



INTERMOUNTAIN THERAPY ANIMALS

PETS HELPING PEOPLE

How Therapy Animals Differ from other Support Animals

Comparative Descriptions	Therapy Animal	Service/ Assistance Animal	Emotional Support Animal
Provides therapeutic comfort to many people	YES	NO	NO
Primary job is to emotionally support owner through companionship	NO	NO	YES
Trained to assist an individual for a specific health need	NO	YES	NO
Must behave in and tolerate many environments	YES	YES	NO
Rights of access to public places such as restaurants and stores	NO	YES	NO
Housing rights even if “No Pets” Policy	NO	YES	YES
Travel rights in the cabin of an airplane with owner	NO	YES	NO*
Okay to approach and pet in public with owner permission	YES	NO	NO

*As of January 2021, the U.S. Dept. of Transportation has ruled that Emotional Support Animals will be considered as pets and must observe the same rules as pets for whichever airline they are traveling on.

PLEASE NOTE: Intermountain Therapy Animals works exclusively with therapy animals. We do not accept service/assistance animals or emotional support animals as candidates for volunteering with ITA to participate in animal-assisted interactions.

www.therapyanimals.org