

Alberta Service Dog Qualification Assessment

Exercise/Observation	Description of Exercise
Handler Knowledge	
1. Care of the dog	The dog was clean and groomed (e.g. nails, fur, etc.) with no offensive odour. The dog was friendly and relaxed. Equipment was properly adjusted and in serviceable condition.
2. Control of the dog	At all times, the handler's physical control of the dog using appropriate equipment is adequate for the task. Exercises will be performed with loose leash, with heel position between 12 and 24 inches unless the task or the handler's disability requires otherwise.
3. Wellbeing of the dog	The handler's responses to questions about the care of the dog indicated that the handler understands and is responsive to the dog's needs.
4. Evident team relationship	The dog is attentive to the handler and responds to commands without showing stress or avoidance. The handler demonstrated a bond with the dog and praised the dog when it did well.
5. Knowledge of access rights	The handler coped calmly with an access problem when questioned about the right to bring the dog into an establishment. Handler understands that there is no right to access if the dog is not under control.
Vehicles	
6. Calmness inside vehicle before unloading	The dog waited calmly and remained in the vehicle until the release command was given by the handler.
7. Wait outside the vehicle after unloading	The dog was on-leash, under control and waited calmly outside the vehicle, attentive to the commands of the handler.
8. Obedient load into vehicle	The dog waited patiently until commanded to load into the vehicle and waited calmly inside the vehicle in the location where the handler placed it.
9. Calmness around traffic	The dog demonstrated calm/relaxed behaviour and no fearful attitude around traffic, noise and distractions while navigating through the parking lot and approaching building.
10. Public transit test if handler typically uses public transit	The dog/handler team successfully boarded and exited a city bus or train. The dog remained calm, unobtrusive and relaxed, not soliciting public attention. The dog did not display fear or shyness.
Buildings & Doorways	
11. Heel position when approaching a building	The dog remained in a heel position, not pulling on the leash, not trying to run ahead or lag behind.
12. Stop before entering doorway	The dog stopped and waited calmly when the handler came to a stop and waited at the doorway until the command to enter was given.
13. Calmness going through doorway entering building	The dog entered the building through the door in a safe and calm manner.
14. Wait after entering doorway	The dog waited calmly after entering the building, attentive to the handler until able to resume the heel position.
15. Calmness before exiting doorway	The dog maintained a relaxed, heel position when approaching the exit doorway.
16. Calmness going through doorway exiting building	The dog maintained a relaxed, heel position, with no straining on the leash to exit rapidly, when going through the doorway to exit the building.

17. Stop after exiting building	The dog stopped and waited calmly when the handler came to a halt and maintained a relaxed, heeling position beside the handler after exiting the building.
Obedience	
18. Heeling inside building	The dog walked beside the handler in a controlled way.
19. Stairs, elevators or escalators	The dog/handler team should be able to manage slippery floors, stairs, escalators and/or elevators depending upon the location chosen.
20. Adjusting to speed and direction changes	The dog adjusted to changes in handler's speed and direction. The dog did not pull on leash to (unless required o so due to mobility issues). No coaxing or dragging was needed by the handler.
21. Obedience through narrow/ tight areas	The dog calmly negotiated through tight quarters without disturbing merchandise on shelves.
22. Obedience through crowds	The dog maneuvered calmly through a crowd of people without trying to interact with people.
23. Ten-foot recall off-leash: Command	The handler had the dog sit in a large, open area. The handler then walks ten feet away, turns, and calls the dog. The dog responded right away to the recall command. The dog did not try to ignore the command or respond hesitantly/slowly.
Control	The dog remained focused on handler and under control at all times. The dog did not try to pull away or seek attention from the public.
Distance	The dog came within appropriate distance of handler so that the handler could readily touch the dog.
Direction	The dog came directly to the handler and did not try to take any detours along the way.
24. Sit command	The dog responded to the "sit" command with no more than two commands by handler and remain in "sit" until released by handler.
25. Down command	The dog responded to the "down" command with no more than two commands by the handler and remain in "down" until released by handler.
26. Off-leash exercise	The handler dropped the leash while in motion, and the dog was aware that the leash had been dropped. The dog remained under control while the handler changed direction and the handler was able to pick up the leash and get the dog back into proper position.
27. Response to stranger's control	The validator passively took the dog's leash without giving any commands and moved 20 feet away from handler and stayed there for one minute. The dog did not display any aggression, stress or whining.
Distractions	
28. No soliciting public attention	The dog remained focused on the handler and ignored other people.
29. Behaviour in restaurant	The dog was not a nuisance and was quiet in the restaurant. The dog stayed out of the way of people. If applicable, the dog should remain in a down-stay position under the table, close to the handler.
30. Sit command next to plate of food	The dog did not attempt to eat or approach food. The dog held a sit-stay position and ignored the food. The handler may correct the dog verbally or physically away from the food however, the dog will not require repeated corrections. Note: The dog should not be taunted or teased with the food.
31. Down command with food dropped on floor	The dog remained in a down position and under control when food was dropped onto floor. The dog did not try to get the food and did not need repeated correction from handler.
32. Sit command while shopping cart/trolley passes	The dog remained in the sit position and was relaxed as a cart passed by. The dog did not show signs of fear, moving away or anxiety. Note: The cart should be pushed in a normal manner.

33. Sit command while being petted by stranger	The dog remained in the sit position as a stranger walked up, talked to the handler and then petted the dog. The dog did not break the sit position, show aggression or solicit attention from the stranger. Handler may reinforce cues as necessary.
34. Down command while child approaches	The dog remained calm and in a down position when an adult and child approached and petted the dog. The dog did not solicit attention or need repeated correction from handler. Note: The child should not taunt the dog or act dramatically.
35. Noise distraction (drop object on floor behind the dog)	The dog remained composed during noise distraction. The dog may turn or show quick startle reaction at the noise but it recovers immediately. It is not acceptable if the dog exhibits fear, aggression or continued negative behaviour due to the noise.
36. Dog aggression test	In the parking lot, a person and a non-aggressive dog or puppy approached to a six foot distance. The person had a short conversation with the handler. The dog remained calm and under the control of handler, not displaying aggression, vocalizations, or a desire to play with the other dog.
37. Mitigation Task #1	
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