



Public Access Test

Handler: _____ Parent/ Guardian (if minor): _____
Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Telephone: _____ - _____ - _____ Email: _____
Dog Name: _____ Breed: _____ Age: _____ M / F

Upon achieving the ability to exhibit the safe, competent execution of the task-trained trait(s) relevant to the Client's disability in a variety of environments and situations, the dog & Handler Team is presented with the opportunity to participate in the SPECTRUM Service Dogs Public Access Testing (PA Test/ PAT). In such PAT, the dog & Handler Team exhibits their accomplishment and understanding of the task-trained-traits specific to the handler's disability, as well as the minimal skill sets necessary for the safe, respectful, continued acceptance of the "Service Dog" within the public arena.

The SPECTRUM Service Dogs Public Access Test provides a *minimal* standard which every dog & Handler Team should meet before their designation is changed from "In Training" to "Service Dog" status.

Service dog testing is not required by law in the United States, nor does any such national-level testing exist, and SPECTRUM Service Dogs believes this to be the appropriate position. The SPECTRUM Service Dogs PAT is provided as an evaluation of minimal skill sets, behaviors, and dog & handler relationship with regard to a particular Team's preparedness and suitability to operate in the public arena, and is applicable whether the Team has been self-trained, trained under the direction of a professional trainer, or combination thereof.

In keeping with the training philosophies and principles of SPECTRUM Service Dogs, the PAT is structured as a straight-forward, practical, and realistic evaluation of a Team on a specific date, under specific environmental influences as they would naturally and normally exist. No event is set up specifically to either promote or defeat a particular Team, nor are test environments chosen because such environment may be particularly overwhelming or benign; events are held in the environment as the respective environment would normally exist during normal operation during time of participation in the PAT.

Open, outward exhibitions of aggression by the dog towards the Handler, the evaluator/ administrator of the PAT, any other Teams participating in the PAT, or any patrons of any establishment or environment in which the PAT is conducted is unacceptable.

Regardless of any Team's ability to successfully pass the PAT, neither SPECTRUM Service Dogs nor the evaluator/ administrator of the test will in any way be held liable for the actions/ events/ behaviors/ or resulting events of any Team at a future date. Continued training, proofing, and polishing throughout the service life of the Team is the only route to continued success.

The SPECTRUM Service Dogs PAT evaluates the Team's accomplishments as broken down into the categories of 1) Handler Knowledge of the ADA/ Task Trained Traits, 2) Basic Obedience, and 3) Focus To Task/ Environmental Stability. ***Note: While off-leash training is an important tool in the development of the working dog & Handler Team, the ADA/2010 requires that a service dog handler be in constant physical control of their dog, and as such, this PAT does not test off-leash obedience, with the exception of the "Wait/ Stay (2)" exercise.***

How the PAT is scored – The PAT is scored as PASS Yes/ No. Achieving a PASS (PASS Yes) in ALL individual test elements is necessary to achieve a successful PASS of the PAT. **Some elements of the evaluation will not be applicable for some Teams due to their disability. For example, a wheelchair Team will not be required to negotiate stairs, nor will they receive a "NO PASS" for the excused section. Achieving PASS on the balance of elements by this Team would constitute a PASS for the PAT.*

Not every test environment will entail the capability to test every element of the PAT. For example, if the test is conducted in a department store, and there is no option for stairs, but an escalator and elevator both exist, the next-safest option for the Service Dog Team would be to take the elevator, and an evaluation of the dog's behavior during such noted. This will constitute the element requirements to achieve a PASS/NO PASS for this element, and the substitution noted. ***If no reasonable substitution exists, this is noted, and the element is counted neither for nor against the participating Team.***



No Teams with a dog less than 18 months of age will be evaluated. (Practice evaluations for the young dog Team are often a helpful tool, but a Team will not be categorized as “Service Dog” status prior to the dog reaching a minimal age of 18 months).

Participating Teams should present themselves in a professional manner. The dog should be clean, well-groomed, present a calm, confident, and comfortable demeanor, and an appearance one would associate as representative of a healthy dog of the same breed and age.

Participating Teams are to be outfitted with a flat collar and a standard leash that would be of composition as used in their day-to-day handling. No retractable leashes may be utilized during the PAT. Leash may be attached to the collar, to the collar & harness, or to the harness, as would be reflective of the Team’s normal use in training and work.

SPECTRUM Service Dogs always recommends a cape, vest, or harness that readily identifies the dog & Handler as a Service Dog Team during both during training and while working in public. However, since there is no legal requirement pertaining to the Team’s use of these pieces of gear, these are not a requirement for participation in the PAT. The decision to use or not use such pieces of gear during the PAT is that of the testing Handler, and should reflect their normal training/ working habits.

