

Public Access Testing
Allergy and Diabetic Alert dogs

As has been noted, there will be a public access test conducted for each "Academy" dog prior to graduation. You may ask why this test, when you already are taking the dog in public? We want to do a somewhat formal test for the following reasons:

1. For your benefit. We want to be sure that your life with your dog goes as smoothly as possible.
2. This tells us how we are doing and identifies areas for improvement in our teaching methods.
3. Once the dog graduates and you are no longer Kiwanis members, our liability insurance is no longer applicable. Although, there are no formal ties to us, we wish to be sure that we exercised our best efforts to insure the dog is ready for public access with your child.

The test will be somewhat informal, and may be conducted in segments. However, the results will be documented. The tests will be conducted when the dog is being handled by the principle handler, typically your child. If the child is unable to handle the dog, then the test will be conducted with one of the parents/guardians handling the dog. However, the child should be present during the testing.

The following is a description of the tests that will be required, and serves as the test results record.

Service Dogs for Kids Public Access Test

Test Date(s) _____

Dog Name _____

Handler Name _____

Evaluation Team _____

Test Location(s) _____

1. Reliable Come. An evaluation team member will take the dog about 20 ft. for the handler and seriously engage it with pets, praise and treats. On cue from the evaluator, the handler issues the Come command, firmly and loudly, but only once.
Did the dog return immediately to the handler?
Yes___ No___
2. Vehicle Manners. This test is to determine if the dog is in a safe position, and is not distracting the driver.
Dog stays on the floor or down on a cargo deck, and is not looking out the window
Yes ___ No ___
3. Proper Exit from vehicle. This test is to assure safe exit from the vehicle for both the dog and the handler

Dog waits in vehicle until give the OK, or equivalent, command

Yes ____ No ____
Dog stays close to the vehicle and handler after exiting
Yes ____ No ____

4. Proper walking.

Dog walks in a "heel" position, with a loose leash and corrects with a command instead of tugging.

Yes ____ NO ____

Dog walks without being distracted by other people or items on the floor.

Yes ____ NO ____

The dog stopped when the handler stopped.

Yes ____ No ____

The dog waited quietly at the door, and waited for the command to enter

Yes ____ No ____

5. Other dog behavior

The handler should put the dog in a sit, or down, stay position. Then, an evaluator will bring another dog on the scene, and slowly approach to within 6 feet, and stop.

Did the dog remain in position, until released?

Yes ____ No ____

The dogs will be released and allowed to do their instinctive get acquainted sniffing. Was this done quietly and without rough play?

Yes ____ No ____

After the "sniffing", did the dog come immediately when called by the handler?

Yes ____ No ____

6. "Under" reliability. This test is to ensure the handler can get the dog out of the way, when needed. Find a bench, table, or chair, preferably in an area with lots of pedestrian traffic. Give the "Under" command.

The dog goes under, as commanded, and stays there until released (at least 5 min.)

Yes ____ No ____

7. Down Stay, with handler absent. Place a long (20 ft.) leash on the dog, and give it to one of the Evaluation team members. Put the dog on a "Down/Stay". Then the handler should move out of the dog's sight and remain there for 3 minutes.

Did the dog stay in position for the entire absence of the handler?

Yes ____ No ____

Did the dog remain in the down position after the handler re-appeared and stayed down until released?

Yes ____ No ____

8. Tolerance of strangers. Try to locate a stranger to help with this. Place the dog in a "Sit/Stay". Ask the stranger to approach the dog, and speak to it, and then to pet it.

Did the dog stay in the sit position, without breaking?

Yes ____ No ____

9. Noise distraction. When walking, the evaluator will drop a clipboard to the ground immediately behind the dog.

The dog may stop and investigate, but then should continue the walk with only a slight urging from the handler

Yes ___ No ___

10. Dominance Test. This is to determine if the dog recognizes the handler as the ultimate authority in their life. Ideally this test should be done several hours after the dog has last eaten. However, these dogs seem hungry most of time anyway. The handler will place some regular dog food in a bowl, put it down and tell the dog to wait and/or say watch me. The handler should talk to the dog, but not say the magic word (release, OK, or whatever has been taught) for, at least, 20 seconds.

Did the dog wait until released, and watch the handler the entire time?

Yes ___ No ___

11. Off-lead behavior. This should be done in an enclosed area, so the dog cannot run away. If this is not possible, then, in addition to the normal leash, attach a 20 foot auxiliary leash as inconspicuously as possible. Place the dog in a sit position.

Does the dog remain in a sit position when the handler drops the main leash and walks 6 to 10 feet away?

Yes ___ No ___

Does the dog return promptly and directly to the handler when given the recall command?

Yes ___ No ___

12. Food avoidance. The evaluator will provide some delectable food treats and place them randomly on the floor. The handler will walk the dog within 3 feet of each. The dog should avoid the treats with no more than on "leave it" command at each treat location.

Yes ___ No ___

13. "Help" alert. The handler shall sit with the dog facing them and put their head in their lap and say "help". Did the dog bark for, at least, 10 seconds?

Yes ___ No ___

14. Restaurant Manners. The team will find a place where they can get something to eat. The handler shall give the "Under" and "Stay" commands. An additional "Down" command may be given if necessary. The group shall then order something to eat and discuss the results of previous tests while waiting to be served. When ready to leave, the handler can give a stay command while getting to their feet. Then the dog can be released, by giving a "Let's Go", or equivalent command.

Did the Dog go promptly under the table as commanded?

Yes ___ No ___

Did the dog stay down under the table for, at least 15 min, without being re-commanded?

Yes ___ No ___

Did the dog remain under the table until released?

Yes ___ No ___

15. Specific "Alert" performance. Needless to say, considering the importance of this test, it is the most difficult to test. The first step is for the handler/parent/instructor to clearly identify the stimulus where and alert is expected, including threshold levels. Record this here:

The next step is to identify the desired "alert" performance from the dog. Record that here:

Now, working with the parent or guardian, a conclusive way to verify performance must be established. Of course, we will not stimulate an occurrence, or in any way put the child in danger to accomplish this test. This leaves us with the following possibilities

- a) Home visitation to attempt to observe a natural event and subsequent dog reaction.
- b) The dog alerting to planted samples taken during a real event
- c) Testimony from a Club approved witness regarding alert to a real occurrence
- d) Videotaping of a real event and dog reaction.
- e) Other verification means evolved between the Parents/Guardians and the evaluation team.

Did the dog alert promptly?

Yes ___ No ___

Was the alert such that the child would recognize it?

Yes ___ No ___

16. The following are subjective evaluations of the dog's behavior.

- a) Calm when meeting strangers
Always ___ Usually ___ Seldom ___ Never ___
- b) Obedient
Always ___ Usually ___ Seldom ___ Never ___
- c) Self-confident
Always ___ Usually ___ Seldom ___ Never ___
- d) Flexible
Always ___ Usually ___ Seldom ___ Never ___

17. Are there any behavioral issues that must be corrected before certification can be established?

Yes ___ No ___

If Yes, describe the issue and what will be required to correct it.

There are no numerical Pass/fail criteria. Based upon the above tests, the evaluator(s) shall decide if a Public Access Certificate can be issued. If not they will inform the handler of the deficiencies which must be rectified to receive a certificate.

Evaluation Team Signatures:
