

It's easy –  
get prepared

**GET READY  
GET THRU** 

## 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
- Royal New Zealand Foundation of the Blind
- Top Dog Companion Trust Hearing Dogs for Deaf People New Zealand
- Assistance Dogs New Zealand Trust
- Perfect Partners Assistance Dogs Trust.

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.

## How can I get a Disability Assist Dog identification tag?

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



The certifying organisation will then issue you with a tag. If your dog is already certified or in formal training, contact the organisation that certified you to get your tag.


### Will there be a fee?

A small fee may be charged by the authorised Disability Assist Dog certifying organisation to offset the cost of the identification tags. Once in place the tag is valid across New Zealand and for the working life of your dog.

## 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](http://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 items such as:

- 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 veterinarian
- pad protectors to protect against glass and debris or hot surfaces

The Ministry of Civil Defence and Emergency Management's Get Ready Get Thru website includes information to help to get prepared, including specific information for people with disabilities.

 [www.getthru.govt.nz](http://www.getthru.govt.nz)