



Primary source material adapted with author's permission from:  
Pacific Assistance Dogs Society. 2012. Assistance Dog Etiquette. Retrieved on September 12, 2012 from [pads.ca/faqs/assistance-dog-etiquette](http://pads.ca/faqs/assistance-dog-etiquette)

### ASSISTANCE DOGS ON CAMPUS

The Guide Animal Act of BC guarantees people with disabilities the right to be accompanied by their government-certified assistance dog in all areas open to the general public. At UBC's Okanagan campus, this includes allowing a working dog and its handler the same access you would give any other person on campus.

Many people are curious about and attracted to dogs they see in public. However, assistance dogs are not regular dogs: they are working dogs.



### RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS

#### UBC services and supports

Faculty, staff, and students at UBC's Okanagan campus should contact the Disability Resource Centre for further details on academic accommodations, supports, and services.

Disability Resource Centre  
University Centre, Room 227  
3333 University Way  
Kelowna, BC  
Canada V1V 1V7

DRC Coordinator 250.807.9263  
DRC Clerk 250.807.9203  
Fax 250.807.9365  
Email [drc.questions@ubc.ca](mailto:drc.questions@ubc.ca)

[ubc.ca/okanagan/drc](http://ubc.ca/okanagan/drc)

#### Local and national resources

Pacific Assistance Dogs Society: [pads.ca](http://pads.ca)  
BC & Alberta Guide Dog Services: [bcguidedog.com](http://bcguidedog.com)  
The Canadian Foundation for Animal-Assisted Support Services:  
[cf4aass.org](http://cf4aass.org)



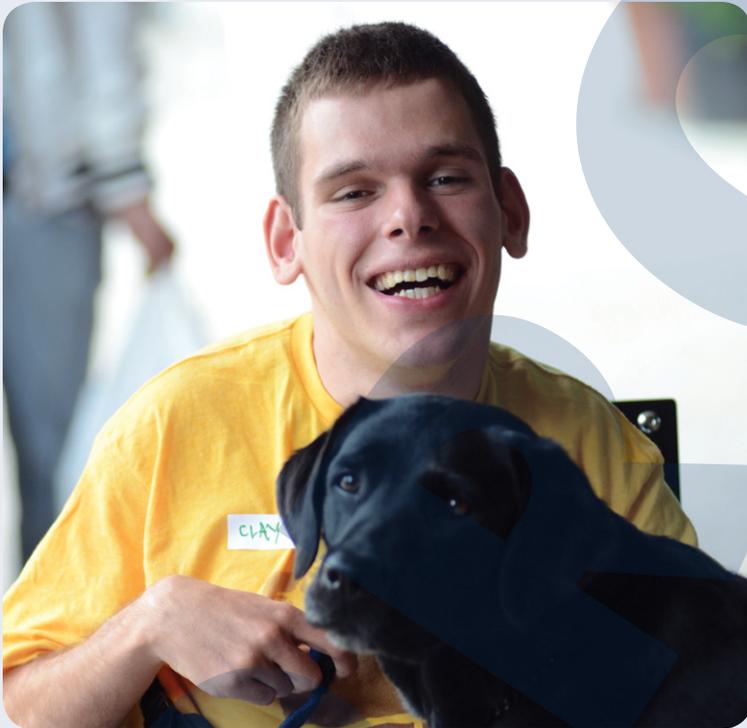
The following is a list of tips to follow when seeing, meeting, or approaching an assistance dog and its handler, to help you ensure that you don't inadvertently interrupt a working dog while it is performing its tasks.

**DO**

**Do admire a dog from afar or compliment the dog in passing**

Handlers of assistance dogs lead active lives. You may not be the first person today who wants to ask them questions or tell a handler how great/beautiful/special their dog is. While these conversations are positive, they can be tedious if they happen multiple times a day.

If you are compelled to express how wonderful you think someone's working dog is, a brief comment as you pass them by - rather than an attempt to stop a handler and start up a longer conversation about their dog - is often appreciated.



**DON'T**

**Don't pet (or ask to pet) a working dog**

- Even when it appears to be doing nothing, a working dog needs to be attentive to its handler at all times. If it realizes that it can get attention from someone other than its handler, it makes the dog less attentive to the person who needs its undivided attention - its handler.
- Many handlers of assistance dogs are limited in their mobility and the amount of physical affection they can give their dog. Assistance dogs will be content with the physical touch the handler provides as long as it is greater than what they get elsewhere.
- Assistance dogs are trained to rigorous standards. Dogs that are inattentive to their handlers, disobey handler commands, or are otherwise distracted can fail their public access test and be released from the program. Excessive attention and petting by members of the public often lead to this outcome.

**Don't feed a working dog**

All the logic for not petting applies to not feeding assistance dogs as well.

**Don't ask for (or give) training advice**

Never question the handler on how they are handling their dog, ask for training tips, or give them training advice. Working dogs are not pets and as such they are trained and handled differently than family dogs you may have previously encountered.

**Don't give commands to a working dog**

Do not command, call, whistle, or otherwise try to distract a working dog. This is inappropriate and disrespectful to the handler and dog.