No Team may participate in the PAT with the use of choke-collar, prong/ pinch collar or harness, or electric collar.

Heavy leash correction or other heavy physical correction during the PAT terminates the evaluation, and renders a NO PASS for the participating Team.

In the approach to evaluate a Team in as close to real-world conditions as possible that a service dog may be required to operate - No treats/ toys for motivation or reward may be used during the PAT. The Handler may re-direct the dog with a “Leave That”, “Eyes”, etc., but the use of such re-direct should be short, definitive, and fairly infrequent. Verbal praise and a pat is always acceptable reward, just not to the point that it draws undue attention to the Team, or disruption in the testing environment.

Handler Knowledge / Task-Trained Traits

The Handler shall exhibit a knowledge of the ADA/ Revised 2010 as it applies to Service Dogs, the Handler’s requirements and responsibilities under such, and a clear understanding of the concept of “Granted Access”.

Handler Knowledge of the ADA - Every Service Dog Handler should be familiar with questions that can and cannot be legally presented to the Team by a third party in order to gain entrance to an otherwise public-use establishment, store, restaurant, lodging, etc. As such, the Handler shall be able to readily articulate the general scope of such task-trained traits of their service dog, without revealing the Handler’s disability. “Interrupts destructive/ disruptive behavior”, “Warns of changing body chemistry”, and “provides stability for my movement” are examples of appropriate/ acceptable answers.

PASS – Yes No

Task-Trained Traits - As required under the ADA/ 2010, a Service Dog must possess Task-Trained Traits specific to the Handler’s disability.

The Handler must be able to definitively articulate to the examiner the specific Task-Trained Trait(s) as each relates to the handler’s disability. If possible, and as appropriate, the handler may also be requested to initiate the dog’s conditioned response to openly exhibit one or more task-trained trait(s).

PASS – Yes No

Basic Obedience

While competition-level obedience is not a necessity for the Service Dog Team, the Team wishing to work in the public arena should possess at least basic obedience skills in order to operate in a safe, efficient, and non-disruptive manner. These skills are evaluated in specific events, as well as part of the overall performance of the Team throughout the PAT.

Position – Unless the handler’s disability directly requires different, the dog should travel alongside the handler with a loose leash (“U” or “J”) in a position in which the front legs do not pass behind, nor do the rear legs pass in front of the Handler’s leg. The dog should not range wide, but maintain position within close proximity alongside the handler. The dog may be heeled on either side, but the positioning requirements remain. Movement of the Team should be fluid and without stress or struggle. When the Handler stops movement, the dog should stop appropriately, remaining in position relative to the Handler (can be a stand, sit, or down). This is evaluated during the Team’s movement throughout the PAT. With exception directly related to the Handler’s disability, pulling on the leash or leading by the dog is unacceptable.

PASS – Yes No

“Sit” - Dog should exhibit the ability to be directed with one, simple verbal direction, hand signal, or combination thereof from the Handler to assume a “sit” position, without the handler changing posture or position, and remain in such position for 30 seconds.

PASS – Yes No

“Down” - Dog should exhibit the ability to be directed with one, simple verbal direction, hand signal, or combination thereof from the Handler to assume a “down” position, without the handler changing posture or position, and remain in such position for 30 seconds. In this exercise, the “down” position should be in a tidy, reasonable footprint, with legs & body aligned – not stretched out in such manner as to become an obstacle or impediment to passers-by.

PASS – Yes No

“Wait/ Stay (1)” - While stationary, such as the handler viewing wares on a shelf/ stand/ etc., the handler drops the leash to the ground, simulating an accidental drop of the leash. Dog is to remain stationary in position by the handler, exhibiting no desire to leave the handler. Handler retrieves the leash while dog remains in position. If so trained, the dog may retrieve the leash from the ground upon Handler direction and present it to the Handler.

PASS – Yes No

“Wait/ Stay (2)” – While the ADA/2010 requires a Service Dog Handler to be in constant physical control of their dog, sometimes emergencies may exist during which the dog may be momentarily separated from the handler. In such case, it is important to be able to direct the dog at least at minimal distances.

Dog should exhibit the ability to be directed with one, simple verbal direction, hand signal, or combination thereof from the Handler to remain in place as the Handler walks away, beginning the 30 second time frame for the exercise. The dog may stand, sit, or down, but cannot leave their position.



