



Man's Best Friend

We all know that dogs are amazing in so many ways. We have police dogs, fire dogs, search and rescue dogs, and perhaps most important, service dogs. There are service dogs that provide assistance for sight, hearing, therapy dogs, seizure alert dogs, physical assistance dogs, dogs for diabetics, and more.

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) applies to service animals. Under the ADA, a service animal is defined as a dog that has been individually trained to do work or perform tasks for an individual with a disability. The task or tasks performed by the dog must be directly related to the person's disability. For example, a person that has diabetes might have a dog that is trained to alert them when their blood sugar reaches high or low levels. A dog may alert a person with depression that it is time to take their medication, or a dog may be trained to detect the onset of a seizure, and help that person remain safe during a seizure.

There is a difference between a "service dog" and an "emotional support, therapy or comfort" dog. Generally, emotional support animals have not been trained to perform a specific job, and don't qualify as service animals under the ADA. However, under many state laws,

including Illinois, the laws are a bit broader, and you should check with your state or local government to find out about local laws.

The intent of the ADA is to allow and encourage people with disabilities to fully participate in everyday life. Service animals can help in so many ways. So, a person with a service animal must be allowed into restaurants just like any other patron. Similarly, hotels must allow a



guest with a disability who uses a service animal the same opportunity to reserve any room as any other guest. They may not be restricted to "pet-friendly" rooms. Further, a hotel cannot charge a cleaning fee for someone who has a service animal. Hospitals also must allow an inpatient with a disability to keep a service animal in their hospital room.

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Generally, the only exclusion for a service animal is if the animal behaves in a way that poses a direct threat to the health or safety of others, or is not under the control of the handler.

Service dogs do not have to be professionally trained, they can be trained by the person with the disability. Also, service animals are not required to wear a vest or special patch identifying them as service animals. Service animals do need to be vaccinated, registered and licensed like other dogs, however, local government cannot require a dog to be registered strictly as a service animal. They are simply required to be licensed like any other dog, and a service animal can be any breed of dog.

Along with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Fair Housing Act requires public and private housing providers to permit, as a reasonable accommodation, the use of animals that work, provide assistance, or perform tasks that benefit persons with a disability or provide emotional support to alleviate a symptom or affect of a disability. So, the Fair Housing Act is even broader than the Americans with Disabilities Act.

How about flying? The "Air Carrier Access Act" is the federal law that protects the people with disabilities in air travel. You should consult that law before traveling.

So how should I interact with a service dog. Being a dog lover, I always enjoy saying hi to dogs being walked, or even give them a good pet

rubbing, but with a service dog, there are some basic rules to remember. You should remember that the service dog is working, and the person with the disability's life could be endangered if the dog is not focused on his task. You should always talk to the owner or handler of the dog before talking to the dog. Next, don't touch the dog without asking permission first. Again, that is a distraction that could cause harm. If you have a dog, you should keep it a good distance away from the service dog to avoid further distraction. Also, don't offer food or snacks to a service dog. Also, use some respect, and don't just ask about someone's disability unless they bring it up in a conversation. Don't assume that just because the dog looks like it is resting or sleeping, that it is off duty. Service dogs are always at work.

These amazing service dogs are helping people with disabilities in so



many ways in their life, which makes life richer for all of us.

Michael G. Steelman

(The content of this article is intended to convey general information only and not to provide legal advice or opinions.)

Friends in Motion

Anniversaries being celebrated include: **Jim and Anne Haynes** (63 years), **Ron and Shirley Rapp** (50 years), **Elmer and Margaret**



White (63 years), and **Edward and Betty Wilson** (63 years), all of Bushnell. Happy anniversary to all!

