

Guide Dog Etiquette

Identifying different types of Guide and Assistance Dogs



An Autism Assistance Dog wears an orange coat.



A Guide Dog wears a white harness.



A Guide Dog in training wears a brown harness.



A puppy in training wears an orange coat.

A Guide or Assistance Dog has an important job to do! After undertaking two years of specialised training a Guide or Assistance dog is carefully matched to their handler - a Western Australian living with low vision, disability or illness.

Guide Dogs, Autism Assistance Dogs and those in training, are by law, allowed to go anywhere their handler goes. The only exceptions to this rule is Guide and Assistance Dogs are not permitted in some zoo enclosures and an operating theatres.

How to interact with a Guide or Assistance Dog

Always talk to the handler, not their Guide or Assistance Dog.

Not only is it polite but when a Guide or Assistance Dog is working it needs to concentrate. Interruptions to their concentration can severely affect their handler's safety.

If you think a person needs assistance, ask them first.

Never touch the person, the Guide or Assistance Dog, or the harness/coat without permission.

Make sure your pet dog is on a lead and under control in public.

If possible, move yourself and your pet away from the Guide or Assistance Dog.

Never feed a Guide or Assistance Dog.

Never pat a Guide or Assistance Dog.

Never distract a Guide or Assistance Dog, with food, noises, talking to it, approaching or patting it.

