

Laws and Codes in Israel Regarding Blind People Assisted by Guide Dogs

The following is a summary of the law forbidding discrimination against persons with blindness assisted by guide dogs:

The following laws are based upon the idea that it is forbidden to discriminate against a person with blindness who is assisted by a guide dog.

Any person assisted by a guide dog is entitled to enter any public domain without limitations. This is anchored in the law that states that a person with blindness must not be separated from their guide dog.

The Law Forbidding Discrimination against Persons with Blindness Assisted by Guide Dogs, Passed by the Knesset on January 18th, 1993

1. "Public domain" refers to any place that is open to the general public, without exception.
2. The fact that a person is accompanied by a guide dog will not serve as grounds for refusing them employment.
3. No limitations will be placed upon the right of a person assisted by a guide dog to enter any public domain, or to use the facilities within it, or to use public transport.
4. Anyone failing to adhere to these laws is subject to punishment by fine.

The law regarding guide dogs riding on public transport according to the Code of Transportation

- A. Code 462 B obligates bus drivers to transport blind passengers accompanied by a guide dog
- B. Code 508 obligates taxi drivers to carry a blind passenger accompanied by a guide dog.
- C. The dog must be on a leash but does not need to wear a muzzle.

It is against the law to refuse the use of public transport to a blind person assisted by a guide dog.

Restaurants:

The 1983 business licensing law regarding health regulations for restaurants was amended in 2004 with a clause regarding guide dogs. The amendment states that animals are not permitted in restaurants except for guide dogs for the blind.

Public Swimming Pools:

The 1994 business licensing law regarding health regulations for public swimming pools was amended in 2004 with a clause regarding guide dogs.

The amendment states that people are not allowed to bring animals into the pool area except for guide dogs for the blind.

Note:

It is important for visitors to Israel to remember that it is a multi-cultural country where people of different religious and ethnic groups live side by side. The Israel Guide Dog Center and other organizations work constantly to increase public

awareness of the importance of guide dogs and of the necessity of adhering to these access laws. However, it takes many years to educate people and to change firmly embedded cultural and religious beliefs!

Despite the access laws, there are still members of various cultural and religious groups in Israel such as Muslims, Christians, and Orthodox Jews who do not accept dogs. For this reason you may encounter problems when attempting to enter restaurants, businesses, and places of worship in certain areas.

In national parks and wildlife reserves any dog is liable to frighten and disrupt native wildlife and birds. For this reason visitors may not be permitted to enter with a guide dog. These places often provide a safe place where guide dogs can remain during the visit.

These access laws apply to the State of Israel, but not within the Palestinian Authority or East Jerusalem.

Requirements for entering Israel with a Guide Dog

The dog must have a microchip for identification.

The dog must be vaccinated against rabies and annual booster shots must be kept up to date.

Dogs must pass a blood test to verify that the dog has sufficient antibodies against rabies. The test, known as a titer test, must be performed at least three calendar months before entering Israel.

Dogs must have a health certificate from the U.S. or the ANNEX IV form issued and signed by a local and government veterinarian stating that the dog is healthy and vaccinated against rabies.

Dogs should be treated against *Spirocerca lupi* (park worm or esophagus worm) as a precaution before traveling to Israel.