

*Using the stories of disabled Veterans who use PTSD Service Dogs as part of their treatment, PTSDog explains how PTSD Service Dogs work, the laws that regulate their use, and shares the stories of Veterans whose lives have changed through the use of a PTSDog.*

## **PTSDog: POST TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER AND THE SERVICE DOG**

by Joaquin Juatai

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★ Joaquin Juatai ★

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This book details the author's personal experiences with and opinions about PTSD and PTSD Service Dogs. The author is not a licensed therapist or dog trainer.

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*Photo by Joaquin Juatai*

*For Denali Vi'iya Talkeena (Skeeter)*

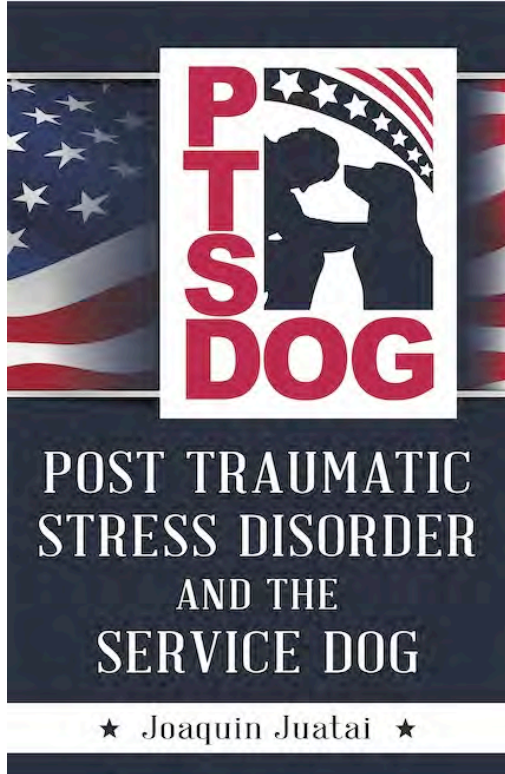
*The puppy saved my life.  
The dog gave me a mission.*



PTSDog Skeeter. Photo by Joaquin Juatai.

## SKEETER'S TIPS ON WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU SEE A SERVICE DOG

- **KEEP CALM:** it's a dog, not a unicorn.
- **TALK TO THE PERSON HANDLING THE DOG:** The dog is there in a medical capacity to assist that person with a disability.
- **DON'T DISTRACT THE DOG:** Don't make eye contact, don't do baby talk, whistle, bark, whatever. That dog is working. Allow it to focus on its handler.
- **PLEASE DON'T BE RUDE:** Asking a person why they need a Service Dog is the same as that person asking you for your medical history. They are disabled. That's all you need to know.
- **DON'T PET THE DOG WITHOUT ASKING:** EVER!
- **PLEASE DON'T SAY SOMETHING LIKE:** "I wish I could take my dog everywhere with me." That dog is there because its handler is disabled. No one (sane) wishes they were disabled.
- **BUSINESS OWNERS:** "In situations where it is not obvious that the dog is a service animal, staff may ask only two specific questions: 1) is the dog a service animal required because of a disability? And 2) what work or task has the dog been trained to perform? Staff are not allowed to request any documentation for the dog, require that the dog demonstrate its task, or inquire about the nature of the person's disability."
- **ACT LIKE THE DOG IS NOT THERE:** A Service Dog is functionally (and legally) considered medical equipment. Would you talk to a wheelchair or coo at a walker? Then why do it to a Service Dog?
- **NEVER MAKE ASSUMPTIONS BASED ON THE DOG'S BREED:** There are no breed restrictions on Service Dogs according to the law.
- **DO NOT LET YOUR CHILDREN CHARGE UP ON THE DOG!!!**



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