



Service Dog Training

BNA Dog Training can assist individuals who are working to train their dogs to become either an Emotional Support Animal or to train their dogs in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) for completing the necessary training of a Service Dog.

Is your dog on its way to be trained & able to perform as essential functioning major life “task” that is difficult performing due to an impairment?

*We begin by determining which route to take.
Is this an Emotional Support Animal or a Service Dog?*

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) expressly distinguishes between two types of dogs. One being an Emotional Support Animal (ESA). The ESA is a well mannered dog under it’s owners control who may provide the comfort or emotional support of it’s handler while a Service Dog has also been rigorously trained in appropriate manners and able to perform 1 or more disability-mitigating “tasks”.

A service animal is a dog that is individually trained to perform a “task” or tasks for a person with a disability. A “task” is a trained behavior that minimizes the negative characteristics of a person's disability by doing something the disabled person cannot do for him or herself, yet he/she must be able to do to function in daily living. (If an individual would benefit from a trained behavior but can more or less do it for themselves then it does not qualify as a “task”.)

The American’s with Disabilities Act (ADA) recognize Psychiatric service dogs as legitimate as any other type of service dog.

The ways a Psychiatric & PTSD Service Dogs assist their person is by:

- 1. Bringing a sense of love*
- 2. Providing good companionship*
- 3. Taking orders & performing trained tasks*
- 4. Helping reduce stress, anxiety and depression*
- 5. Help the individual in social situations and to meet new people*

These dogs can individually act by:

- 1. Assisting in a medical crises*
- 2. Assisting in treatment by subtle reminders*
- 3. Giving the individual a sense of security*
- 4. Helping the individual handle emotional trauma through companionship*



The work & tasks that the dog is trained to perform can significantly reduce anxiety by calming persons with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) or other psychiatric conditions who struggle in performing activities of daily living (ADL).

Behaviors taught to dogs to assist people to better cope with fear and anxiety include:

Providing a physical barrier between their partner and the public.

Provide stress reducing pressure on trained body points.

Provide a social bridge as a point of conversation.

Retrieving medication.

Waking up their handler if he or she is having a night terror.

Searching the home to alleviate symptoms of hypervigilance.

Guiding their handler home during a dissociative episode.

Initiating intervention during handlers sensory overload.

Grounding their handler during a flashback.

Specific Interruption Tasks

Dog will cause a distraction which can assist the handler in many circumstances. Training to interrupt a flashback, nightmare, panic attack, self-harm, harm to others, disassociation, freezing out of fear and repetitive behaviors.

Interruptions improve the effects of mood swings, depression and anxiety.

Dogs can interrupt by licking the handler's face or hands, lying on his or her chest, nuzzling, or instigating play by bringing a toy or stick to the owner.

Movement Tasks

PTSD or Anxiety Disorders – When in a crowd & Being Approached by someone from behind or entering a house or building without knowing what to expect.

Crowd control - dog will circle the the handler in a crowded place in order to create a barrier between the handler and other people.

The dog will sit or stand facing outward near the handler, and rise to block the handler if a person approaches.

The dog will cover the back of the handler to make sure he is not approached from behind.

The dog can enter a house or building and check the perimeters and provide reassurance to the handler that it is safe to enter.

RULES & NEEDS:

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.

The National Service Animal Registry (NSAR) recognizes that individuals may train their own service dog and will supply you with identification to allow your service dog to accompany you anywhere you want or need to go.

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.



A dog must be adequately trained to qualify as a service dog and be able to pass the NSAR Public Access Test to ensure that your dog is stable, well-behaved, under your control and does not pose a public hazard.

Behavioral assessment: growling, biting, raising hackles, showing teeth, or unmanageable behavior.

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

1) the service dog is manageable in public,

2) that you have control over the dog, and

3) the dog is trained or otherwise able to perform a major life task for you that you have difficulty performing for yourself because of your disability.

PRIMARY Commands and Controls

GETTING OUT OF A VEHICLE: Wait until released before coming out of a vehicle. Once outside, it must wait quietly until instructed by the individual. The dog may not run around, be off lead, or ignore commands.

APPROACHING A BUILDING: Stay in a relative heel position and not forge ahead or lag behind. The dog should not be fearful of cars, traffic or noises in the environment and must appear alert and relaxed. When you stop for any reason, the service dog should also stop.

ENTERING THROUGH A DOORWAY: Upon entering a building, the dog should not wander off or seek attention. The dog should wait quietly and patiently until you are fully inside and calmly walk beside you. The dog must not pull or strain against the lead or try to push its way past.

HEEL: Be able to enter any establishment and walk through the area in a controlled manner within touching distance or no greater than a foot away. The service dog should not seek public attention or strain against the lead. The 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 play with it.

SIX FOOT RECALL ON LEAD: You should be able to sit your dog, leave it, travel six feet, then turn and call the dog to you. The 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 dog trudging to you or taking detours.

SIT ON COMMAND: Your dog must respond promptly each time you give it a sit command with no extraordinary gestures.

DOWNS ON COMMAND: After your dog follows the down command, food should be dropped on the floor. Your dog should not break the down to go for the food or sniff at the food. Then an adult and child should approach your dog. The dog should maintain the down and not solicit attention. If the child pets the dog, the dog must behave appropriately and not break the stay.

NOISE DISTRACTION: Your dog may acknowledge nearby noises, but may not in any way show aggression or fear. A normal startle reaction is fine but the dog should quickly recover and continue along on the heel.



RESTAURANT: While seated at a dining table (restaurant or other suitably alternative location), your dog should go under the table or, if size prevents that, stay close by the individual. If the dog is a very small breed and is placed on the seat beside you, it must lie down. The dog must sit or lie down and may move a bit for comfort during the meal, but should not be up and down or need correction or reminding.

OFF LEAD: You should be able to maintain control of the dog and get the leash if dropped. The dog should 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 position.

Qualifications include: 1... Obtaining a letter written by a licensed mental health professional (therapist, psychologist, psychiatrist) that states the person is psychiatrically disabled to the degree that the person is unable to perform at least one major life task without assistance on a day to day basis. The practitioner must be in practice in the same state in which the individual resides.

