



## BEHAVIORAL ASSESSMENT & TRAINING OF A SERVICE DOG

As a Service Dog, your animal assistant will be able to accompany you into any publicly accessible area, including restaurants, museums, airports and airplanes, theaters, stores, parks, etc.

**Our consultation will be assessing your dog's current abilities to determine what training is required to ensure that your companion is stable, well-behaved, and unobtrusive to the public. We first ensure that you have control over the dog and that, as a team, you do not pose a public hazard.**

Safe to be in public, and owner can demonstrate control of the dog at all times.

- 1) manageable in public,
- 2) that you have control over the dog, and
- 3) the dog is trained to perform a major life task that you have difficulty performing for yourself because of your disability.

**To be eligible a dog must be adequately trained to qualify as a service dog and be able to pass 3 Criteria:**

**Temperament**

**Public Access**

**Needed Tasks & the dog's ability to perform**

### THE 3 STEP PROCESS:

#### STEP I

##### **(TEMPERAMENT) BEHAVIORAL ASSESSMENT TESTING**

The Behavioral Assessment will ensure that your dog is stable. A dog must be of soft temperament and not overly excited, growling, biting, raising hackles, showing teeth, fearful, anxious or demonstrate other unmanageable behaviors.

#### STEP II

##### **PRIMARY COMMANDS AND CONTROLS {PUBLIC ACCESS TESTING}**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Service animals have legal access to all public areas as long as they are appropriately leashed and controlled by their handler. The canine must be harnessed, leashed, or tethered, unless the individual's disability prevents using these devices or these devices interfere with the service animal's safe, effective performance of tasks. The individual must maintain control of the animal through voice, signal, or other effective controls.



For requirements for smaller breed dogs that can be carried in a cage or crate are:

- 1) the dog is manageable and not a public hazard or nuisance to the public (winning, crying or barking)
- 2) that you have control over the dog,

## TESTING

1. **CONTROLL GETTING OUT OF A VEHICLE:** The service dog must wait until released before coming out of the vehicle. Once outside, it must wait quietly unless otherwise instructed by the Individual. The service dog may not run around, be off lead, or ignore commands. Your pup must be unobtrusive and unloaded in the safest manner possible.
2. **APPROACHING A BUILDING:** After unloading, the service dog should stay in a relative heel position and not forge ahead or lag behind. The service dog should not display a fear of cars or traffic noises and must display a relaxed attitude. When you stop for any reason, the service dog should also stop.
3. **CONTROLL ENTERING AN ESTABLISHMENT:** Upon entering a building, the service dog should not vocalize, pull or seek attention from the public. The service dog should wait quietly until you are fully inside, and then should calmly walk beside you. The service dog must not pull or strain against the lead or try to push its way past the individual but should wait patiently while entry is completed.
4. **HEELING & ATTENTIVE THROUGH A BUILDING:** Once inside a building, you and your service dog should be able to walk through the area in a controlled manner. The service dog should always be within touching distance where applicable or no greater than a foot away from you. The service dog should not seek public attention or strain against the lead (except in cases where the service dog may be pulling your wheelchair, if applicable). The service dog should readily adjust to speed changes, turn corners promptly, and travel through a crowded area without interacting with the public. In tight quarters, such as store aisles, the service dog must be able to get out of the way of obstacles and not destroy merchandise by knocking it over or attempting to get it.
5. **SIX FOOT RECALL ON LEAD:** You should be able to sit your dog, leave it, travel six feet, then turn and call the service dog to you. The service dog should respond promptly and not stop to solicit attention from the public or ignore the command. The service dog should come close enough to you to be readily touched. The recall should be smooth and deliberate without your service dog trudging to you or taking any detours along the way.
6. **SIT:** Your service dog must respond promptly each time you give it a sit command, with no more than two commands with no extraordinary gestures.
7. **DOWN/STAY/LEAVE IT:** After your service dog follows the down command, food should be able to be dropped on the floor. Your service dog should not break the down to go for the food or sniff at the food. You may give corrections to maintain the down, but without any extraordinary gestures. When approached by an adult and or child the service dog should maintain the down and not solicit attention. If the child pets the dog, the service dog must behave appropriately and not break the stay. The individual may give corrections if the service dog begins to break the stay.
8. **NOISE DISTRACTION:** Your service dog may acknowledge nearby noises but may not in any way show aggression or fear. A normal startle reaction is fine (the service dog may jump and or turn), but the service dog should quickly recover and continue along on the heel. The service dog should not become aggressive, shake or cower.



