

## Assistance Dog Manners

When you meet a person partnered with an assistance dog, please remember the dog is working. You don't want to interrupt the assistance dog from performing its tasks.

Some simple rules of etiquette for when interacting with an assistance dog team:

- Speak to the person first, do not make distracting or rude noises aimed at the assistance dog.
- Do not touch the assistance dog without asking permission first.
- Do not give any food to the assistance dog.
- Do not ask personal questions about the handler's disability or intrude in their privacy.
- Do not be offended if the handler declines to chat about the assistance dog or its tasks.
- The Disability Discrimination Act protects the lawful right of public access and accommodation.



[www.awaredogs.org.au](http://www.awaredogs.org.au)



*Acknowledgement Matters*

**A.W.A.R.E DOGS AUSTRALIA INC.**

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# A.W.A.R.E

## Assistance Dogs



**A.W.A.R.E DOGS AUSTRALIA INC.**

**The Human/Dog  
Connection**

Dedicated to Responsible  
Assistance Dog  
Advocacy, Education, Training

**Our services are offered nationally.**



# Assistance Dog Programs

## Our Goals

The *enrichment of the social and psychological health and wellbeing of the individual*, as well as the environment factors connected with that situation.

Provide anyone defined as “*disabled*” or their carer, with access, to a qualified *Assistance Dog* trained specifically for his or her needs, regardless of their age or the severity of the impairment.

Specialize in addressing disabilities that impair psychological and social health, as well as developing dynamic interventions towards mitigating learning disorders.

Reduce the number of unwanted dogs, who would otherwise be destroyed, by obtaining the majority of our animals from shelters and rescue groups.



Increase public awareness of the laws regarding assistance dogs and the value they provide to their partners, as well as to the community. We provide our service Australia Wide.

The common experience of those choosing partnerships with assistance dogs is that they increase independence and wellbeing, as well as providing invaluable companionship; generally improving the quality of life of their impaired partners.

We have no eligibility requirements beyond a statement from a Health Practitioner that the person requesting an assistance dog lives with an impairment that “substantially” limits one or more major live activities. For clients with severe disabilities we help create strategies and innovative solutions so as to ensure that they will be able to maximize the benefits of, as well as maintain an assistance dog.

## Assistance Dogs

Assistance Dogs are dogs specially “*trained to assist the aggrieved person to alleviate the effect of the disability*”. Section 9 of the “*Disability Discrimination Act*” guarantees that, persons living with a disability and partnered with an *Assistance Dog* have total access rights in nearly all situations; transport, hospitals, accommodation, restaurants, etc., as a *Medical Aid*, over-riding any No Pets or Animal Policies and Laws.

The ways in which an *Assistance Dog* can assist are only limited by our imagination; countering the effects of anxiety or panic disorders, mitigating depression, assisting with balance, picking up dropped items, providing solace during acute and palliative therapies, providing motivational aid in rehabilitation therapies, help with medication, help with clothing ....and most any task which may be required.



## Training

We believe that any person who desires the support of a trained facility or assistance dog should determine his or her own level of involvement in the training process, *A.W.A.R.E Dogs* is dedicated to teaching its’ clients how to train their own dogs to become fully certified assistance dogs (facility, therapy, and others) whenever possible. Our ambition is to encourage participation in the training process while remaining flexible and sensitive to each participant’s individual needs and abilities. Some participant’s elect to receive a fully trained dog, while others enter into a program with their own dog and receive individualized instruction in their and their dog’s training towards meeting the desired goals.

The curriculum also includes the appreciation of how a dog thinks. We don’t just teach the student’s require skills for their dog; we also instruct in canine behaviour; body language, bonding, breed characteristics and pack relationships, We investigate all the various factors that make up a dog and which add to the complex inter-relationship that humans and dogs experience. This rapport is a very special and unique within the animal world.

