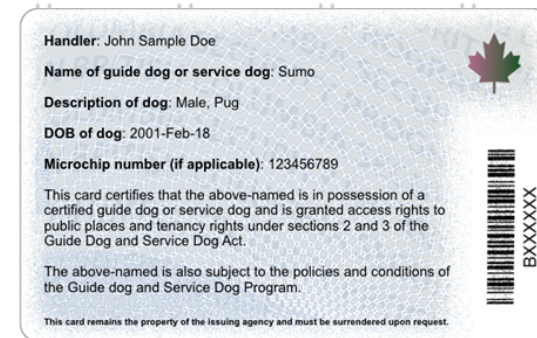


## Access Rights

Provided that the dog is well-behaved, does not occupy a seat in public, and is on a leash or harness, a B.C. certified team cannot be denied access to:

- Restaurants and cafes
- Buses and taxis
- Hotels, motels, bed and breakfasts
- All other businesses
- Any public place

Strata bylaws and rental terms prohibiting or restricting pets do not apply to B.C. certified guide and service dogs.



Businesses may ask to see B.C. certification at any time. Viewing certification provides confidence to businesses that a dog and handler team meet the high public etiquette and safety standards expected of a guide dog and service dog team.

# BC Guide Dogs and Service Dogs Information Brochure

## What is a Guide Dog or Service Dog?

A guide dog is a dog that has been trained to assist individuals that are blind or visually impaired.

A service dog is a dog that has been trained to assist an individual with specific tasks pertaining to a visible or non-visible disability. For example, individuals with epilepsy, diabetes, or mobility limitations may use a service dog.

## Breeds and Vests

Various breeds of dogs are engaged as guide dogs and service dogs. There are no regulations in B.C. that determine what breed a guide dog or service dog must be. Further, wearing a vest is not a requirement. It is important to be open-minded when speaking with guide dog and service dog teams.

## Teams Without B.C. Certification

Valid teams exist outside of the B.C. certification process and are protected under the B.C. Human Rights Code. Businesses should be expected to grant access to teams that exist outside of B.C.'s regulatory framework and keep an open line of communication if issues arise.

## Expectations

It is reasonable for members of the public and businesses to expect a guide or service dog to be:

- Clean
- Well-groomed
- Free of offensive odours
- Healthy

It is also reasonable to expect the guide or service dog to be well behaved. In other words, it must not:

- Be aggressive or put others at risk
- Damage property
- Seek attention or food
- Run freely, urinate or defecate in inappropriate areas
- Disrupt business