



Application process and dog training schedule

1) Applicant applies with form

Medical evidence sought

Vet records requested

Existing dog assessed in person

Applicant matched with local trainer or local non-profit

2) Basic socialisation and obedience training

Basic commands

Manners with people and other animals

Public behaviour in pet-friendly places

Applicant learns proper care and maintenance of dog

“Under Assessment” lead sleeve provided during this stage.

3) Disability-specific tasks; in-person with trainer or via distance learning if no trainer available

Including but not limited to:

Mobility Assistance:

- Getting dropped objects
- Getting named objects
- Placing objects in requested location
- Opening doors/ cupboard/ fridge
- Lifting laundry out of washing machine
- Bracing applicant during transfer from wheelchair/ sofa (if breed large enough)
- Helping to pull on/ off clothing

Hearing Assistance:

- Response and direction to source of sounds; Alarm clock, timer, doorbell, mobile phone noises, landline noises, door knocking, applicant’s name, baby monitor, unheard dropped objects

- Emergency response to sounds; fire alarm, carbon monoxide alarm

Guiding:

- Forward motion
- Navigating obstacles and holes
- Stopping before overhanging obstacles
- Stopping at kerbs and elevation changes
- Intelligent disobedience in traffic
- Indoor lead-guiding
- Locate crossings, staircases, exits, lifts
- Follow designated person

Psychological:

- Response to panic attack or meltdown; tactile stimulation, placing of weight onto applicant's thighs with front paws (dog's head on lap is appropriate substitute for a child)
- Counteract medication side-effects; wake handler unresponsive to alarm clock, wake and lead to exit during fire alarm, fetch drinks
- Fetch help from assistant
- Medication/ self-care reminder
- Blocking/ buffering
- Locate building exit during panic
- Press alarm to summon emergency services
- Let first responders into residence

Medical Alert/ Response:

- Learn to recognise scent or physiological symptoms of medical emergency
- Response to emergency; alert signal to applicant, tactile stimulation to help wake from syncope
- Fetch medical kit
- Guiding during temporary sight loss
- Locate exit to building
- Medication reminder
- Press alarm to summon emergency services
- Let first responders into residence

4) Public Access training, with trainer or authorised for applicant to do alone after in-person assessment

Applicant and dog receive training jacket and identification card

Consistency of disability-specific tasks in public

Outdoor versions of applicable tasks

Move on to places that pet dogs are prohibited

Train at a location the dog has never been to before

Train overnight at an unfamiliar hotel

Registered charity: 1167033

Train at a cinema or noisy place

“In Training” jacket provided during this stage.

5) Public Access

Assistance Dogs International Public Access test administered by trainer

Dog and applicant qualify

Applicant and dog receive qualified jacket and identification card

Monthly after-care visits to partnership for first six months, twice-yearly from then onwards

“Assistance Dog” jacket and lead sleeve provided during this stage.

6) Retirement

Dog retires when disinterested in or unable to continue working.