

Volunteers



VA
HEALTH
CARE | Defining
EXCELLENCE
in the 21st Century

Needed for a Study on

PTSD

The Study | "Can Service Dogs Improve Activity and Quality of Life in Veterans with PTSD?"
This study will compare Veterans who are paired with a **Service Dog** to Veterans who are paired with an **Emotional Support Dog**.

If you take part in the study you will receive either a Service Dog or an Emotional Support Dog.

Service Dogs

A Service Dog is a dog that is trained to complete **specialized tasks** to help a Veteran with a disability, in this case PTSD. A Service Dog may accompany the Veteran into public locations such as stores, restaurants and movie theaters.

Veterans randomly assigned to receiving a Service Dog are expected to:

- Travel to the dog vendor location to meet and be matched with their dog
- Undergo a 2-3 week training at the vendor location with their dog

Emotional Support Dogs

Emotional Support Dogs are trained in obedience and are generally well behaved. These dogs help individuals by providing **companionship**.

Emotional Support dogs have certain housing rights and they may ride on a plane with you. However, the dogs are not allowed access to public areas. Veterans randomly assigned to receiving an Emotional Support Dog are expected to:

- Participate in a day long in-home orientation session with their dog and the VA Dog Trainer

Expectations

If you qualify for the study, you will be expected to:

- Complete surveys every three months over the course of the study which will be a minimum of 21 months
- Complete and pass a dog care course
- Be willing to have assessment appointments at the VA and in your home throughout the study

Qualifications

The minimum requirements:

- Diagnosis of PTSD
- Referral from your current mental health provider and ongoing mental health treatment at the VA
- Do not have dogs, cats, or other household pets you are closely bonded to
- No children under age 10 years who live with you

VA Research

This is VA sponsored research study (*ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT02039843*) examining how service dogs could help Veterans with PTSD.

The study is entitled, "Can Service Dogs Improve Activity and Quality of Life in Veterans with PTSD?"

Contact Information

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