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Public Access Test

Dog's name: _____ Handler's name: _____

Date of test: _____ Tester's name: _____

Result: Pass No Pass
Tester signature: _____

Purpose and Scoring

The purpose of this public access test (PAT) is to complement PSDP's public access standard by providing general, minimum evaluation criteria for service dog team behavior. PSDP does not certify teams, but individuals are welcome to use this voluntary PAT for the purposes of service dog training or evaluation. PSDP is not liable for any risks or consequences of using this form.

The test items are in a yes-or-no format. The team must be successful on all items of the test to pass. Test items that are not available in the tester's general area (e.g. elevators) or are unreasonable due to a handler's disability (e.g. shopping cart use) may be adjusted/omitted at the discretion of the tester.

1. Training/Controlling Aids

____ Throughout the test, no treats, leash corrections, or training aids were used.

While PSDP encourages training throughout the lifetime of the dog, the PAT is designed to give a good snapshot of how the dog can be expected to behave without intensive training aids. As such, handlers are not allowed to use treats during the test. Additionally, leash corrections or other physical corrections are not permitted.

Similarly, this PAT prohibits the dog from being outfitted with any device designed to train or control by causing pain or fear (such as prong collars, choke collars, shock collars, and studded/prong harnesses). A head collar or non-prong, no-pull harness is acceptable only if the handler needs such an item due to their disability. This kind of device should only be used as an emergency failsafe (e.g., safety for balance issues), and cannot be relied on to control the dog during the test.

2. Leash Tension

____ Throughout the test, team had an appropriate level of looseness in the leash/harness.

The dog should not continuously/repeatedly strain at the leash (normally forms a "J"). Harness tension is okay if actively needed for disability mitigation (e.g., mobility or guide work). Retractable leashes are acceptable only when needed for disability-specific work. In either of these cases, the handler should alert the tester to the need and always maintain control without excessive pulling or wandering.

3. Inappropriate Service Dog Conduct

____ Throughout the test, dog did not display any inappropriate behaviors bulleted below.

- growling or inappropriate, excessive barking
- nipping or biting
- showing or baring teeth
- lunging at other people or dogs
- being out of handler's control
- inappropriately eliminating (urinating or defecating)

4. Working Position

___ Throughout the test, dog was comfortable and confident in its working position.

Each team's working position will be different to meet their unique requirements. When the person is seated in place, a small dog may work exclusively from the user's lap. When moving, dogs that are normally held or carried also need to be able to pass the relevant challenges from the ground.

5. Vehicles and Public Transportation

___ Dog enters and exits any form of transportation in a safe manner.

___ Dog is able to ride in any form of transportation in a controlled manner.

6. Parking Lot Behavior

___ Dog transits parking lot safely.

7. Controlled Entry into a Building

___ Dog enters building in a controlled manner.

8. Navigating a Store

___ Dog does not bump into shelves or interact with merchandise.

___ Dog does not interact with other people unless instructed to do so.

___ Dog does not lick or closely sniff food or other items in store.*

___ Dog maintains a working position while the handler uses a shopping cart.

9. Working with Distractions

___ Dog is able to work despite distractions encountered in normal working environment.

10. Obedience Training

___ Dog holds a sit, down, or stand stay on cue for 30 seconds.

___ Dog comes on cue from a distance of 6 feet or greater.

___ Dog walks past and leaves a food item on the ground.

___ Dog is able to ignore, greet, or get out of the way of a stranger, whatever the dog has been trained or cued to do.

___ Dog does not exhibit any inappropriate behavior when touched by a stranger.

___ Dog focuses on the handler on cue.

11. Restaurant

___ Dog does not beg or attempt to eat or closely sniff any food on the floor or on tables.*

___ Dog is positioned to cause the least obstruction to the flow of business.

___ Dog is not on a table, chair, or bench, but is always either on the floor or in a lap if required for disability mitigation.

___ Handler does not feed or water their dog from the table.

12. Elevator

___ Dog should be able to load into an elevator and travel both up and down with the dog remaining confident and unruffled in a sit, down, or standing position.

13. Stairs

___ If the handler uses stairs, the dog should maintain a working position. The dog should not cause the handler or others to fall or stumble. Teams that do not navigate stairways should be able to navigate wheelchair access ramps in the same manner.

14. Working around Other Dogs

___ Dog should be able to maintain a working mode while in the presence of other dogs.

15. Use of Public Restrooms

___ Dog does not cause a disturbance in the restroom.

*Exception: If the dog has been trained specifically to sniff food to aid with the user's disability, then the dog can work at identifying the trigger by sniffing the food from a reasonable distance.