

Name: _____

Service Dogs Rock!

By Lydia Lukidis

Service dogs rock! They rock because they are helpful. They are trained to help their owners. Who can own a service dog? Anyone with a disability can own a service dog. For example, a person may be blind or deaf. Or they may have a mental illness or may not be able to walk. Service dogs can do many things to help these people. The dogs can bring medicine to their owners. They can help their owners get up or walk. They can get their owner's keys. They can wake up their owner. Some service dogs can even dial 911!



You might be wondering if any dog can become a service dog. Actually, most dogs can. The dog must be healthy, have a good attitude, and be easy to train. Some breeds are more popular than others as service dogs. The most common are Labrador Retrievers, German Shepherds, and Golden Retrievers.

There are organizations that train the dogs. The training takes a long time. It usually starts when the dogs are puppies. That way, they get used to it. It can take months to fully train a dog. It can even take years. After this, the dogs are given to an owner. There is a long waiting list of people who need service dogs.

Service dogs must wear a leash. They may also wear a vest or tag. Most public places let service dogs come in with their owners. The dogs can go into restaurants, banks, and stores. They can go into airports, and they can fly on airplanes. Also, if you own a service dog, you can live with it anywhere. It is the law. You can live in a house. You can live in an apartment. You can stay at a hotel. Nobody can tell you that your dog is not allowed.

Service dogs are special. They are more than just pets. They help their owners do things. They also make their owners feel good. They help their owners become independent. They also keep their owner company. The owner and the service dog usually develop a special bond. Dogs love people and enjoy helping them!

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1. According to the article, where is the only place a service dog is not allowed to go?
 - a. The dog is not allowed to go in a hotel.
 - b. The dog is not allowed to enter a restaurant.
 - c. The dog is not allowed to go on an airplane.
 - d. A service dog can go anywhere his owner needs him.

2. Name three qualities a dog must have to be a service dog.

3. How long does it take to train a service dog?
 - a. a few days to a few weeks
 - b. a few weeks to a few months
 - c. a few months to a few years
 - d. five to ten years

4. Based on the information in the article, what kinds of illnesses can service dogs help their owners with?
 - a. physical illnesses, only
 - b. mental illnesses, only
 - c. physical and mental illnesses
 - d. neither physical nor mental illnesses

5. Name the three most common service dog breeds.
 1. _____
 2. _____
 3. _____

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Unscramble the letters in the boxes in order to form vocabulary words from "Service Dogs Rock!" Write the complete word on the line.

1. **a d f e**

hint: unable to hear

2. **b i d y t**
i a l i s

hint: a physical or mental condition that limits a person's abilities

3. **p t m a e**
r t a n

hint: a living space that can be rented out by the owner

4. **d i t n p n**
e n d e e

hint: being free from dependence on someone or something

5. **r t i n a**

hint: to teach an animal a set of skills or behaviors

6. **t a d u e t t i**

hint: a state of mind that determines a person's or animal's behavior

7. **v c s r e i e**

hint: meant for helping or assisting

8. **l d b i n**

hint: unable to see

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In the article, "Service Dogs Rock!" you learned that service dogs can help people with a wide variety of physical and mental illnesses.

Using the information in the article, answer the following question:
Why do you think there is such a long list of people waiting for a service dog? Provide **two** possible explanations in your answer.

ANSWER KEY

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1. According to the article, where is the only place a service dog is not allowed to go? **d.**
 - a. The dog is not allowed to go in a hotel.
 - b. The dog is not allowed to enter a restaurant.
 - c. The dog is not allowed to go on an airplane.
 - d. A service dog can go anywhere his owner needs him.**

2. Name three qualities a dog must have to be a service dog.
In order to be considered as a service dog, a dog must be healthy, have a good attitude, and be easy to train.

3. How long does it take to train a service dog? **c.**

a. a few days to a few weeks	b. a few weeks to a few months
c. <u>a few months to a few years</u>	d. five to ten years

4. Based on the information in the article, what kinds of illnesses can service dogs help their owners with? **c.**

a. physical illnesses, only	b. mental illnesses, only
c. <u>physical and mental illnesses</u>	d. neither physical nor mental illnesses

5. Name the three most common service dog breeds.
 1. **Labrador Retrievers**
 2. **German Shepherds**
 3. **Golden Retrievers**

ANSWER KEY

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Unscramble the letters in the boxes in order to form vocabulary words from "Service Dogs Rock!" Write the complete word on the line.

1.

a d f e

hint: unable to hear

deaf

2.

b i d y t
i a I i s

hint: a physical or mental condition that
limits a person's abilities

disability

3.

p t m a e
r t a n

hint: a living space that can be rented out
by the owner

apartment

4.

d i t n p n
e n d e e

hint: being free from dependence on someone
or something

independent

5.

r t i n a

hint: to teach an animal a set of skills or behaviors

train

6.

t a d u e t t i

hint: a state of mind that determines a person's or
animal's behavior

attitude

7.

v c s r e i e

hint: meant for helping or assisting

service

8.

l d b i n

hint: unable to see

blind

LD