



ADB: Paws For Life Service Dog Program

Minimum Training Standards for Public Access

ADB's primary mission is to train service dogs for those who are disabled. As part of this we seek to promote the responsible use of access rights in the disabled community.

For over 80 years, service dogs have worked successfully in public and won the public's acceptance by achieving high behavioral and training standards which set them apart from pets and other animals. Their exemplary conduct led to state legislatures granting access rights to the blind, deaf and mobility impaired. Those early teams paved the way for the Americans With Disabilities Act, which has opened the door to individuals with a wide range of physical and mental impairments being able to have access rights.

Animals Deserve Better, Inc., and its Paws for Life Program have a set of Minimum Training Standards for Public Access. These are drawn from the Minimum Training Standards for Service Dogs first established a decade ago by Assistance Dogs International (ADI) with consumer input from other organizations.

As a disabled person you want the right to be accompanied by your assistance dog in public, and we encourage you to meet or exceed our minimum standards set forth below for a service dog for public access.

ADB's Minimum Training Standards for Public Access

- A: Amount of Instructed Schooling:** a service dog should be given a minimum of fifty two (52) hours of schooling over a period of twelve months or more.* Plus an additional ten (10) hours should be devoted to outings that will prepare the dog to work obediently and unobtrusively in public places.**

B: Home Schooling: since your service dog is being trained on the job with you, their daily routine will require that you continue and implement the instructed schooling that has been given. You must follow through with the assignments given if you are to ensure a successfully trained service dog and enable both of you to pass the Public Access Test.

- 2. Obedience Training:** a dog must master the basic obedience skills: "Sit, Stay, Come, Down, Heel" and a dropped leash recall in a store in response to verbal commands and/or hand signals.

- 3. Manners:** a dog must acquire proper social behavior skills. It includes at a minimum:

1

**P.O. Box 72016, Marietta, GA 30007-2016 Phone: 770-402-0297 Fax: 770-579-8289
Tax ID: 86-1094919**

501c3 non-profit - no kill animal rescue, service dog trainer, provider and humane education organization – all volunteer
Copyright 2013 Animals Deserve Better, Inc Paws For Life Program. All Rights Reserved

- No aggressive behavior toward people or other animals - no biting, snapping, snarling, growling or lunging and barking at them when working off your property.
- No soliciting food or petting from other people while on duty.
- No sniffing merchandise or people or intruding into another dog's space while on duty.
- Socialize to tolerate strange sights, sounds, odors etc. in a wide variety of public settings.
- Ignores food on the floor or dropped in the dog's vicinity while working outside the home.
- Works calmly on leash. No unruly behavior or unnecessary vocalizations in public settings.
- No urinating or defecating in public unless given a specific command or signal to toilet in an appropriate place.

4. Disability Related Tasks: the dog must be individually trained to perform identifiable tasks on command or cue for the benefit of the disabled human partner. This includes alerting to sounds, medical problems, certain scents like peanuts or situations if training is involved.

For a definition of a "task" and "individually trained," and "what is not a task" and many examples of tasks performed by different kinds of assistance dogs please see your service dog folder information.

5. Prohibited Training: Any training that arouses a dog's prey drive or fear to elicit a display of aggression for guard or defense purposes is strictly prohibited. Non aggressive barking as a trained behavior is permitted in appropriate situations.

6. ADB's Trainers Responsibilities: Trainers function as ambassadors for the service dog movement. This includes a disabled owner trainer, a provider's staff or a volunteer with a puppy or adult dog "in training." It also includes a service dog partner or able bodied facilitator helping a disabled loved one to keep up a service dog's training. At a minimum, you should:

- Know pertinent canine laws (i.e. leash laws and public access laws)
- Ensure the dog is healthy, flea free and the rabies vaccination is up to date
- Take time to make sure your dog is well groomed and free of any foul odor
- Show respect and consideration to other people and property.
- Use humane training methods; monitor the dog's stress level; provide rest breaks.
- Carry clean up materials. Arrange for prompt clean up if a dog eliminates or gets sick.
- Be polite and willing to educate the public about assistance dogs and access rights.