Upon the Handler reaching a distance of approximately 10 feet from the dog, the Handler stops and turns to face the dog. The Handler may give one simple verbal direction, hand signal, or combination thereof to reinforce the dog's remaining in position *if necessary*. Upon notification by the evaluator/administrator of reaching the 30 second mark, the Handler will call the dog in with one, simple verbal direction, hand signal, or combination thereof. Dog must not wander and must not stop for or chase after a distraction, but moves directly and with purpose to finish in proper working position alongside the Handler. ***It is not mandatory to unhook the leash from the dog for this exercise, however if the leash is left attached to the dog's collar, care should be taken by the Handler that the dog is not worked in such manner or in such area that the leash may become entangled.*

PASS – Yes No

Focus To Task/ Environmental Stability

The success of the Service Dog Team is dependent upon the dog's Focus To Task, in that the dog is primarily focused on their job, while being able to safely negotiate public places without becoming a nuisance, distraction, or impediment to either the handler or other patrons of the establishment, nor should they exhibit fearfulness or excessive stress throughout commonly encountered environments.

Loading Into Vehicles – Team must be able to safely and efficiently load into vehicles or other means of conveyance. The Handler must ensure loading is safe, and directs the dog to load into the vehicle. The leash is removed once the dog is inside, and the dog is to settle in place. Attempt by the dog to exit the vehicle without Handler direction is not acceptable.

PASS – Yes No

Riding in Vehicles – Dog will be observed riding in a vehicle. During such time, the dog must not exhibit undue stress or fear, but should exhibit a calm, confident demeanor during the duration of the ride.

PASS – Yes No

Unloading From Vehicles - After establishing a safe parking location and parking the vehicle appropriately, the Handler is to approach and open the appropriate vehicle door, leash the dog, and direct the dog to exit the vehicle. Dog should be steady, calm, and patient, showing no signs of stress. Upon exiting the vehicle, the dog remains calm, and readily assumes their working position beside the Handler. Any attempt to rush out of the vehicle, or any other attempt to exit the vehicle prior to Handler direction, fear of exiting the vehicle, or the dog pulling at the end of the leash once on the ground in the attempt to explore or greet others is unacceptable.

PASS – Yes No



Parking Lot Navigation – The Team is observed walking from their vehicle through a parking lot in approach to a building entrance. Dog must retain proper safe working position relative to the handler. It will be the Handler’s decision on which side the dog will travel, but this must be in a safe, stress-free manner. Any attempt to approach other vehicles or people is unacceptable, as is the Team’s inability to cross the parking lot in a safe, controlled, and professional manner.

PASS – Yes No

Entering a Public Building – Upon approaching the entrance, the Team must enter the building via a primary public entrance. The dog must not exhibit fear or stress, nor should there be fear or stress from automatic doors, overhead blower devices, or shiny/ slick floors. The Team must navigate the entrance together, with the dog neither rushing through, nor reluctant to enter. ***If the dog has been conditioned to open an automatic door by means of strike plate and such are present in the testing environment, this skill should be exhibited.***

PASS – Yes No

Aisle Navigation – Team exhibits the ability to traverse store aisles without unnecessary contact with shelving or contents. Team exhibits the ability to safely negotiate left and right turns into/ out of aisles, making sure they are not walking into the path of other patrons, or creating any other unnecessary impediment.

PASS – Yes No

Disregard of Shelf Contents – As the Team works through a store, the dog cannot become unduly distracted by the contents of the store’s shelving. Throughout the store visit, the dog must maintain the presence that the Handler is the primary focus. Excessive sniffing, or scratching, pawing, or biting at any shelf contents is unacceptable.

PASS – Yes No

Disregard of Other People – Throughout the PAT, the dog should not openly and intentionally solicit attention or acknowledgment from other people that occupy the test environment simultaneously with conduction of the PAT.

PASS – Yes No

Disregard of Floor Distractions – Throughout the PAT, the dog should not exhibit distraction by items on the floor, be they food or other items within the path of the Team. Excessive sniffing/ scratching/ pawing/ biting at/ or picking up such distraction is unacceptable. The Handler may re-direct the dog with a “Leave That”, “Eyes”, etc., but the use of such re-direct should be short, definitive, and fairly infrequent.

PASS – Yes No



Shopping Cart Use – Unless prevented by the Handler’s disability, the Team should also exhibit the ability to use a shopping cart within a store. Dog must remain in proper working position with the handler, and the Team must execute left and right turns, be considerate of other patrons in the store, and not become a disruption or impediment. The dog exhibiting fear or anxiety around the cart in use, or other carts in use in the store is unacceptable. Placing a Service Dog in a shopping cart is unacceptable.

PASS – Yes No

Navigating Elevation Features – Often times when traversing a public environment it becomes necessary to navigate elevation features – to go up or down one or more levels of a structure – via steps/ curbs, stairs, and/ or elevator (SPECTRUM Service Dogs strongly advises escalators should be used by the Service Dog Team only in an emergency situation, and there exists no other option available. For this reason, no testing is conducted using escalators). If the dog has been trained in relation to the Handler’s disability to step ahead or adapt other changes in working position in order to provide stability/ balance/ motivation, etc., the respective change in the dog’s working position will be respected, though the Handler must be able to articulate these skill sets, as well as the reasoning supporting these behaviors.

