

## “Service Dogs for Kids” Commands

**Seems to be an imposing list, but remember, we have 2 years to complete the list**

Over the course of a year, or so, our dogs will learn the following commands.

You will note that many of the commands don't seem to be at all related to the affliction of the child. True, but many are necessary for the dog to properly behave when in public.

Some are just good things that make the dog more pleasant to live with.

The "Pup Age" column indicates when the command should have been introduced.

Not perfected, but introduced. The numbers are approximate months, but we are not ridged on that. Every dog and family are different.

We will use the small table at the bottom to evaluate the dog's progress over time.

They can't graduate until they earn all 9s and 10s.

Over their life, our dogs will be required to respond to many handlers (The child, parents, puppy sitters, teachers, etc.). That is why it is important that we all use the same name for any given desired performance. If we use different words, the dogs will become confused.

If a dog is exposed to a command they do not recognize, of course, they will not respond.

However, they will sense the frustration of the handler who gave the command, and may become unresponsive to that individual, even for commands that they do recognize.

### Note to puppy sitters.

Independent of how well they are trained with their primary trainer, any intelligent dog (and ours are) will test a new handler.

That is why it is so important that puppy sitters know all of the commands and enforce them diligently. Otherwise the dog will learn that some people can be taken advantage of, and will try it with everyone including their child .

Command

Purpose

Comments

Grad

|                |  |  | <u>Reqmt</u> | <u>Age</u> |
|----------------|--|--|--------------|------------|
| Don't *        | Interchangeable with "No"                          | You will need this one often                     | x            | 4          |
| Down*          | Lie down in any comfortable position               | Avoid sphinx position                            | x            | 4          |
| Go Out         | Go outside   | Interchangeable with 'Outside'                   | x            | 4          |
| Kennel*        | Go into your kennel and lay down                   |  | x            | 4          |
| No             | Used interchangeably with "Don't"                  | Always give this command with emphasis!          | x            | 4          |
| OK*            | Interchange with "release"                         |  | x            | 4          |
| Outside        | Go to the door, to be let out                      | Interchangeable with "Go Out"                    | x            | 4          |
| Sit*           |  | Some dogs prefer to lie down                     | x            | 4          |
| Watch me       | Get his attention, especially when distracted      | Train at mealtime                                | x            | 4          |
| Bed            | Sleeping place, other than kennel                  |  | x            | 6          |
| Come**         | Come to you, and sit facing you                    | Dog/Child Safety!                                | x            | 6          |
| Dress*         | Come to get his cape & leash on (or off)           |  | x            | 6          |
| Get Busy*      | Go the bathroom                                    |  | x            | 6          |
| Jump           | Used to get in car, up on a bench for grooming     |  |              | 6          |
| Leave ( it)*   | Don't touch something on the ground                | Avoid him picking up something undesirable       | x            | 6          |
| Let's Go*      | Start walking                                      |  | x            | 6          |
| Release*       | Terminates a command/action.                       | Interchangeable with "OK"                        | x            | 6          |
| To Me          | Come to me – usually to bring something to me      | Used with "Meds"                                 | x            | 6          |
| Wait*          | Stop what you are doing. Wait at doors, dish, etc  | Learn that alpha always goes first               | x            | 6          |
| Settle         | Don't be so excited                                | Can be used with "Down"                          |              | 6          |
| Enough         | Stop your crazy behavior                           | Interchangeable with "Settle"                    | x            | 9          |
| Gently         | Take treats gently                                 | Withdraw treat if they lunge for it              |              | 9          |
| Off            | When up on something                               | I.e. Get four on the floor.                      | x            | 9          |
| Place          | Go to a designated spot, lie down and "Stay"       | Useful to control excited greetings at the door  | x            | 9          |
| Seek (Find it) | Find and alert to a specified odor                 | Diabetes, allergen / seizure related odors       | x            | 9          |
| Speak          | Bark –preferably only once                         | Work on making this a subdued "woof"             | x            | 9          |
| Stay*          | Stay in position until given other command         | Goal – up to 1 hour                              | x            | 9          |
| Under          | Go under indicated table or chair                  | Out of the way in public places                  | x            | 9          |
| Front          | Sit in front of you –facing you                    | General handling – put him in a desired position |              | 12         |
| Give           | After retrieve, put it in your hand (not drop it)  | Never play tug                                   | x            | 12         |
| Heel*          | Walk properly at your left side                    | <u>Prevent tugging</u> – could upset a child     | x            | 12         |
| Help           | Bark continuously until help comes                 | Emergency call for help                          | x            | 12         |
| Meds           | Find and retrieve the support materials            | Child may have medicine pouch, sugar             | x            | 12         |
| Take           | Take an object from you, and hold it, carry it.    |  |              | 12         |
| Up             | Front paws up on something, like a table           |  |              | 12         |
| Drop (it)      | Drop object in mouth                               | Get rid of something objectionable               |              | 12         |
| Back           | Back up when in a tight spot                       | Ease of handling for a child                     |              | 16         |
| Get it         | Pick something off floor when pointing to it       | Convenience. Useful for ill child                |              | 16         |
| Slow           | Walk very slowly                                   |  |              | 16         |
| Stand          | Stand still until released                         | Grooming aid                                     |              | 16         |
| Step           | One step at a time. Useful on stairs / tight spots | Good training for proper walking                 |              | 16         |
| Stop           | When walking, stop and sit beside you              |  | x            | 16         |

## Basic Behavior Characteristics (Scale of 1 to 10)

| <b>Behavior</b>                       | <b>Comment</b>   | <b>Grad. Reqmt</b> | <b>Scale</b> |
|---------------------------------------|--|--------------------|--------------|
| Don't bark when on leash              | Jerk and say "Don't"                                       | x                  |              |
| Don't jump up on people               | Pull off and say "Off"                                     | x                  |              |
| Don't lick/mouth people               | Instinctive for pups- pull off and "Don't"                 | x                  |              |
| Don't pick up off floor when on-leash | Use "Leave it"   | x                  |              |
| Follow Handler thru doors             | Use "Wait"   | x                  |              |
| Greet Strangers calmly                | "Settle" and move away from stranger "Watch ME" also helps | x                  |              |
| Ignore other dogs when on leash       | "Leave it" and move away                                   | x                  |              |
| Ignore shelf objects in stores        | "Leave it" and move away                                   | x                  |              |
| Ignore wild life when on "stay"       | "Leave it" and strong "Stay"                               | x                  |              |
| Ride on floor of car                  | Safety issue "Down" and "Stay"                             | x                  |              |
| Stay off of furniture                 | "Off"  | x                  |              |
| Take treats gently                    | Pull treat back if too aggressive                          | x                  |              |
| Wait at food bowl until OK            | Restrain by holding collar. "Watch Me" helps               | x                  |              |
| Walk with loose leash – no tugging    | Gentle leader helps – other tools available                | x                  |              |