



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.

BC Guide Dog and Service Dog Assessment

Task List

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|---|---|
| #1 Obedience inside vehicle before unloading | #22 Sit command while being petted by stranger |
| #2 Obedience outside the vehicle after unloading | #23 Down command |
| #3 Heel position when approaching the building or through parking lot | #24 Down command with food dropped on floor |
| #4 Calmness around traffic | #25 Down command while child approaches |
| #5 Obedient stop before entering doorway | #26 Noise distraction (drop object on floor 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 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 |
| #18 Six-foot recall on-leash: Direction | #39 Evident team relationship & knowledge of access rights |
| #19 Sit command | #40 Care and well-being of dog |
| #20 Sit command next to plate of food | |
| #21 Sit command while shopping cart passes | |

Description of Tasks

Exercise/Observation	Description of Task	Validator comments		
		Pass	Fail	Comments
#1 Obedience inside vehicle before unloading	The dog waited calmly and remained in the vehicle until the release command was given by the handler.	Pass	Fail	Comments
#2 Obedience 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.	Pass	Fail	Comments
#3 Heel position when approaching the building or through parking lot	The dog remained in a heel position, not pulling on the leash, not trying to run ahead or lag behind.	Pass	Fail	Comments
#4 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.	Pass	Fail	Comments
#5 Obedient stop before entering doorway	The dog stopped and waited calmly when the handler came to a stop.	Pass	Fail	Comments
#6 Obedience before entering doorway	The dog waited calmly at the doorway until the command to enter was given.	Pass	Fail	Comments
#7 Obedience going through doorway.	The dog entered the building through the door in a safe and calm manner.	Pass	Fail	Comments
#8 Obedience after entering doorway	The dog waited after entering the building, attentive to the handler until able to resume the heeling position.	Pass	Fail	Comments
#9 Heeling inside building	The dog walked beside the handler in a controlled way. The dog remained within 1 foot of handler or at an indicated distance. The dog/handler team should be able to manage slippery floors, stairs, escalators and/or elevators depending upon the location chosen.	Pass	Fail	Comments
#10 No soliciting public attention	The dog remained focused on the handler and ignored other people.	Pass	Fail	Comments
#11 Adjusting to speed changes	The dog adjusted to changes in handler's speed. The dog did not pull on leash (unless required to do so due to mobility issues).	Pass	Fail	Comments
#12 Adjusting to changes in direction	The dog adjusted readily to changes in direction or to corners. No coaxing or dragging was needed by the handler.	Pass	Fail	Comments
#13 Obedience through narrow/ tight areas	The dog calmly negotiated through tight quarters without disturbing or trying to play with merchandise on shelves.	Pass	Fail	Comments
#14 Obedience through crowds	The dog manoeuvred calmly through a crowd of people without trying to interact with people.	Pass	Fail	Comments
#15 Six-foot recall on-leash: Command	The handler had the dog sit in a large, open area. The handler then walked six feet away, turned, and called the dog. The dog responded right away to the recall command. The dog did not try to ignore the command or respond hesitantly/slowly.	Pass	Fail	Comments
#16 Six-foot recall on-leash: 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.	Pass	Fail	Comments
#17 Six-foot recall on-leash: Distance	The dog came within the appropriate distance of handler, or so that the handler could readily touch the dog.	Pass	Fail	Comments
#18 Six-foot recall on-leash: Direction	The dog came directly to the handler and did not try to take any detours along the way.	Pass	Fail	Comments
#19 Sit command	The dog responded to the "sit" command with no more than two commands by handler.	Pass	Fail	Comments

#20 Sit command next to plate of food	The dog did not attempt to eat or sniff food. The dog held a sit-stay position and ignored the food. The dog did not require repeated corrections. Note: The handler may correct the dog verbally or physically away from the food. The dog should not be taunted or teased with the food.	Pass	Fail	Comments
#21 Sit command while shopping cart passes	The dog remained in the sit position and was relaxed as a shopping cart passed by. The dog did not show signs of fear, moving away or anxiety. Note: The shopping cart should be pushed in a normal manner.	Pass	Fail	Comments
#22 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.	Pass	Fail	Comments
#23 Down command	The dog responded to the "down" command with no more than two commands by the handler.	Pass	Fail	Comments
#24 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.	Pass	Fail	Comments
#25 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.	Pass	Fail	Comments
#26 Noise distraction (drop object on floor behind the dog)	The dog remained composed during noise distraction. It is acceptable that the dog turn or show quick startle/reaction at the noise. It is not acceptable if the dog exhibits fear, aggression or continued negative behaviour due to the noise.	Pass	Fail	Comments
#27 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.	Pass	Fail	Comments
#28 Ignoring food in restaurant	The dog ignored food and other distractions in the restaurant.	Pass	Fail	Comments
#29 Off-leash exercise	The handler dropped the leash, and the dog was aware that the leash had been dropped. The dog remained under control while the leash was dropped and the handler was able to pick up the leash and get the dog back into proper position.	Pass	Fail	Comments
#30 Human aggression test	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.	Pass	Fail	Comments
#31 Obedience before exiting doorway	The dog maintained a relaxed, heeling position when approaching the exit doorway.	Pass	Fail	Comments
#32 Obedience going through doorway during exit of building	The dog maintained a relaxed, heeling position, with no straining on the leash to exit rapidly, when going through the doorway to exit the building.	Pass	Fail	Comments
#33 Obedience after exiting the building	The dog maintained a relaxed, heeling position beside the handler after exiting the building.	Pass	Fail	Comments
#34 Calm around traffic after exiting building	The dog maintained a relaxed and calm demeanor around traffic noise after exiting the building.	Pass	Fail	Comments
#35 Obedient stop after exiting building	The dog stopped and waited calmly when the handler came to a halt.	Pass	Fail	Comments

#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. The dog/handler team will be evaluated on how well they handled the situation.	Pass	Fail	Comments
#37 Public transit test	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.	Pass	Fail	Comments
#38 Obedient load into vehicle	The dog waited patiently until commanded to load into the vehicle and waited calmly inside the vehicle.	Pass	Fail	Comments
#39 Evident team relationship and knowledge of access rights	The handler was in control and praised the dog when the dog did well. The handler coped calmly with an access problem when questioned about the right to bring the dog into an establishment.	Pass	Fail	Comments
#40 Care and wellbeing of the dog	The dog was clean and groomed (e.g., nails, fur, etc.) with no offensive odour. The dog was friendly and relaxed. 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.	Pass	Fail	Comments

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

Score:

_____ exercises out of 40 exercises completed without fault.