



## PAWSOME ASSISTANCE DOGS REQUIREMENTS FOR ASSESSMENT FOR PUBLIC ACCESS TRAINING

PAD accepts inquiries from individuals seeking advice and mentoring in choosing the most appropriate dog for their individual needs, both medically and in their whole of life environments. You can be pre-registered with PAD, to enable navigating Accommodation, Access and Inclusion preparations for Workplace and Educational Environment arrangements, for being accompanied by your AD.

PAD offers the opportunity to mentor you in the correct breed, most suited to your needs. We recommend an Aptitude Test be done on the potential litter to identify the most suitable candidates. This is a cost to the Handler separate to the Registration fees and is done by an independent authorised Trainer.

Initial Assessment of the Team, where the Handler is already in possession of a suitable dog, involves the following: -

1. There is a **demonstrated bond** between the Handler and the Dog: -
  - a) There must be **no aggression** in the training or control of dog by the Handler.
  - b) The dog shows a **developing/developed focus** on the Handler for directions and reinforcement of good behaviour, or indication of unacceptable behaviour.
  - c) They are able to demonstrate both the Handler and Dog, are **safe and effective as a Team** in public.
2. The dog must be of good health, well being and physical ability, which will be verified by a Vet letter at the Application process.
3. Be able to demonstrate the Dog can be controlled by the Primary Handler, or if required, jointly by the Primary and Alternate Handler. The dog needs to be walking calmly and with focus on the Handler, not dragging the Handler, or lunging frequently or unprovoked at other dogs. The dog cannot be reactive. It must not be aggressive – growling, snarling, showing teeth, raising hackles, biting etc.

4. The dog must not show fear of the Handler, Public places or environments, people, children, or equipment.
5. The dog must **not show signs of Guarding** or be territorial towards the Handler, People, Possessions, Food. The exception being if the Dog is alerting or protecting the Handler during a medical episode.
6. The Dog must respond to **basic commands** such as Sit, Stand, Down, Stay, Heel, and walk on a loose lead. It must be able to hold a sit/stay, or down/stay, for 5-10 seconds. The Dog must also be able to hold position, while the Handler walks a distance from it, and then for the dog to be recalled to the Handler. The dog is not off lead during this task. It is done with a long, dropped lead, approximately the length of two standard leads.
7. The Dog must be able to **be controlled by another unfamiliar person**. This is assessed by the Assessor taking the dog from the Handler and walking a distance away, waiting 5-10 seconds, and having the Handler recall the dog to them.
8. As a Team in public, both Handler and Dog need to present with cleanliness, professionalism, moderated behaviour and etiquette around people and other dogs/animals.
9. The Dog must be **toilet trained**. The Handler must be able to either have the dog toilet on command, or be able to know the signs that the dog needs to be removed to an appropriate location for toileting
10. The Handler needs to train the dog for safe entry and exit of vehicles, buildings, or other environments, by following their guidance and commands.
11. Commands and control of the dog can be verbal, hand signals, or a combination of both. The words used for each task is at the Handler's discretion, the Handler needs to be able to demonstrate that the dog understands the expectation attached to the word or hand signal.
12. **Small dogs**, whilst being permitted to be carried in certain environments, must still be able to walk on a loose lead with attention on the Handler. Small dogs, being carried in strollers, carriers or trolleys, must still be able to pass all the assessment requirements, but additionally, they must be able to show they can be controlled and work from the location of the pram, trolley, carrier etc, to support the Handler's needs. Small dogs may be lifted in and out of vehicles, but must still display control and obedience.
13. **The dog needs to be showing indicators that it is connected to the Handler in such a way that it is paying attention to changes in the Handler's overall status, to be innately alerting and providing simple indications of tasking. The dog is not required to already be trained to perform complex AD tasks, but there must be indications that the dog is responding to the Handler in a manner that confirms it is an assistance dog. Alerting or Tasking in the home is not sufficient to certify a dog as an Assistance Dog. For public access certification, the dog is required to prove it is alerting/tasking in public. PAD require a public access training dog/Team to be able to identify a minimum of three (3) alerts/tasks in public to be certified.**

These are the basic requirements for initial **Public Access Training Assessment (PAST)**

The Team will be assessed via the following items, and must display the current ability, or potential to achieve, these standards during the Training Phase with consistent improvement, and proof of the Handler's commitment to achieve full standards ASAP

