



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CANINE PROFESSIONALS

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Because some state statutes grant access to dog trainers who train service/assistance dogs, many people are under the mistaken impression that any dog that accompanies a dog trainer who might train service/assistance dogs has the same rights of access as people with disabilities and their service/assistance dogs. In some cases dog trainers insist on public access with their own personal pets.

Essentially, this is fraudulent. Unless the trainer meets the definition of a person with a disability, insisting on rights to access public spaces with a service/assistance animal is illegal. The International Association of Canine Professionals does not support or condone trainers who attempt to gain access to public spaces with their own animals by making false claims that their animal is a service/assistance animal, a service/assistance animal in training, and/or by making false claims that they are disabled. As an organization whose focus is on raising the standards of professionalism and professional conduct within the canine professions, we thought it important to make our position known and clear to our members, to the public, and especially, to all of those advocates of service/assistance dogs and their handlers who have fought so hard to be able to have public access rights.