* The 52 hours of schooling does not include the time invested in homework training sessions between obedience classes or private lessons from any of our experienced dog trainers. ** Eligibility for Certification from ADB Paws for Life Minimum Training Standards for Public Access requires that we document the hours of school training you and your dog received over a period of twelve months or more.

2

**P.O. Box 72016, Marietta, GA 30007-2016 Phone: 770-402-0297 Fax: 770-579-8289
Tax ID: 86-1094919**

501c3 non-profit - no kill animal rescue, service dog trainer, provider and humane education organization – all volunteer
Copyright 2013 Animals Deserve Better, Inc Paws For Life Program. All Rights Reserved

PUBLIC ACCESS TEST

An excellent tool for evaluating a team's readiness to graduate [e.g. finish up formal training] is the Public Access Certification Test (PACT) which we will give you. The ADB Public Access Certification Test was developed a few years ago as a consumer protection measure by the ADB Team Testing Committee. Overall, the goal of the test is to discover whether or not a particular team is ready to go places out in public without trainer supervision. The safety of the dog, the handler and the public were the main considerations in developing the specific exercises for testing the team.

This test creates a level playing field, since it does not matter whether it is a guide, hearing or service dog team being tested or who trained the dog. What matters is the team's performance. Every ADB program is required to administer this test before graduating and credentialing a team.

Disability mitigating tasks or work is not critiqued during the test. However, to establish your dog's eligibility to take this test to become a service dog, an ADB trainer will document throughout the training period three service dog tasks, sound alerts or a series of tasks known as "guide dog work." To document the dog performance tasks in the home such as seizure response work, alerting to an attack of hypoglycemia late at night or fetching a portable phone, pen, shoe or beverage, we request that you inform us of this alert/assist so we can document your training file.

The Public Access Test evaluates the dog's obedience and manners and the handler's skills in a variety of situations which include: (this is a brief version see folder for full information on test).

A. The handler's abilities to: (1) safely load and unload the dog from a vehicle; (2) enter a public place without losing control of the dog; (3) to recover the leash if accidentally dropped, and (4) to cope calmly with an access problem if an employee or customer questions the individual's right to bring a dog into that establishment.

B. The dog's ability to: (1) safely cross a parking lot, halt for traffic, and ignore distractions; (2) heel through narrow aisles; (3) hold a Sit-Stay when a shopping cart passes by or when a person stops to chat and pets the dog; (4) hold a Down Stay when a child approaches and briefly pets the dog; (5) hold a Sit Stay when someone drops food on the floor; hold a Down Stay when someone sets a plate of food on the floor within 18" of the dog, then removes it a minute later. [the handler may say "Leave It" to help the dog resist the temptation.] (6) remain calm if someone else holds the leash while the handler moves 20 ft. away; (7) remain calm while another dog passes within 6 ft. of the team during the test. This can occur in a parking lot or store.

*** Photographs will be taken of the team during training and the PACT.

ADB holds an ethical position that the amount of training given to a service dog should NEVER fall below the minimum level needed to pass this Public Access Test.

NOTE: After passing the Public Access Test a certificate will be issued to the handler certifying that their dog has been trained as a Service Dog for the Disabled.

CERTIFICATION is not required in the USA. Many states lack programs willing to certify dogs that did not go through that program's training course. The Dept. of Justice decided to foster "an honor system," therefore ADB's program is designed to provide all the necessary training requirements to provide handlers and their dogs certification by making the tasks the dog is trained to perform on command or cue to assist a disabled person, being, the primary way to differentiate between a service animal and a pet.

AKC Canine Good Citizen (CGC) Test: Another way we document the training of your dog to be safe around other dogs and people while working out in public is to pass what is known as the "CGC" test. ADB includes this test and the training to the point where you can pass it with flying colors. Those who pass receive an impressive looking Certificate signed by the AKC evaluator.

