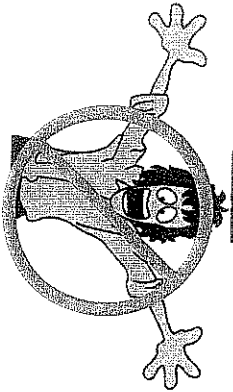
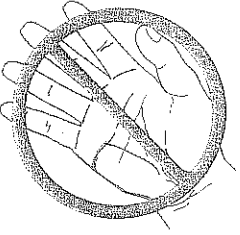


WHEN YOU SEE A WORKING

DOG:



Don't call out to, make noises at, or maintain eye contact with a working dog when you encounter it. He could seriously injure his partner if he's suddenly distracted. When in harness, the dog is "on duty" and needs to stay focused on what his human partner needs him to do.



Do not reach out to pet a working dog. The dog is "on duty," when in harness, even if he is just lying quietly at his person's side.

If you absolutely cannot resist, ask the person first if you may pet the dog. And do not be disappointed if he/she says no. There may be a very

good reason why petting is not appropriate at that time.

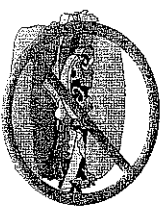
If a person gives you permission to pet his dog once, don't automatically assume you can pet the dog every time you see it. It is ***not*** a pet, and when on duty, the dog must have permission ***every*** time to interact with someone.

Don't give a working dog commands. He could become confused if too many people try to tell him what to do. He needs to focus on---and obey---only his partner.

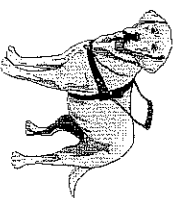
Don't interfere with the dog's handler. He/she has been properly trained to deal with the dog if a mistake has been made.

Don't be alarmed if you hear the dog told to 'Hurry Up.' Working dogs have commands for toileting. Remember, too, that the handler cleans up after the dog, and he/she must make sure the dog leaves the droppings in easy pick-up reach.

Don't give a working dog "people food." His own dog food is nutritionally balanced. And, when the dog is working in public places like grocery stores or restaurants, it's most important that he not be distracted by food.



Don't assume that a person with a dog in harness is blind. Guide Dogs have been around for over 70 years. But dogs are also trained to assist people who are hearing-impaired or mobility-impaired.



If you have any questions or concerns about the dog, please ask the handler. These dogs are beautiful animals, not just in terms of how they look, but also in the way they bond and work with their human partners. People who use canine assistance are happy to talk about their helpers!