

Service Dog Training Curriculum

OBJECTIVE

To train a qualified canine to a level as determined for providing specific services to an individual for medical or mental health needs.

OPERATION

The training will occur in four phases, with an after-training phase that will incorporate follow up reviews and any additional training as necessary.

FEES

All training will be conducted on a fee scale at \$100 per hour, including all group and individual training of the handler and dog.

TRAINING TIME

Training time is completely dependent upon the specific need of the individual and training regimen for the Service Dog. Minimum training is as follows:

- 15 hours for certification as a “Canine Good Citizen”
- 25 hours total for an Emotional Support Animal (ESA) (includes obedience and CGC)
- 60+ hours for specific Service Dog training (includes obedience, CGC and ESA)

PHASES

During all phases, the canine will be monitored for any health-related or hygiene issues. Once the canine is fully assigned to an individual, it is that individual’s responsibility to maintain the canine in good health, providing regular veterinary visits, keeping up with all shots as required and proper grooming of the canine.

Phase 1: Basic Obedience

Basic Obedience will incorporate all of the basic commands for heel, sit, stay, down and come. This will take approximately 6 hours in 1 hour sessions, likely in a group setting. Additional hours might be necessary for individual canines. The canine will be viewed as completing the basic training when they are able to perform the required commands with minimal fault or “breaking” from the command.

Phase 2: Canine Good Citizen

Canine Good Citizen, or CGC, will incorporate all of the required commands and functions as defined by the AKC CGC protocols. Training time will be approximately 8 to 10 hours, and will incorporate at least 1 hour of public access training. The canine will be certified as CGC when they are able to perform the required commands and acts with minimal fault or “breaking” from the command. The canine will receive an OTCK9 patch certifying completion of the course.

Phase 3: Public Access and ESA Level Training

Public Access and Emotional Support Animal (ESA) training will require approximately 10 hours of one-on-one training with the handler and canine. This training will involve working with the handler and

canine at various public locations including stores, malls, parks and elsewhere that the handler and working canine will encounter people or other animals.

The canine will also receive additional instruction on providing comfort to the handler.

During this phase of training, the canine will receive a vest and any other necessary equipment to identify the animal as an Emotional Support Animal (ESA)

PHASE 4: Service Dog Training

Service Dog Training is specific needs instruction for the Service Dog that will be dependent on the needs of the handler. Examples of service level dogs include:

- PTSD or other mental health issues
- Hearing or Eyesight impaired
- Medical issues
- Mobility limitations

Canines entering the Service Dog Training phase will require at least 60 hours (and likely much more) of additional instruction, depending on the specific need. Each Service Dog will follow accepted protocols for their training and be able to comply with all public access and ESA requirements from previous stages.

During this phase, the handler's family will also be instructed on how to interact and work with the canine, along with how to support the handler as they work with the dog.

Service Dogs will receive a vest, along with patches as necessary to identify the specifics of what services the animal provides (i.e. PTSD patch, Medical Assistance patch, etc.), and any other necessary equipment needed to perform their tasks.

Once a dog enters the Service Dog training, it will also receive DO NOT PET patches and will no longer be able to fully interact with individuals other than the handler and immediate family, except as where may be necessary dependent upon a handler's specific needs.

Once Service Dog training is completed, it will be up to the handler whether the Service Dog may fully interact with others. However, it is recommended that interaction remain limited as it is necessary for the Service Dog to remain focused on the handler and their conditions or needs.

COMPLETION AND FOLLOW UP

Completion

A Service Dog's training will be considered complete when both dog and handler are competent to work together with the dog performing the necessary tasks and the handler understanding the command and handling of the dog.

Follow Up

At six months, and again at 1 year after initial training for the Service Dog, follow up exams and trials will be conducted to ensure that both Service Dog and Handler are managing to complete their tasks as instructed.

If it is determined at any time subsequent to the initial training that the Service Dog and/or handler need additional instruction and training, sessions will be conducted at a rate of \$75 per hour (25% discount).