

In recognition of our role in the assistance dog community, the following behavioral guidelines were voted on and passed unanimously at our February, 2007 Board meeting.

1. All assistance dogs must be clean and well-groomed.
2. All assistance dogs and dogs in training must exhibit appropriate public access behavior.
3. Any dog that barks or shows other aggressive behaviors such as growling, lunging, putting up their ruff, snapping or biting will be asked to leave if it is in a public place. If we are having a training meeting we will be glad to help the team work on the behavior. Of course, the club member is always welcome as well as the assistance dog when re-training is successful.
4. All dogs are to be on leash and must be under physical leash or harness control of their partners or another responsible adult at all times. Any dog that moves away from its partner and solicits attention from another dog or person will be excused from the meeting. Dogs may not be left on Stays and have handlers moving away.
5. All assistance dogs must be handled with respect and be trained using humane training methods. Though a trained assistance dog may occasionally need to have its behavior corrected hitting or kicking a dog is not in keeping with humane training.



While we may feel that we know our own dogs quite well, it is always important to understand that we have a responsibility to be aware of the fact that another member's dog may have recently experienced some type of trauma and would be uncomfortable if your dog is free to "get into his/her space". We owe it to our fellow members to maintain control of our dogs at all times.