governed by the Department of Justice (DOJ) and the laws are listed in the United States Department of Justice Code of Federal Regulations (CFR). Most people referring to the “ADA” are addressing Title III, but there are other titles and agencies (11) that govern the ADA

Second Implication

- ❖ *There is no national certification for service dogs and business owners cannot ask for a copy of papers showing the dog is a service dog. This includes healthcare organizations.*





Service Dogs

These animals are working to provide *trained* tasks for their handlers to allow the handlers to accomplish their activities of daily living.

Some Tasks Service Animals Provide:



- Guiding for the Visually-Impaired
- Sound Alerting for the Auditory-Impaired
- Seizure or Diabetic Alerting
- Stability and Propulsion for People with Balance and Walking Issues
- Pulling a Wheelchair
- Retrieving and Item Pickup for People with Mobility and/or Balance Issues
- Blocking and Alerting Others for Adults and Children with Safety and Wandering Issues
- Improving Individual's Focus within the Environment for Those with Learning, Neurological, and/or Psychological Disabilities
- Assisting with Tasks such as Dressing, Bathing, Laundry
- Pressing the "911" Button in the Event of an Emergency

Third Implication

- ❖ *The healthcare team should know and understand service dogs are permitted by the bedside and to be with the patient, regardless of staff's perception of patient's need for dog.*
- ❖ *The cleanliness, responsiveness, and behavior of the dog can be quietly assessed to ensure safety.*
- ❖ *The CDC and most SD providers recommend the staff does not interact with the dog.*
- ❖ *Patient and/or significant other are required to provide all care for the dog. Liability for healthcare providers if they provide any care except in an emergency.*



Service Animal Access Per ADA

- ❖ Effective in March 2011, the term, “service animals” will only apply to dogs assisting their handlers in completing activities of daily living (ADL).
- ❖ In some cases, the term will also apply to miniature horses who help their handlers complete ADL’s. There is criteria provided by DOJ for evaluation of the horse for access

Service Animal Fraud

- Interestingly enough, service dog fraud is not investigated under the DOJ. The DOJ encourages reporting of service dog fraud to local police and sheriff departments.
- Many states are now defining service dog fraud laws. These are still very difficult to prove.



Fourth Implication

❖ *Address the behavior or lack of cleanliness creating the safety issue and not whether the dog is a true service dog.*

❖ *If you ask a person with a service dog to leave, be sure to complete whatever occurrence screen your institution utilizes.*



Service Dog Etiquette

These behaviors distract the animal and should **not** occur:

- Talking, whistling, or cooing to the animal
- Asking to pet the animal
- Allowing your children to interact with the animal
- Asking what the person has “wrong with him/her” or “what happened?”
- Asking for a demonstration of how the animal assists
- Approaching the person and telling them about your dog or someone else that you know who uses a service animal
- Asking the person to educate your children about service animals

Fifth Implication

❖ *You would be surprised how many healthcare professionals run up to service dogs.*

❖ *As a group, we should know better and show support of individuals with service dogs by permitting the team to work effectively and independently.*

❖ *It is rude to take pictures of working service dog and the handler without asking. Think about someone coming up and taking a picture of a wheelchair or a child.*





Service Animals in Training

These animals are in training to provide tasks for people with disabilities or ailments.



ADA Access: Service Animals in Training

- ❖ There is *no* access defined by the ADA for service animals in training
- ❖ Access for service animals in training is usually defined at the state legislative level. Know your state's regulations—usually found at www.nameofstate.org: ie. www.maryland.gov

Sixth Implication

❖ The laws regarding access for service animals in training are defined at the state level and not the federal.

❖ Assess if a service animal in training really needs to be present. Many hospitals allow the service dog in training access into the public areas, but restrict access into patient rooms or care provision areas.



Emotional Support Animals

Animals whose sole function is to provide emotional support, comfort, therapy, companionship, therapeutic benefits, or promote emotional well-being.



Laws Governing Emotional Support Animals

- ❖ These animals **do not** qualify for public access under the ADA. **Do check with your state as laws vary.**
- ❖ They used to have access on an airplane under FAA guidelines but due to fraud, the DOT has removed the requirement for airlines to permit them with passenger.

Therapy Animals and Facility Dogs



These animals and their handlers have been trained to perform animal-assisted interactions with clients in approved hospitals, nursing homes, schools, libraries, prisons, etc.

Animal Assisted Interactions (AAI) Using Human/Animal Bond

Animal Assisted Activity (AAA)

Animal Assisted Therapy (AAT)

Personal Assistance Therapy (PAT)

Animal Assisted Education (AAE)- schools & universities



Animal Assisted Activities (AAA)

- ❖ Handler and animal teams provide visits to different clients in an organization or business.
- ❖ These activities can be goal-directed activities (such as decreasing boredom or for those missing their personal pets decreasing acute stress,) but there are no measures being done by a professional.



Animal Assisted Therapy (AAT)

- ❖ AAT utilizes the handler/animal therapy teams as an integral part of the treatment process.
- ❖ A licensed professional sets therapeutic goals and measures the progress in attaining these goals.



A patient on the heart transplant wait list and utilizing a left ventricular assist device walks Miles to build endurance.

