

IS YOUR DOG READY FOR SERVICE DOG TRAINING?

General checklist for adult dogs. This list is similar to what we might also look for with puppies, acknowledging development stages.



BASELINE TEMPERAMENT

- ☐ Dog does not react strongly to a stranger entering their space.
- ☐ Dog can be left with a known person (not handler) for brief periods of time without vocalizing, pacing, etc.
- ☐ Dog can easily trade a toy or bone without any conflict
- ☐ Dog can take food in at least 3 new locations.
- ☐ Dog does not strongly react to startles, loud noises, or strange floor textures.

HANDLING AND GROOMING

- ☐ Dog is able to accept calm petting from a stranger.
- ☐ Dog and handler can work through greetings strangers in public.
- ☐ Dog can tolerate nail trims on a weekly basis
- ☐ Dog is okay with weekly brushing
- ☐ Dog is bathed every other month
- ☐ Dog is free of any big health concerns either physical or mental/emotional.
- ☐ Dog is comfortable with various gear (leash, collar, harness, raincoat, etc.

OUT AND ABOUT

- ☐ Currently walk dog in areas outside of the house.
- ☐ Dog and handler have been in pet-friendly stores together.
- ☐ Handler understands basic expectations of Service Dog laws and when Service Dogs can be questioned or removed from public.
- ☐ Handler has support system of at least 2 individuals to discuss disability or service dog training with.
- ☐ Handler can identify when they AND their dog might need a break from training or outing.

OBEDIENCE SKILLS

- ☐ Dog walks on a loose leash for at least 15seconds
- ☐ Dog can stay in position for 30seconds
- ☐ Dog understands sit and down cue without physical pressure.
- ☐ Dog can walk past a strange dog at least 15 feet away.

WHAT'S NEXT?

- ☐ Highlight areas of focus for you and your dog to feel more prepared.
- ☐ IF the checklist isn't complete and you feel stuck, check out a group class to help you get started.