9. **RESTAURANT:** While seated at a dining table (restaurant or other suitably alternative location), your service dog should go under the table or, if size prevents that, stay close by the individual. If the service dog is a very small breed and is placed on the seat beside you, it must lie down. The service dog must sit or lie down and may move a bit for comfort during the meal but should not be up and down a lot or need a lot of correction or reminding.
10. **DROPPING THE LEAD:** While your service dog is on the leash, drop the leash while moving so it is apparent to the dog. You should be able to maintain control of the service dog and get the leash back in its appropriate position. This exercise will vary greatly depending on your disability. The main concern is that the service dog be aware that the leash is dropped, and that the person is able to maintain control of the dog and get the leash back into proper position.
11. **CONTROL EXITING AN ESTABLISHMENT:** When you leave a building the dog should be in appropriate heel position and not display any fear of vehicle or traffic sounds.

### STEP 3

#### DISABILITY AND TASKS

Now it is time to review your current circumstances and work on the necessary task (s):

To be considered a service dog, the dog must be fully trained to perform a task or work related to the owner's disability. **According to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), your service dog must be trained & able to perform an essential function (major life task) for you that you have difficulty performing for yourself because of your impairment.**

Specially trained service dogs perform complex tasks such as:

Guiding the blind, Alerting deaf people to sounds, Opening doors or cupboards for people in wheelchairs, Alerting handlers of impending seizures and Helping veterans during PTSD-related panic attacks. providing comfort during moments of anxiety or panic with pawing, pressure or licking, reminding handlers to take medication, interrupting psychotic episodes or dissociative events, or providing a buffer against crowds or other triggering threats.

**TASK BEHAVIORS INCLUDE** - body pressure, carry, drag, find it, guide, lick face/hands, pawing, pull, vocalizing, retrieve, target. Does your dog already do or offer these life assisting skills?

#### ALERT BEHAVIORS

Alert a family member

Alert handler to another person crying/calling/yelling

Alert for help

#### FIND

Help, handler, the car or other person or item

#### GUIDE

home, to an exit, to specific item, location or to a specific person

#### INTERRUPTION

Interrupt anxiety attacks, crying, disassociation, flashbacks, freezing behavior, harmful behaviors, nightmares, repetitive behaviors, scratching/skin picking

#### MEDICAL



Alert to allergen in food or in the area  
Alert to dangerous medical levels in the body  
Anxiety, blood pressure, blood sugar, cortisol, need to cough, panic attack, seizure

### **MOBILITY**

Counter balance and position changes (sitting to standing, laying to sitting, etc.)  
Counter-balance handler  
Push or pull forward or up incline momentum (in a wheelchair)  
Forward momentum while walking or moving up stairs

### **NOISE/SOUND**

Alert to sounds such as alarm, car horn, phone, siren, door bell ringing/knocking, car horn, dropped items

### **OPEN/CLOSE**

pulling with tug or pushing closed with nose or paw  
bathroom, cabinet, dishwasher, doors, drawer, sliding door, refrigerator  
Press a handicapped button - Turn on/Turn off Tasks with paw, nose or teeth.

### **REMINDERS**

Meals, take medication, go to sleep, wake up

### **RETRIEVE**

Carry, Pull or Drag from/to  
Retrieve items that are pointed to  
Retrieve clothing, dropped items, medication, mobility items (wheelchair, cane, walker, etc.), phone, purse/wallet, remote, shoes, tissue, towel  
Give to a cashier, drop in the wastebasket

### **OTHER TASKS**

Check the house (enter ahead of handler and check for intruders)  
Crowd control (circling handler)  
Distraction or excuse to leave uncomfortable situation  
Deep pressure therapy  
Tactile stimulation

## **ASSESSMENT COMPLETE**

