## BC GUIDE DOG AND SERVICE DOG ASSESSMENT

## Acknowledgements:

Andy Krzus, Obedience Unleashed Dog Training
Nancy Letkeman, Ronan Isle Consulting
Josh Huska, Ministry of Justice
Karen Johnson, Justice Institute of British Columbia

The purpose of this assessment is to ensure that the guide dog or service dog demonstrates appropriate public behaviour, proper disposition, and is unobtrusive in public places. The assessment consists of 40 exercises and is modeled after the Assistance Dogs International Public Access Test and the Security Dog Validation Standards from the Justice Institute of British Columbia.

This assessment examines the temperament and disposition of the dog in a general public setting, such as a shopping mall. The dog's behaviour will be assessed to determine if his or her disposition is calm, stable and reliable in situations commonly encountered by dog/handler teams. The assessment will also ensure that the handler has control over the dog at all times, that the dog is safe to be in public, and that the dog is able to demonstrate the high standard of training expected of guide and service dogs.

The validator will explain the assessment thoroughly to the handler before the testing begins. Once the assessment begins, the validator will follow the dog/handler team in a discreet manner, unless required to interact with the dog/handler team for an assessed task. The assessment will be performed on-leash, with the occasional tight leash being acceptable. A dog is not ready for the assessment if the dog displays behaviour that requires major restraint or a continuously tight leash to perform the tasks (unless required due to mobility issues).

In order to pass this assessment, the validator must be satisfied that:

- The dog's nerves are steady;
- The dog's temperament and disposition are sound;
- The dog is well-mannered in public, in the presence of crowds, other dogs and traffic; and
- The dog is attentive to the handler and responds to commands without showing stress or avoidance.

The dog/handler team must pass all of the tasks below in order to pass the assessment. The results of the assessment will then be forwarded to the Security Programs Division for final review.

Task List

| \#1 Obedience inside vehicle before unloading | \#22 Sit command while being petted by <br> stranger |
| :--- | :--- |
| \#2 Obedience outside the vehicle after <br> unloading | \#23 Down command |
| \#3 Heel position when approaching the building <br> or through parking lot | \#24 Down command with food dropped on <br> floor |
| \#4 Calmness around traffic | \#25 Down command while child approaches |
| \#5 Obedient stop before entering doorway | \#26 Noise distraction (drop object on floor <br> behind dog) |
| \#6 Obedience before entering doorway | \#27 Behaviour in restaurant |
| \#7 Obedience going through doorway | \#28 Ignoring food in restaurant |
| \#8 Obedience after entering doorway | \#29 Off-leash exercise |
| \#9 Heeling inside building | \#30 Human aggression test |
| \#10 No soliciting public attention | \#31 Obedience before exiting doorway |
| \#11 Adjusting to speed changes | \#32 Obedience going through doorway during <br> exit of building |
| \#12 Adjusting to changes in direction | \#33 Obedience after exiting the building |
| \#13 Obedience through narrow/ tight areas | \#34 Calm around traffic after exiting building |
| \#14 Obedience through crowds | \#35 Obedient stop after exiting building |
| \#15 Six-foot recall on-leash: Command | \#36 Dog aggression test |
| \#16 Six-foot recall on-leash: Control | \#37 Public transit test |
| \#17 Six-foot recall on-leash: Distance | \#38 Obedient load into vehicle |

## Description of Tasks

| Exercise/Observation |  | Validator comments |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| \#1 Obedience inside <br> vehicle before unloading | The dog waited calmly and remained in the vehicle until the release <br> command was given by the handler. | Pass | Fail | Comments |
| \#2 Obedience outside the <br> vehicle after unloading | The dog was on-leash, under control and waited calmly outside the <br> vehicle, attentive to the commands of the handler. | Pass | Fail | Comments |
| \#3 Heel position when <br> approaching the building <br> or through parking lot | The dog remained in a heel position, not pulling on the leash, not trying <br> to run ahead or lag behind. | Pass | Fail | Comments |
|  | The dog demonstrated calm/relaxed behaviour and no fearful attitude <br> around traffic, noise and distractions while navigating through the <br> parking lot and approaching building. |  |  |  |
| \#4 Calmness around traffic | Pass | Fail | Comments |  |
| \#5 Obedient stop before <br> entering doorway | The dog stopped and waited calmly when the handler came to a stop. |  |  |  |

## Page 4 of 6

Copyright © 2015, Province of British Columbia. All rights reserved.

|  | The dog did not attempt to eat or sniff food. The dog held a sit-stay <br> position and ignored the food. The dog did not require repeated <br> corrections. Note: The handler may correct the dog verbally or physically <br> away from the food. The dog should not be taunted or teased with the <br> \#20 Sit command next to |  |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| plate of food |  |  |  |  |$\quad$| The dog remained in the sit position and was relaxed as a shopping cart |
| :--- |
| \#21 Sit command while |
| phopped by. The dog did not show signs of fear, moving away or anxiety. |
| Note: The shopping cart should be pushed in a normal manner. | Fail | Comments |
| :--- |

## Page 5 of 6

Copyright © 2015, Province of British Columbia. All rights reserved.

|  | In the parking lot, a person and a non-aggressive dog or puppy <br> approached to a six foot distance. The person had a short conversation <br> with the handler. The dog remained calm and under the control of <br> handler, not displaying aggression, vocalizations, or a desire to play with <br> the other dog. The dog/handler team will be evaluated on how well they <br> handled the situation. | Pass | Fail | Comments |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| \#36 Dog aggression test |  |  |  |  |
| \#37 Public transit test | The dog/handler team successfully boarded and exited a city bus or train. <br> The dog remained calm, unobtrusive and relaxed, not soliciting public <br> attention. The dog did not display fear or shyness. | Pass | Fail | Comments |
| \#38 Obedient load into <br> vehicle | The dog waited patiently until commanded to load into the vehicle and <br> waited calmly inside the vehicle. | Pass | Fail | Comments |
| \#39 Evident team <br> relationship and <br> knowledge of access rights | The handler was in control and praised the dog when the dog did well. <br> The handler coped calmly with an access problem when questioned about <br> the right to bring the dog into an establishment. | Pass | Fail | Comments |
|  | The dog was clean and groomed (e.g., nails, fur, etc.) with no offensive <br> odour. The dog was friendly and relaxed. The handler's responses to <br> questions about the care of the dog indicated that the handler <br> understands and is responsive to the dog's needs. |  |  |  |
| \#40 Care and wellbeing of <br> the dog | Cass | Fail | Comments |  |

The team must pass $100 \%$ of the exercises in order to be successful.

Score:
___ exercises out of 40 exercises completed without fault.

## Page 6 of 6

Copyright © 2015, Province of British Columbia. All rights reserved.

