

## Who is Buster, or, Why is There a Dog on Campus?

Buster, Ms. Selle's french bulldog, is a Service Dog in Training (SDiT). He is a medical alert dog who is being trained to alert Miss Selle to migraines before they become debilitating. He has begun to alert before the migraine is detectable by Miss Selle, which allows her to take her medication early, allowing her to continue to function normally.

## What are the laws regarding service dogs in training in California?

[In California](#), Service Dogs in Training (SDiT) have the same public access abilities as a fully-trained service dog. This allows Buster to be exposed to a large variety of locations, distractions, people, noises, and smells, and to work on maintaining his focus on Miss Selle during these distractions.

## What are the [federal laws](#) regarding service dogs?

Service dogs are not considered "pets" under the American with Disabilities Act (ADA); they are considered working animals and are considered the same as other necessary medical equipment, such as an oxygen tank or a wheelchair. A doctor will determine whether a particular disability will be helped by a service dog.

## Buster is so cute. Can I pet him?

When Buster is working or training at school, he will be wearing his vest. When he has his vest on, consider him a piece of medical equipment [like a wheelchair](#). Just as you wouldn't ask to pet someone's wheelchair or oxygen tank, you should leave service dogs alone when they are working. Medical alert dogs such as Buster can miss important signals if distracted, which could cause them to not alert their humans of potential problems. When he is not in his vest, he is still working, but you can ask to pet him. After petting, you must wash your hands or use hand sanitizer per county policy regarding animals in the classroom.

## What if I see a Service Dog in Public Without a Vest?

According to the ADA, service dogs are not required to wear or carry identification. Service dogs do not need to be registered or have "official paperwork," and often, those who have such identification have purchased it online and have fake service dogs. This is not always the case, but keep in mind that any dog you see in a public place where dogs normally aren't allowed, it is most likely a service dog and should not be distracted or pet.

## Can I Bring My Dog/Cat/Chinchilla/Snake/Parakeet/Other Pet?

Pets are not allowed on campus. As mentioned, service dogs are not considered pets. A service dog is not considered a pet because it is trained in specific tasks related to a medical or psychological disability and a doctor determines eligibility. The language from the ADA states "Service animals are defined as dogs that are individually trained to do work or perform tasks for people with disabilities."

## How are Service Dogs Different from Emotional Support or Therapy Dogs?

ESAs (emotional support animals) and therapy animals allow people to have animals in housing that may not normally allow them, but they do not have public access rights like service dogs because they are not related to a specific disability or trained to perform tasks to help a disabled person.

