



ALBERTA PUBLIC ACCESS TEST

Practice checklist based on the Government of Alberta Service Dog Qualification Assessment

How to use this resource

Work through the exercises until the team can perform each skill calmly and reliably. This checklist mirrors the published Alberta assessment exercises for training purposes; it is not an official Government of Alberta assessment form. The Government states that the qualification assessment evaluates the team in public settings and all required exercises must be successfully completed.

HANDLER KNOWLEDGE

- **1. Care of the dog**
Dog is clean and groomed, has no offensive odour, appears friendly and relaxed, and working equipment is properly adjusted and serviceable.
- **2. Control of the dog**
Handler maintains adequate physical control. Practice on a loose leash with the dog approximately 12-24 inches from the handler unless a task or disability requires otherwise.
- **3. Wellbeing of the dog**
Handler can explain the dog's care and demonstrates understanding of and responsiveness to the dog's needs.
- **4. Evident team relationship**
Dog is attentive and responds without stress or avoidance. Handler demonstrates a positive bond and appropriately praises/reinforces the dog.
- **5. Knowledge of access rights**
Handler can calmly respond to an access challenge and understands that public access depends on the dog remaining under control.

VEHICLES & TRANSPORTATION

- **6. Calmness inside vehicle before unloading**
Dog remains calm in the vehicle until the handler gives a release cue.
- **7. Wait outside vehicle after unloading**
Dog exits on leash, remains controlled and waits calmly outside the vehicle while attending to the handler.
- **8. Obedient load into vehicle**
Dog waits to be cued to load, enters under control and settles calmly in the location selected by the handler.
- **9. Calmness around traffic**
Dog remains calm and relaxed around parking-lot traffic, noise and ordinary distractions while approaching the building.
- **10. Public transit - if normally used**
Team can board and exit a bus or train. Dog remains calm, unobtrusive and relaxed without soliciting attention or showing fear/shyness.



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BUILDINGS & DOORWAYS

- **11. Heel approaching building**
Dog approaches in heel position without pulling, forging ahead or lagging.
- **12. Stop before entering doorway**
Dog stops with the handler and waits calmly until cued to enter.
- **13. Enter doorway calmly**
Dog passes through the entrance safely and calmly.
- **14. Wait after entering**
Dog waits calmly inside and remains attentive until the handler resumes movement.
- **15. Calmness before exiting doorway**
Dog approaches the exit in a relaxed heel position.
- **16. Exit doorway calmly**
Dog exits in a relaxed heel without straining or rushing through the doorway.
- **17. Stop after exiting building**
Dog stops when the handler stops and remains calmly positioned beside the handler.

OBEDIENCE

- **18. Heeling inside building**
Dog walks beside the handler in a controlled manner.
- **19. Stairs, elevators or escalators**
Team safely manages the applicable surfaces/features at the assessment location, including slippery floors and stairs, elevators and/or escalators.
- **20. Adjust to speed and direction**
Dog changes pace and direction with the handler without pulling, coaxing or dragging, except where mobility needs require an accommodation.
- **21. Narrow or tight areas**
Dog calmly negotiates tight quarters without disturbing merchandise or surroundings.
- **22. Crowds**
Dog moves calmly through people without trying to interact with them.



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OBEDIENCE - CONTINUED

- **23. Ten-foot off-leash recall**
From a sit, handler moves about 10 feet away and calls the dog. Dog responds promptly, stays focused and under control, comes directly to the handler and finishes close enough to be readily touched.
- **24. Sit command**
Dog responds to the sit cue with no more than two commands and remains sitting until released.
- **25. Down command**
Dog responds to the down cue with no more than two commands and remains down until released.
- **26. Dropped-leash exercise**
While moving, handler drops the leash. Dog remains under control as the handler changes direction, allowing the handler to recover the leash and return the dog to position.
- **27. Response to stranger holding leash**
Assessor/passive stranger holds the dog's leash and moves about 20 feet from the handler for one minute. Dog does not show aggression, stress or whining.

DISTRACTIONS & PUBLIC BEHAVIOUR

- **28. No soliciting public attention**
Dog remains focused on the handler and ignores other people.
- **29. Restaurant behaviour**
Dog remains quiet and unobtrusive, stays out of walkways and, when appropriate, settles in a down under the table close to the handler.
- **30. Sit beside a plate of food**
Dog holds a sit-stay and does not approach or attempt to eat the food; repeated corrections should not be needed.
- **31. Down while food is dropped**
Dog remains down and controlled when food is dropped on the floor and does not attempt to take it; repeated corrections should not be needed.
- **32. Sit while shopping cart/trolley passes**
Dog remains sitting and relaxed while a cart passes normally, without fear, avoidance or anxiety.



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DISTRACTIONS & PUBLIC BEHAVIOUR - CONTINUED

- **33. Sit while petted by stranger**
Dog remains sitting while a stranger approaches, speaks with the handler and pets the dog. Dog does not solicit attention or show aggression; handler may reinforce cues as needed.
- **34. Down while adult and child approach**
Dog remains calm and down while an adult and child approach and pet the dog, without soliciting attention or requiring repeated correction.
- **35. Noise distraction**
When an object is dropped behind the dog, a brief startle is acceptable if the dog recovers immediately. Continued fear, aggression or other negative behaviour is not.
- **36. Dog distraction / aggression test**
At about six feet from a non-aggressive dog or puppy, the dog remains calm and under handler control during a short conversation, without aggression, vocalizing or attempts to play.

DISABILITY-MITIGATION TASKS

- **37. Mitigation task 1**
Dog demonstrates a trained task that mitigates an aspect of the handler's disability.
- **38. Mitigation task 2**
Dog demonstrates a second trained task that mitigates an aspect of the handler's disability.
- **39. Mitigation task 3**
Dog demonstrates a third trained task that mitigates an aspect of the handler's disability.

Important assessment standard

Alberta states that a dog may be disqualified for aggression, enhanced prey drive, resource guarding, excessive fear, major restraint or a continuously tight leash (unless required by the handler's mobility), distraction that creates a safety risk, or poor health. The dog must also be capable of performing at least three disability-mitigation tasks.

Practice notes: _____
