



## NEWSLETTER #10

### HOW IS FAKE SPOTTING HARMFUL TO THE SERVICE DOG COMMUNITY AND PUTTING POTENTIAL TEAMS IN DANGER

When service dog handlers go out of their way to point out fake service dogs in public, it can hurt the public's perception of legitimate service dogs and impact safety of genuine service dog handlers. Although most handlers believe they are doing this to expose the fakes to 'educate' the world on why its dangerous, it has been shown time and time again that its more harmful to legitimate teams in the long run. I am sure you are asking how?

- 1. Distrust and Suspicion:** Constantly pointing out fake service dogs may lead to general distrust or suspicion towards all service dogs, including legitimate ones. This can create a negative environment for genuine service dog teams and make it harder for them to access public spaces without facing unwarranted scrutiny.
- 2. Increased Scrutiny:** Genuine service dog handlers might face increased scrutiny and questioning from the public, which can be intrusive and stressful. This situation can make it challenging for individuals who rely on service dogs to navigate daily life without facing unnecessary challenges.
- 3. Safety Concerns:** Confronting individuals with fake service dogs can sometimes escalate into conflicts or confrontations that compromise the safety of both the genuine service dog handler and the public.

These situations can be emotionally distressing and potentially dangerous for everyone involved. Putting your dog in the line of a fake raises the potential for your service dog to be injured. It's also been seen time and time again that when handlers fake spot, they tend to end up being triggered into an attack which most likely could have been avoided in the first place. It's also exposing your service dog to a potentially dangerous unknown dog and individual who may take their anger out on those around them, including you. It's best that when you spot them, walk in the opposite direction and keep moving. Take note of where they are at. If they are leaving, then let it be. If they are actively in the store and it's clear they are not a legit team or the dog is out of control, once you get yourself and your service dog out of potential danger, simply let an employee know what is going on and where you saw it. There is no need to instigate, take your phone out and record. If you are truly worried about these instances, it is recommended to invest in a body camera to attach to yourself or your dog so that way while you are on your way to a safer place, it can capture if anything was to go wrong.

**4. Public Perception:** Public perception plays a significant role in shaping attitudes towards service dogs and their handlers. Constantly highlighting fake service dogs may influence how people perceive the legitimacy and importance of service animals, potentially leading to misunderstandings and misconceptions. It also gives service dog handlers the "Karen" title, which tends to make us even more angry and with some, combative. It seems that with the internet taking over more and more of our lives, it's becoming easier and easier to capture everything at every moment of our lives. But, there should be a time and place for everything and safety is the number one priority. Until laws truly change, fake spotting isn't going to change anything. Again, as it has been shown, it only hurts us legitimate teams. You can see this within the comments and responses to all of the fake spotting videos out there on social media.

While it is important to address the issue of fake service dogs, it is crucial to do so in a way that educates the public without creating negative implications for legitimate service dog teams and their handlers. This delicate balance ensures that genuine service dog handlers can access the necessary support and accommodations without unnecessary obstacles or challenges.

Service dog teams can take proactive steps to educate the public on the dangers of bringing pets into non-pet-friendly environments in the following ways:

- 1. Public Awareness Campaigns:** Service dog teams can collaborate with local organizations or advocacy groups to launch public awareness campaigns highlighting the importance of respecting pet-free spaces. This can include distributing informational materials, organizing events, or leveraging social media platforms to reach broader audience.
- 2. Educational Presentations:** Service dog teams can offer educational presentations at schools, community centers, public events to raise about the rights and responsibilities of service dog handlers. These presentations can cover topics such as the impact of fake service dogs, the legal protections afforded to genuine service dog teams, and the potential risks associated with bringing pets into prohibited areas.
- 3. Engage with Businesses:** Service dog teams can engage with businesses, restaurants, and other establishments to provide training sessions on how to identify legitimate service dogs and handle situations involving pets in non-pet-friendly environments. By fostering positive relationships with these entities, service dog teams can help promote a better understanding of the issue and ensure that their rights are respected.
- 4. Create Informative Materials:** Service dog teams can develop informative materials, such as brochures, flyers, or cards that explain the difference between service dogs and pets, as well as the potential risks posed by fake service dogs. These materials can be distributed in public spaces, veterinary clinics, pet stores, or other relevant locations to reach a diverse audience.

**5. Participate in Community Events:** Service dog teams can participate in community events, fairs, or expos to interact with the public and answer questions about service dogs and their role in society. By engaging directly with community members, service dog teams can dispel misconceptions, raise awareness, and foster a more inclusive and understanding environment for both service dogs and their handlers.

By actively engaging with the public through education, outreach and advocacy efforts, service dog teams can play a vital role in promoting greater awareness of the dangers of bringing pets into non-pet-friendly environments and advocating for the rights and safety of genuine service dog teams.

We would love to hear your thoughts on this topic. If you have any questions, comments, or would like to share your own experiences, please don't hesitate to reach out to us. Our team is here to support you every step of the way.

Thank you for joining us on the exciting journey. Stay tuned for our upcoming newsletters as we dive deeper into the fascinating world of service dogs.

**Warm regards,**

**The Pup-Cessories Crafts Team**

Soon to be re-branded as "Koda the Corso Dog Training & Gear by PC"