Personal Assistance Therapy (PAT)

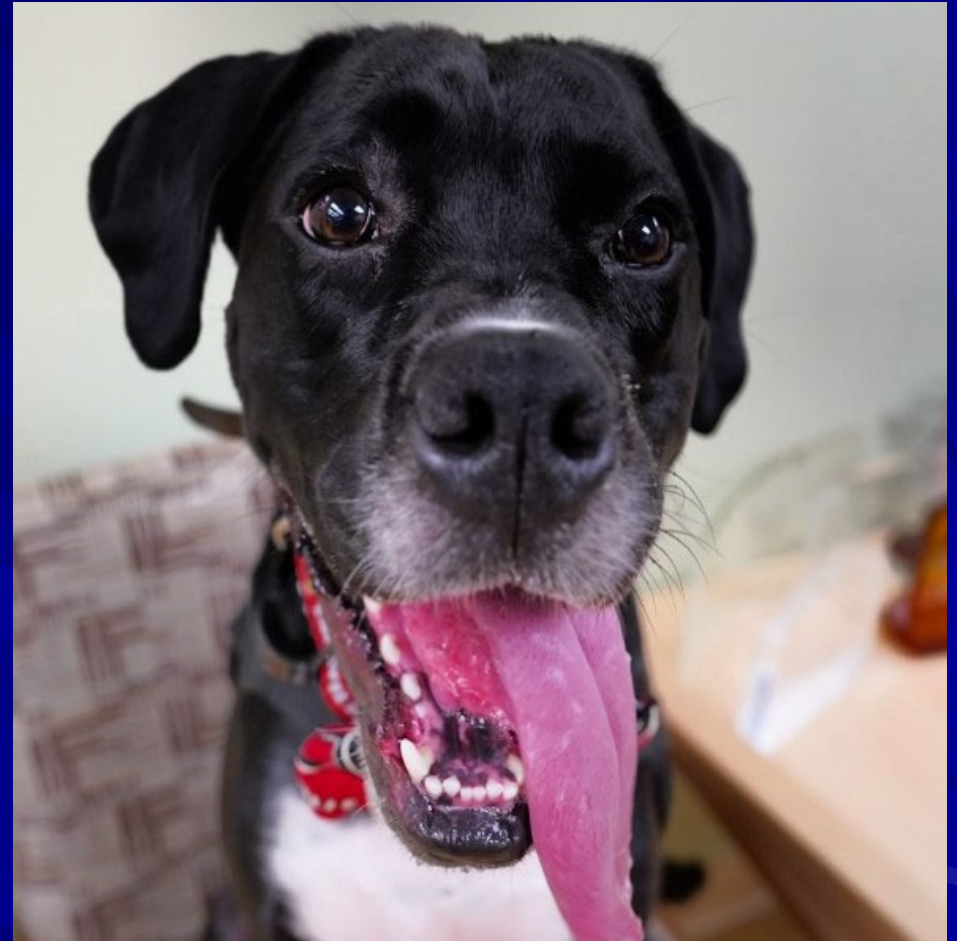
❖ Introduces patients who are newly physically-challenged to some of the tasks a service animal can provide in obtaining independence.



❖ It also introduces these patients to agencies which can provide these animals.

Facility Dogs

- ❖ Usually work in one location such as a prison, courthouse, or hospital
- ❖ Usually provide AAA, but there are some placed by Canine Companions for Independence which also do AAT.



Seventh Implications



❖ Utilizing the correct terminology is vital when advocating for the positive impact therapy animals and facility dogs have when placed in different facilities.

❖ Respect the dogs' social space (think the dog is in a bubble and do not cross bubble without handler permission) and please do not squeal when you see them.

❖ If contracting an organization to provide a facility dog, be sure to assess infection control knowledge, education provision for handlers, and insurance coverage.



❖ If you participate in animal assisted interactions, you need to know the organizations and their guidelines governing the businesses where you provide therapy.

Examples:

-CDC guidelines

-HIPAA guidelines

-APIC/SHEA guidelines



Healing Benefits of Facility and Therapy Dogs in the Care of Patients with Trauma

- ❖ Allow the patient to express themselves without judgement.
- ❖ Create a more comfortable environment for patients and their families
- ❖ Lower feelings of acute stress and anxiety
- ❖ Offers an alternative or additional support rather than strictly pharmacological (ie; Decrease pain or lower anxiety about anticipatory pain)

Eighth Implication

- ❖ Each handler of an animal team member needs to be aware of its stress signals, fatigue levels, and alerts for its other needs and respond accordingly*
- ❖ Best practices for keeping our facility and therapy dogs happy, healthy, and enjoying the work they are doing. JCAHO report stated that 30% of therapy dog programs in hospitals have no policies at all.*



Inova Fairfax Medical Center Trauma Services and AAC Program Infection Control Study

- ▣ 1242 patients were enrolled
- ▣ 717 adults and 525 children
- ▣ 202 patients in critical care
- ▣ Total AAC modalities: 2913
- ▣ 2.3 visits per patient
- ▣ 39 dogs participated in study: All negative for MRSA and VRE
- ▣ 16 dogs tested positive for C diff
- ▣ All c-diff in dogs found to be canine-specific and does not cross over to humans per CDC genotyping
- ▣ No patients were found to have any C diff infection during the study

Study results:

0% zoonotic infection rate in dog and patient

Inova Fairfax Medical Center Trauma Services
and
AAC Program
AAT/TBI Study*

- ▣ **70 patients with moderate to severe TBI admitted to the ED**
- ▣ **Through randomization and after consent, patients were split into control group without dog and intervention group with dog**
- ▣ **Intervention Group had statistically significant changes and increases in:**
 - ▣ **GCS**
 - ▣ **RLAS**
 - ▣ **Ability to Follow Multi-step Level of Commands—no patient in control group had an increase in ability to follow commands.**

Study results:

AAI Group had better TBI recovery scores than control group.

***presented AAST Conference 2021**

Additional Questions?

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