## ASSESSMENT BY ITEMS

ITEM	KEY ACTIVITY	BREAK DOWN
ITEM 1	Controlled load/unload public/private transport	Waits/is under control/ignores other dogs & people/use lift, escalator, or travelator if possible
ITEM 2	Approaching a Building	Calm/Heeled/Stopped with Handler
ITEM 3	Controlled Entry/Exit from Building	Waits for command to enter/exit/ returns to heel
ITEM 4	Buildings - Heeling/not using furniture	Heels/focused/nonobtrusive/manoeuvres/under control
ITEM 5	Sits on Command	Prompt response/ignores trolleys etc/holds position
ITEM 6	Downs on Command	Prompt response/ignores trolleys etc/holds position
ITEM 7	Noise Distraction	No fear/aggression/or ongoing distraction/startle is acceptable
ITEM 8	Restaurant	Unobtrusive/out of passage ways/ignores food service/ignores people/quiet
ITEM 9	Food Leave	Ignores food/ is not distracted by food/holds position when food is dropped
ITEM 10	2 metre Recall	Controlled/focused/holds position/returns quickly to Handler
ITEM 11	Drop Lead & Retrieve	Handler can drop and retrieve lead whole dog holds position
ITEM 12	Interactions with Strangers	Can be taken by a stranger/patted by a child/ignores other dogs/nonaggressive or fearful
ITEM 13	Team Relationship	Controlled/Responsive/Correct Equipment/positive reinforcement/friendly & confident

Prior to this, in the interview assessment phase, the Assessor will be looking to see a commitment to training, relevant to the age and breed of the dog, and the potential of the Team to be an Assistance Dog Handler Team.

A Team cannot remain at **PAST level beyond 12 months** except under exceptional circumstances. The next level of accreditation, (**PASA PUBLIC ACCESS STANDARD ASSESS** ) is probationary for a minimum of 12 months, before a Team can request to be assessed for three year certification.

To transition from **PASA to PASC (PUBLIC ACCESS STANDARDS CERTIFIED)** the dog must be able hold position – **PASA -20 seconds moving to PASC -30 seconds.**

**In the PASA assessment, the Team will be assessed in one familiar, and one unfamiliar environment. In the PASC assessment, the Team will be assessed in three separate unfamiliar environments.**

The full public access assessment, requires the Team to be able to meet the following Standards.

## **ASSESSMENT BY ITEMS**

The Items are described in detail in the Public Access Standards document and are listed here simply as a overview of future requirements

- ITEM 1 HANDLER PRESENCE**
- ITEM 2 HANDLER AWARENESS**
  
- ITEM 3 ASSISTANCE DOG ROLE**
- ITEM 4 IDENTIFIABLE TASKS**
  
- ITEM 5 PUBLIC PROFESSIONALISM**
- ITEM 6 EQUIPMENT**
  
- ITEM 7 COMMANDS**
  
- ITEM 8 SIT/DROP/STAY/IGNORE**
  
- ITEM 9 CONTROLLED LOAD/UNLOAD OF A VEHICLE**
  
- ITEM 10 APPROACHING A BUILDING**
  
- ITEM 11 CONTROLLED ENTRY/EXIT BUILDING**
  
- ITEM 12 MOVING THROUGH BUILDINGS**
  
- ITEM 13 SITS ON COMMAND**
- ITEM 14 DOWNS ON COMMAND**
  
- ITEM 15 DISTRACTIONS**
  
- ITEM 16 RESTAURANT**
  
- ITEM 17 FOOD REFUSAL**
  
- ITEM 18 3 METRE RECALL**
  
- ITEM 19 DROP LEAD AND RETRIEVE**
  
- ITEM 20 INTERACTIONS WITH STRANGERS**
  
- ITEM 21 WORKING COMMANDS**
  
- ITEM 22 BARKING/TASKING**
  
- ITEM 23 WALK BESIDE A SHOPPING TROLEEY/WHEEL CHAIR**

**ITEM 24 PROOFED IN MULTIPLE PUBLIC ACCESS ENVIRONMENTS**

**ITEM 25 TEAM RELATIONSHIP**

**ITEM 26 COMPLIANCE**

**PAD ASSESSES THE WHOLE TEAM!**

**This means that if the Handler fails to maintain compliance with ALL PAD REQUIREMENTS, both public access standards and Handler standards in relation to policies, procedures and by-laws, regardless of the standard of the dog, the Executive reserves the right to de-register the Team as not meeting PAD requirements (See Items 1, 2, and 26)**

**If the dog is not focused and responding to the Handler, and not able to demonstrate three tasks/alerts in public, then the dog is not an Assistance Dog, and the Executive reserves the right to d-register the Team, even if the Handler is in compliance with other standards ( See Item 3, 4 and 26)**