



# Guide Dogs for the Blind

800.295.4050 | [guidedogs.com](http://guidedogs.com)

## Guide Dog and Blindness Etiquette When You Meet a Working Guide Dog Team

Laws in the U.S. and Canada, including the Americans with Disabilities Act, permit people who have guide dogs the same access to places where the general public is allowed, including taxis, ride share vehicles, and all modes of public transportation, as well as restaurants, theaters, stores, schools, hotels, office buildings, and more. When you encounter a person with a guide dog, here are some important tips to keep in mind.

- Please do not pet or talk to a guide dog. The dog should never be distracted from its job of guiding a person. It is ok, however, to ask someone to meet their guide. Many people enjoy introducing their dogs if the time is right.
- Do not offer a guide dog food or other distracting treats.
- Please don't touch or steer a guide dog's harness.
- Keep your pet dog leashed and at a respectful distance.
- Refrain from calling out directions to a person with a guide dog or intentionally obstructing their path. The person and dog have been trained to navigate the environment safely and independently, including street crossings. Similarly, please don't honk your car horn to signal when it is safe to cross a street. Even with the best of intentions, such actions can be distracting, confusing, and dangerous.
- Please don't offer toys to a guide dog without asking the person's permission. Guide dogs enjoy ample play time when they are not working, but for their health and safety, they are only allowed to play with specific toys.