GET READY .govt.nz

BAY OF PLENTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT GROUP

Disability Assist Dog identification tags

Why register?

In an emergency you may be faced with many stresses and need to make many decisions. By registering your Disability Assist Dog you can take comfort in knowing that your faithful companion will be welcomed wherever you may be.

The Disability Assist Dog identification tag is not compulsory but it will:

- allow a Disability Assist Dog to be easily recognised which will allow you easy access to civil defence centres in an emergency
- help quickly reunite you and your dog if you are separated.



A Disability Assist Dog or Service Animal is:

"A specially trained animal used by a person with a disability to help with daily living."

Disability Assist Dogs (or Service Animal)

These animals are allowed by law to accompany their owners anywhere. They have been certified as a dog trained, or in training, to assist a person with a disability. Organisations that certify animals include:

- Hearing Dogs for Deaf People New Zealand
- Mobility Assistance Dogs Trust
- New Zealand Epilepsy Assist Dogs Trust
- Blind Low Vision NZ
- Top Dog Companion Trust Hearing Dogs for Deaf People New Zealand
- Assistance Dogs New Zealand Trust
- Perfect Partners Assistance Dogs Trust
- Pawsible Service Dogs
- K9 Medical Detection New Zealand

The Bay of Plenty Civil Defence website has information on the types of hazards facing the region, hints on what to do in an emergency, has up-to-date emergency status and other helpful information.

www.bopcivildefence.govt.nz
www.facebook.com/BOPCivilDefence

How can I get a Disability Assist Dog identification card?

Once your dog is certified, or is in formal training, it needs to be micro chipped and certified as an Disability Assist Dog.



The National Service Dog ID Card is an identification card for disability assist dog teams that is issued and managed by authorised Schedule 5, Dog Control Act organisations.

The certifying organisation will then issue you with an ID card, that your dog can wear on a jacket or harness, or you can carry on your person. If your dog is already certified or in formal training, contact the organisation that certified you to get your ID card.

National Dog Database

The certifying organisation then lets the local council know that a tag has been issued. The council is then responsible for updating the National Dog Database.

We also recommend that Disability Assist Dogs are registered on the New Zealand Companion Animal Register (NZCAR), however this process is not done automatically.

Find out more on the register at www.animalregister.co.nz



In training - 12 week old Labrador pup Logan



Wendy Isaacs with Logan from the Assistance Dogs New Zealand Trust

Will I, as an owner/handler of a Disability Assist Dog with an identification tag, be checked on in an emergency?

No. You and/or your household still need to personally prepare for emergencies.

Like your disability-related supplies, the service animal and pet supplies should be part of your basic disaster supply kit or your portable emergency kit. This would depend on whether you evacuate or are confined to your home. Your service animal and pet supplies kit could include

- food and water
- collar, leash and harness
- bowl
- a familiar toy/blanket
- identification tags
- plastic bags for collecting and disposing of faeces
- basic antibiotic cream from your verterinarian
- pad protectors to protect against glass and debris or hot surfaces

The National Emergency Management Agency's Get Ready website includes information to help to get prepared, including specific information for people with disabilities.

www.getready.govt.nz