Steps/ Curbs – When encountered in the testing environment, the Team should be able to exhibit the safe negotiation of steps/ curbs in both up and down directions in a safe, calm, and uniform manner, with the dog maintaining proper working position relative to the Handler, and not creating an unnecessary obstacle or impediment.

Stairs - When encountered in the testing environment, the Team should be able to exhibit the safe negotiation of stairs in both up and down directions in a safe, calm, and uniform manner, with the dog maintaining proper working position relative to the Handler, and not creating an unnecessary obstacle or impediment.

Elevator – When encountering an elevator, the Team should approach calmly, allowing all exiting passengers to clear, then entering the elevator as a safe, calm, uniform unit. During the elevator travel, the dog should not exhibit signs of stress or fear, but must remain calm, passive, and in proper position to the Handler. Dog must not exhibit excessive attention to or licking of the walls or floor, nor initiate engagement with any other passengers. Upon reaching the destination level, all other exiting passengers are allowed to clear, then the Team may exit as a safe, calm, and uniform unit. A dog who becomes unruly or otherwise must be restrained by the Handler while in the elevator is unacceptable. ***Care must always be taken by the Handler when boarding an elevator to ensure as best possible that the dog & Handler not become separated by closing doors.*

PASS – Yes No



Public Restroom – The Team should be able to exhibit the skill and ability to enter a public restroom, enter a stall (HA preferred), and remain for a period of 60 seconds to simulate use of such facility. Peeking under or crawling/ attempting to crawl under the stall partition, or attempting to initiate engagement from a person in an adjacent stall is unacceptable.

PASS – Yes No

Restaurant – The Service Dog Team should be able to work just as efficiently and create as little distraction or disruption while inside a restaurant as would be appropriate in any other public or commercial environment. As such, the Team should be able to exhibit the same safe approach, entry, and travel through the restaurant as would be appropriate in any other public or commercial environment.

During travel through the restaurant, the dog must not initiate any engagement with other patrons, nor take exceptional note of food on tables, nor should they stop to sniff, lick, or eat any food that has been dropped on the floor.

****SPECTRUM Service Dogs always recommends seating at a table as removed as reasonably possible from the greater balance of patrons, particularly not in a high lane of traffic, with the dog placed as removed from passers-by as reasonable in order to better mitigate the amount of people who think for some reason that it is acceptable to interrupt our meal in order to “talk to” or try to pat my dog****

As the Team approaches their seating, the Handler should take note of the floor area, and if any excessive amounts of food have been dropped on the floor in the immediate area the Team will be seated. If an excessive amount of food is observed, it is not a foul for the Handler to ask that the area be swept before taking their seated position. As the Handler takes their seat, the dog should assume a working position relative to how they are trained, as out of the way as possible, and not creating an obstacle or other impediment to the Handler or other patrons. The dog must remain as stationary and as passive as possible during the meal. The dog must not be preoccupied with sniffing/ licking the floor, should not eat food from the floor, and should not initiate engagement with or attention from any patron. It is unacceptable for the dog to beg for or attempt to take any food from any table. It is unacceptable for the dog, their face, paws, legs, or tail to be on a table. It is unacceptable for the Handler to feed the dog from the table.

Upon completion of the meal, the Team travels back through the restaurant in a safe, efficient manner, and exits the restaurant.

PASS – Yes No

Conversation Distance – The Team should be able to exhibit the ability to approach/ be approached by another person to a conversation distance of roughly three (3) feet. The dog must remain in working position during a brief conversation of 30 seconds. Excessive whining or attempting to initiate engagement with the other person is unacceptable. Upon completion of the conversation, the dog must not attempt to follow, stop, or otherwise engage with the other person, by must retain a proper working position relative to the Handler.

PASS – Yes No



Public Access Test

Working Around Other Dogs – In such an environment occupied by other dogs, the Team should be able to conduct their normal training, travel, or leisure without creating additional distraction or disruption. The Service Dog should not exhibit undue preoccupation with passing dogs, be they pets or other working or training Service Dog Teams. Aggression towards passing dogs or their handler/owner is unacceptable. Excessive whining, barking, challenging, or failure to maintain proper working position relative to the Handler are unacceptable.

The Team should exhibit their ability to remain in position as other dogs move/ work in proximity. The Team should also exhibit their ability move and work as a safe, uniform unit in proximity to other dogs. ***Proximity for this element means a distance not closer than three (3) feet to the dog, but in the same general operational area.*

PASS – Yes No

Date of Public Access Test: _____ Time: _____

Location(s) of Public Access Test: _____

Cumulative score of the Public Access Test: PASS – Yes No

Evaluator's Notes : _____

 Evaluator's Signature

 Date

 Handler's Signature

 Date