Birthday celebrations include: **K. Delbert Curtis** (85) of Avon, **Bernie McCance** (79) of Smithfield,

Dorothy Melvin (90) of Macomb,

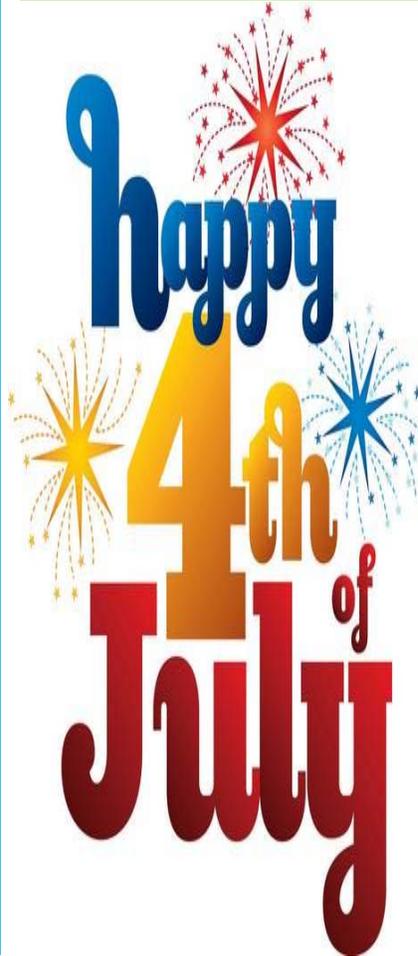


Patricia Rutledge (89) and **Robert Rutledge** (90) both of Adair, **Keith Ferris** (83), **Kenny Knott** (59), **Tom Downs**, **Paul Gossett**, **Eileen Rauschert**, **Judy Walters**, and **Nadyne (Tiny) Walters**, all of Bushnell. Happy birthday to all!

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

Jun 3 & Jul 1 - VFW breakfast, 7 to 10 am

Jun. 2 & Sept. 1 - Free blood pressure, pulse/oxygen, cholesterol and blood sugar checks at F&M Main Bank Lobby, 9 to 10 am.



Appetizers, Dips and Spreads!

WARM ITALIANO SPREAD

John Frank

- 1 pkg. (8oz.) cream cheese
- 1/4 cup tomato basil pesto
- 1 plum tomato, chopped
- 1/4 cup finely shredded Italian Five cheese blend
- Cracked pepper & olive oil crackers



Heat grill or oven to medium 350 degrees. Place un-

wrapped cheese on an 8 inch square sheet of heavy-duty foil. Top with pesto, tomatoes and shredded cheese.

Bake or grill 8-10 minutes, or until shredded cheese is melted and cream cheese is softened, but still holds its shape.

BACON APPETIZER CRESCENTS

Lou Reno

- 1 pkg. (8oz.) cream cheese
- 8 slices bacon, cooked and crumbled
- 1/3 cup grated parmesan cheese
- 1/4 cup finely chopped onion
- 2 Tbsp. chopped fresh parsley
- 1 Tbsp. milk
- 2 cans (8oz. each) refrigerated crescent dinner rolls



Heat oven to 375 degrees. Mix all ingredients except crescent dough. Separate

each can of dough into 8 triangles; cut each triangle lengthwise in half. Spread each dough triangle with 1 generous tsp. of cream cheese mixture; roll up, starting at short side of triangle. Place, point-sides down, on baking sheet.

Bake 12 to 15 minutes or until golden brown. Serve warm.

BLT VEGGIE OR CRACKER SPREAD

Lindsey Waller

- 1/2 cup mayonnaise
- 1/2 cup sour cream
- 1/2 pound bacon, cooked and crumbled
- 1 small tomato, diced
- Small lettuce leaves
- Toasted snack bread or crackers
- Fresh vegetables



In a bowl, combine sour cream, mayonnaise, and bacon. Stir in tomato. Serve with lettuce on bread or crackers, or use as a dip for vegetables. Yield: 1 1/2 cups.

CARAMEL APPLE DIP

Peggy Weiss

- 8 oz. cream cheese
- 3/4 cup brown sugar
- 2 Tbsp. vanilla
- Beat thoroughly. Chill.

