



Team Information

Cover Sheet

Handler Name (Please Print)

Dog Name

Handler Phone

Handler Email

Handler Signature

Date

Evaluator's Information

Evaluator Name (Please Print)

Relationship to Handler

Evaluator Phone

Evaluator Email

Evaluator Signature

Date

Evaluator's Conclusion

Pass

Fail

Please file this form with your other important personal documents in a safe and secure place



Service Dog Standards
Public Access Test
SDSPAT

About the Public Access Test

The Service Dog community considers a Public Access Test (PAT) the best tool for evaluating a team's readiness to graduate or finish formal training. There are several versions of the PAT available. Most PATs are relatively similar, although some are specific to the organization or trainer administering the test. You may use this test (the Service Dog Standards Public Access Test or SDSPAT), the PAT from Assistance Dogs International (ADI), the International Association of Assistance Dog Partners (IAADP) or any other reputable organization.

Passing any PAT is not required by law. This is because most experienced trainers and legitimate members of the Service Dog community agree that there is not an appropriate one-size-fits-all test for every handler, dog and/or disability combination.

Every organization that provides a Public Access Test, including ADI, IAADP and others, make it clear that passing their test does not mean they (nor we) “certify” your dog – and nor is certification recognized under federal law. While some trainers and organizations may “certify” their graduates, that status is something granted by them and is not recognized under the law or necessarily by other trainers.

Under the law, individuals are legally allowed to train their own Service Dog. As well, there are no mandatory regulations for dog trainers. Some of the most qualified and experienced dog trainers do not have a formal background. Please do your research and look for recommendations when selecting a trainer or training organization.

Whichever PAT you choose to use, every version recommends you have reputable trainer, friend, family member or other witness watch you complete the test and, preferably video record it and/or sign a printed copy of the test to have as part of your records.

Service Dog Standards includes successful completion of a Public Access Test as part of our standards. Furthermore, our expectations go beyond just passing the PAT. We also require adherence to specific training and behavioral standards on the part of the handler and dog. For more information on our mission and purpose, please visit ServiceDogStandards.org.



1. Demonstrate control of your dog without the use of any training aids.

While Service Dogs must be leashed or under the control of the handler at all times, being able to demonstrate that your dog is capable of following commands without training aids is important. In a safe setting, the handler must be able to control the dog and perform the following basic obedience commands off-leash and without the use of any training aids, including treats, auditory devices such as a clicker (unless the handler is nonverbal or has limited vocal ability) or any type of wireless training collar. Verbal commands, praise and/or hand signals are permitted. The handler may choose their own cues or words for these commands as long as the dog's behavior is the same.



Sit

Dog should be able to sit immediately on command or cue.



Down

Dog should be able to lay down immediately on command or cue.



Look At Me / Focus

Dog should be able to look into handlers eyes on command or cue.



Stay

Place dog in a "sit" or "down" position. Dog must "stay" for at least 60 seconds without moving.



Leave It

Place a high-value treat on the ground in front of the dog and ask the dog to "leave it." Wait at least 10 seconds before allowing dog to take the treat.



Come

Place dog in a "sit" or "down" position and call dog to "come" from at least 6 feet or 4.5 meters.

2. Verbally define – from memory – the following types of working dogs: Service Dogs, Emotional Support Animals and Therapy Dogs.

Handler must clearly describe the difference between these three common types of working dogs and note which kind is covered under the Americans with Disabilities Act. [If the handler is nonverbal or has limited vocal ability, sign language, handwritten or typed answers are acceptable.]

3. Verbally describe at least two tasks or work your Service Dog is trained to perform.

Being able to verbally describe the tasks or work your Service Dog is trained to perform is not our guideline, it is a requirement under federal law. Anyone may legally ask you if your disability is not apparent. Properly describing the tasks or work that a dog is trained to perform is often difficult and awkward for even the most experienced Service Dog handler. Often, describing the tasks your dog has been trained to perform may reveal your disability, which can be embarrassing. In order to prepare for public access, please verbally describe two tasks or types of work your dog is trained to perform to help mitigate your disability. You must begin by saying "my Service Dog is trained to..." [If the handler is nonverbal or has limited vocal ability, sign language, handwritten or typed answers are acceptable.]