If you have any questions about the Minimum Training Standards for Public Access set forth by ADB or anything else, please feel free to contact Kimberly Brenowitz at adb@animalsdeservebetter.com

DEFINITIONS

What is a Task?

A task is a certain desired behavior or set of behaviors the dog is trained to habitually perform in response to a command or a particular situation such as the onset of a seizure, which cues the dog to perform a task. The task must be related to your disabling condition, helping you in some way.

What is meant by "individually trained"?

A dog has been "individually trained" to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of a disabled individual when the dog is deliberately taught to exhibit the desired behavior or sequence of behaviors by rewarding the dog for the right response(s) and communicating, if only through silence, when the dog has made the wrong response in a particular situation. A task is learned when the dog reliably exhibits the desired behavior whenever needed to assist his/her partner on command or cue. An example of work that is individually trained would be that performed by a guide dog, who takes directional commands, goes around obstacles in the team's path, halts to indicate a curb or some other change in elevation and refuses the "Forward" command in specific situations that would result in injury, such as an automobile entering the team's path. Examples of individually trained tasks include retrieving a phone, providing deep pressure therapy during a panic attack or providing balance support on a staircase to prevent a fall.

What is NOT an individually trained task?

Spontaneous behavior a dog occasionally exhibits such as licking someone's face or barking does not qualify as a "trained task" under ADA even if it accidentally or coincidentally has a beneficial result. While everyone enjoys the emotional, social and safety benefits that a dog's presence can provide, those

4

P.O. Box 72016, Marietta, GA 30007-2016 Phone: 770-402-0297 Fax: 770-579-8289

Tax ID: 86-1094919

501c3 non-profit - no kill animal rescue, service dog trainer, provider and humane education organization – all volunteer
Copyright 2013 Animals Deserve Better, Inc Paws For Life Program. All Rights Reserved

benefits do not constitute trained tasks that would transform a disabled person's pet into a legitimate Service Dog under ADA.

Why are individually trained Tasks so important?

Trained tasks that mitigate the effects of a disabling condition are the legal basis for granting access rights to disabled handlers under the Americans with Disabilities Act. A service dog with this special training is viewed as assistive technology / medical equipment, not as a pet. Businesses have the right to ask a disabled person, "What Tasks does your service animal perform?" This question can be asked if there is any doubt about the dog's legal status and whether to impose their restrictive pet policies. An acceptable answer might be, "my service dog is trained to get help for me in a medical crisis by e.g. giving me my medication. You do not have to reveal your disability in formulating your reply.

Businesses also have the right to exclude any animal, including a service animal, who threatens the health or safety of other people through aggressive or unruly behavior. A service dog can also be evicted for disruptive behavior that interferes with a business providing goods or services. The DOJ used the example of a dog barking in a movie theater.

ADB Policy Prohibiting the Enrollment of Protection Trained or Aggressive dogs

Any dog who is protection trained, attack trained or one who exhibits aggressive behavior in violation of our Minimum Training Standards for Public Access is NOT eligible for enrollment as a Service Dog in ADB, or renewal, no matter what disability related tasks or alerts the dog is said to perform. If an ADB Partner member's dog later displays aggressive behavior and cannot be rehabilitated within a reasonable time period, ethically, that dog should be retired as unfit for duty outside the home, as the dog does not qualify as a service dog under our Minimum Training Standards for Public Access. Non aggressive barking as a trained behavior will be acceptable in appropriate situations.

