



Facility Dogs Frequently Asked Questions

1. **Are Therapy Dogs and Facility Dogs the same?**

No, they are not. Both have important roles in a therapeutic setting. This can be confusing because some people call a dog that works every day at a facility a therapy dog.

A Facility Dog is specially trained to work at a facility every day and has specific tasks that they do. They go to work (and sometimes live full-time at the facility) every day just like any other employee.

A Therapy Dog is a well-behaved pet, often certified by the Delta Society, Therapy Dogs International or a local therapy dog program. They visit a facility with their owner for an hour or two at a time to give love and affection to the residents or patients there.

2. **If we have a Facility Dog, can Therapy Dogs continue to visit our facility?**

Most certainly! They each serve separate and complimentary roles.

Should we let our Facility Dog and the Therapy Dogs interact while on the job?
Absolutely NOT! Both your Facility Dog and the Therapy Dogs are at your facility to work and socialize with people, not to socialize with other dogs. Keep the dogs separate and doing their individual jobs when they are at the facility. If you wish to let them socialize, let them do it outside of the facility at a park or someone's home. Your Facility Dog is still a dog and needs to interact with other dogs, just not at work.

3. **Can the Facility Dog accompany their handler in public like a Service Dog?**

No, Facility Dogs are not service dogs and their handlers are generally not disabled nor are they specially trained to mitigate their handler's disability. Therefore, they do not qualify as a service dog as described by the ADA.

Special permission may be given in some cases (perhaps they are accompanying patients from the facility on an outing), but that is at the discretion of the individual business. A Facility Dog may certainly go anywhere where pets are allowed.