4. Understanding appropriate behavior.

The following behaviors are unacceptable and grounds for suspension or account removal from Service Dog Standards:

- No aggressive behavior toward people or other animals; no biting, no snapping, no growling, no mounting, no lunging and/or aggressive barking.
- No begging for food, eating table scraps, or petting from other people.
- No excessive sniffing merchandise or people.
- No overly excited or hyper behavior.
- No urinating or defecating in public unless given a command or signal to eliminate in an appropriate place.
- No riding in grocery carts, even if something is covering the cart. Dogs should be capable of doing their job from the floor, regardless of their size.
[Note: This is not our guideline, this is covered in the Department of Justice's Frequently Asked Questions about Service Animals and the ADA which states, "Generally, the dog must stay on the floor, or the person must carry the dog. For example, if a person with diabetes has a glucose alert dog, he may carry the dog in a chest pack so it can be close to his face to allow the dog to smell his breath to alert him of a change in glucose levels."]
- No sitting or laying on chairs, benches or surfaces other than the floor in public places.

5. Maintain appropriate control while moving.

Service Dogs must be able to function with loose-leash control while moving either while walking, in a

lunging. In a safe public outdoor area with typical distractions, such as a parking lot, sidewalk or park, handler must demonstrate that they can travel 75 feet or 23 meters with their dog at their side in a "heel" position on a loose leash or with a harness unless their disability or assistive device prohibits. There should be no lunging, excessive sniffing or reaction to other people or animals. Retractable leashes are not appropriate for this test.

6. Exiting, entering and traveling in a vehicle safely.

Demonstrate that your dog can enter and exit from a vehicle safely on command and in a controlled manner and that your dog can ride in a vehicle safely and in a controlled manner.



7. Demonstrate appropriate behavior inside a public building.

Find a safe public building that allows pets by checking with the management. Demonstrate the following:

- Dog can enter and exit the building safely, without distraction.
- Dog should not bump into shelves or touch merchandise.
- Dog should not excessively sniff or touch items in the store.
[Exception: If your dog is trained to sniff items to detect dangers such as allergens in order to provide an alert related to your disability.]
- Dog maintains a working position on the floor next to handler.
- Dog ignores other people or animals unless handler expressly permits.

8. Demonstrate appropriate behavior in a restaurant.

- Dog should not sit or lay on chairs, benches or surfaces other than the floor in public places.
[Exception: It is not recommended, but your dog may discretely sit on your lap or in a body harness if necessary for disability mitigation.]
- Dog should remain in a position that allows for the least obstruction to others.
- Dog does not beg for food, attempt to eat people food, excessively sniff food on the floor or tables.
- Handler will not feed or water their dog at restaurants.
[Exception: If restaurant staff offers to bring a bowl of water for your animal you may accept.]

9. Demonstrate appropriate elevator, stairs, wheelchair ramp and/or escalator safety.

If you have elevators, stairs and/or escalators in your area, please demonstrate that your dog can maintain a safe working position while entering or exiting elevators, stairs, while on a wheelchair ramp and/or escalators.

10. Demonstrate appropriate behavior outdoors in a public setting.

In a safe outdoor public area, such as a crowded parking lot, sidewalk or park, display that you are capable or moving with your dog on a leash or harness safely. Please demonstrate the following:

- Dog should maintain a working position on the ground next to the handler.
- Dog should ignore other people or animals unless the handler expressly permits and should behave calmly when interacting with a stranger.
- Dog should not urinate or defecate in public unless given a command/signal to eliminate in an appropriate place.
- Dog should not display aggressive behavior toward people or other animals; no biting, no snapping, no growling, no mounting, no lunging and/or aggressive barking.
- Dog should not beg for food, eat table scraps, or try to get pets from other people.