SAMPLE TRAINING LOG (if you want to maintain your own)

Owner Trainer's Name:

Dog's Name:

Breed:

Gender:

Age:

Week of: _____ **Hours (on Site) + (Outings)**

Health:

Problems:

5

P.O. Box 72016, Marietta, GA 30007-2016 Phone: 770-402-0297 Fax: 770-579-8289

Tax ID: 86-1094919

501c3 non-profit - no kill animal rescue, service dog trainer, provider and humane education organization – all volunteer
Copyright 2013 Animals Deserve Better, Inc Paws For Life Program. All Rights Reserved

Outings:

Socialization:

Obedience:

Service Dog Tasks:

Manners:

Comments:

Health: Make a note if you gave Heartworm Preventative this week and /or used monthly flea control like Advantage or changed Flea & Tick collar. Make other notes, such as “treated ear infection.” Anal gland scooting....had vet empty? Did you change diet? Progress on new diet or digestive upsets? Treated hot spot? Trimmed nails? Blowing coat? Improved on car sickness?

Problems: Are there any particular problems distressing you? Has there been improvement on any of the problems mentioned in previous logs? (e.g. Barking at other dogs, becoming over excited in the presence of other animals or fearful of getting into the back seat of the car, or refuses to potty outside of his backyard or won't use other footing except grass, etc.)

Outings: 1 Hour Mon. Canine Good Citizen (CGC) class, Trainers (your name, instructor's name)
45 min. Tues. Bank - inside w/permission, parking lot work too; Trainer - (yr. name)
1 hr. 15 min. Thurs. Petsmart;
1 ½ hr. Saturday Shopping Mall, more work on dog distraction issue; Trainer - (yr. name)

Socialization:

What novel sights, sounds, smells, taste or touch, footing, was the dog exposed to in an urban, suburban or rural environment in different kinds of weather? (E.g. a band in a park, a parade, a mounted policeman, Little League game, strangers in ethnic garb, potty in street near curb?) Did the dog improve when exposed to something that caused signs of stress earlier, such as an elevator ride, dog barking at him from behind a fence, working near an escalator, climbing a staircase or when asked to go “Hurry Up” on different types of ground? What needs more work? (E.g. walking near heavy traffic, motorcycle revving up, garbage truck, approaching a mirror, screaming kids on schoolyard playground, holding a Sit Stay during a thunderstorm,etc.)

Obedience:

Where did you practice basic commands? (E.g. house, garage, neighborhood, outside shopping center). Any progress? What needs improvement? (E.g. out of sight Stays or Heel w/halt instead of Sit for balance or wheelchair work.) Practice Public Access Test exercises....holding Sit or Down when adult or child pets the dog or someone drops food on the floor or puts plate down by dog or passes with a shopping cart. Practice Stay or Come with a dropped leash indoors, outdoors in safe area. Have someone tease dog at a distance with food, smooching, say “Hi, puppy, puppy” or bounce a ball while you keep him focused on you in a Sit or Down Stay. Advanced - practice Stay in public rest room, under table in

restaurant, in stores in sight, you out of sight around a corner. Off leash heeling, Downs, recall indoors, outdoors in safe fenced area.

Service Dog Tasks:

What did you introduce this week? What progress has dog made on various tasks, like fetch the phone? Beginner, intermediate or advanced stage? Any setback? Where did you practice?

Manners:

Which manners were a priority this week? What improved? What needs more work? For example: Say please [with Sit Stay] for Dinner, for Exiting house....expanded from 30 seconds to one minute! Enter, exit, riding in a car - improved. Lie quietly on side for nail grinder, grooming - needs work! Watchdog suppression - needs work! Jumping on visitors - needs work. Honor system - respecting "Leave It" edict re: bowl of treats on end table, 24/7....3rd week, also leaves bowl of treats on kitchen counter alone! Paw on knee - rarely tries this dominance behavior anymore. Licking self in public - only needed one correction this week, an "uh uh" with my disapproving glare at him. Doesn't do it at church anymore or in grocery store. No sniffing other dogs while "on duty" at obedience class or in neighborhood - needs more work.

Comments:

Anything unusual, worrisome, cute, exceptional? Reason for not practicing this week (e.g. sick, injured, family funeral, or dog neutered and must be kept very quiet for two weeks? etc.) Overall progress....fair? Good?