



Administered by mindDog (Psychiatric Service Dog Association (NSW) Incorporated)
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information sheet

Public Access Test

mindDog is released from any liability associated with the use of this voluntary Public Access Test for Service Dogs.

Date _____	Identifying characteristic(s) _____
Place of test _____	_____
Name of dog _____	Name of handler _____
Breed _____	Name of tester _____
Sex <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female	Result of test _____
Neutered <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Signature of Tester _____

Purpose of the public access standard

The purpose of the public access standard is to provide a focal point for owner-trainers as they embark upon public access training with their Trainee mindDog. The standard is also helpful to professional dog trainers who are working with mindDog. Given geographic diversity, not every team will choose, or even be able, to master every element described in the public access standard. In some rural areas, for example, escalators are nowhere to be found. Think of the public access standard as a series of lesson plans from which you may pick and choose. Taken together they offer a plan for mastering the many challenges of public access.

Disqualifying behaviors

Any dog that demonstrates boisterous behavior, hackles-up, growling, showing teeth, lunging, biting, or inappropriate elimination is not ready for public access work.

Equipment and commands

Any necessary equipment may be used on the service dog (e.g. vest, harness, training collar). Tiny dogs may be carried in the handler's arms, using a carrier, sling or other device when necessary. Commands may be verbal, hand signals, or a combination of the two.

Scoring

- Always
- Mostly (more than half the time)
- Sometimes (less than half the time)
- Never

1. Car travel

Dog should be tested in unloading from handler's vehicle. Dog should not exit the vehicle until given the appropriate command, or until lifted from the car if the dog is too tiny to exit safely on its own. Once outside the vehicle, the dog must remain within 1.5m of the vehicle (instead of wandering away) and out of any obvious danger. As soon as the service dog has exited the vehicle, a second team should walk by within 3m of the first team. The service dog on the first team should not approach or in any way lunge towards the second team as it strolls past.

Dog did not attempt to exit until given the appropriate command Yes No

Dog was under control while exiting car and immediately thereafter Yes No

Dog did not interfere with, or become distracted by, a passing dog team Yes No



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2. Approaching a building

The dog should walk alongside its handler on a loose leash. The dog should not pull on its leash, stop to sniff objects, greet other people, or eliminate while walking, unless specifically cued to do so by its handler. Tiny breed dogs may be carried, though they should demonstrate the ability to walk on a loose leash in a safe area, as described above.

	1	2	3	4
Dog was calm around moving cars	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dog remained in a heel position on a loose leash	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
When handler stopped the dog also stopped	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dog did not attempt to greet or sniff others	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dog did not attempt to eliminate unless specifically cued to do so	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

3. Entering a building

The dog should enter the building via a door that its handler must open manually. This should be repeated using a door that opens automatically. While entering the building, the dog should continue to be on a loose lead without pulling. The dog should not rush ahead of the handler as the team enters the building, nor should the dog startle when entry is through an automatic door. Tiny dogs may be carried if this is their usual working position.

Dog entered the building in a controlled manner using a manual door	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Dog entered the building in a controlled manner using an automatic door	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

4. Moving through a store with distractions

The team should enter a busy store. The dog should be on loose lead in the heel position. The dog should stop when handler stops. Dog should not brush against merchandise or topple items. Dog should not startle or appear frightened by shopping carts, baby strollers, and small children. Dog should not attempt to greet other people. The dog should be aware of its surroundings, while at the same time remaining focused on its handler. Tiny dogs that are carried should sit quietly and calmly without attempting to get out of their designated place.

	1	2	3	4
Dog remained in heel position on a loose leash or calmly in place	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dog was focused on handler	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Dog did not brush against or topple any merchandise Yes No

Dog was not bothered by shopping carts and other distractions Yes No

5. Grocery Store

Team should enter a grocery store, and the handler should push a shopping cart, while the dog keeps pace alongside its handler on a loose lead. Tiny dogs carried in their normal working position should sit calmly and quietly without attempting to get down from their designated place. As the team moves through the store, the dog should not sniff any food products or people while moving through the aisles. Handlers should be especially attentive when the team is near meat and cheese sections of the grocery store, as these represent great temptation.

While in the grocery store, the handler may wish to challenge the dog's training by placing it in a sit or down-stay (tiny dogs may remain in their normal working position) in an area where shopping carts and people are whizzing by. The dog should not break the stay, nor be fearful of the shopping carts and people, as they move about. The dog should remain focused on its handler until cued otherwise.

	1	2	3	4
Dog was calm and kept pace alongside handler pushing shopping cart	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dog did not sniff any food products or people	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dog remained calm around shopping carts and people	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>		

6. High-distraction behaviors

1) Handler puts dog in a down-stay in a busy public space. An assistant will step over the dog, and observe the dog's reaction. The dog should not react other than to note the individual's behavior. Dog should not startle, vocalize, or break the down-stay. If small dogs have been trained to move closer to their handler in these situations, or do another behavior for their safety, that trained response should not be counted negatively. For tiny dogs in carriers, the carrier in its normal position should be jostled unexpectedly instead of stepping over the dog.

Dog did not break the down-stay (if appropriate), startle or vocalize Yes No

2) Handler puts dog in a sit or down-stay in a busy public space (tiny dogs may remain in their normal working position). An assistant will recruit a child to come and pet the dog. The dog should not startle, vocalize, or appear threatened by contact from the child. The dog should remain impassive, tolerate the petting from the

child, but not engage with the child further. Finally, the dog should persist in its position until cued by its handler to do otherwise.

- Dog tolerated contact from the child Yes No
- Dog did not break its position Yes No
- Dog was largely focused on handler Yes No

3) Handler puts dog in a sit-stay or a down-stay. If the dog's tail is not already tucked, then an assistant should lightly press the dog's tail with her shoe. The dog should not startle or display aggression towards the assistant. The dog should be trained to tuck its tail in response to such a light touch. This item may be omitted if the dog has an extremely short tail, or if the dog is carried in its normal working position.

- Dog successfully tucked its tail Yes No

7. Mass transit

If public transportation is available in the handler's geographic area, then the team should practice boarding and riding as many forms of public transportation that are available to them ie trains, buses, trams, taxi, or plane. The dog should remain calm throughout the trip and disinterested in other persons present. The handler may choose to put the dog in a sit-stay or down-stay, as conditions permit. Generally speaking, a mindDog should ride on the floor of a train, bus, tram, taxi or plane, rather than the seat.

A mindDog may be placed on a seat, when doing so is absolutely necessary and the dog may not otherwise be safe. Tiny mindDogs may need to be protected from other passengers' feet by riding in a front carrier, shoulder bag, scooter basket, or in the lap of its handler.

- | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Dog boarded and exited public transportation calmly | | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Dog remained in position without disturbing others | | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

8. Restaurants

The team should enter a restaurant and take a table, or wait to be seated. While walking through the restaurant, the dog should not lunge at any food or crumbs that may be on the floor. The dog should be placed into a down-stay under the table, if possible, and remain there silently for the duration of the meal.

If the setting will not allow the dog to remain under the table, then it may be placed in a down-stay next to, or under, the handler's chair and out of the way of other patrons and staff. Tiny dogs should remain calmly and quietly in their normal working position during the meal.

At no time is a mindDog of any size acceptable on a table. The dog may only be in a chair if it is in a carrier. Sniffing around, or begging for food is not permitted.

- | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Dog successfully ignored food or crumbs on restaurant floor | | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Dog remained in position out of the way of others | | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Dog did not beg, sniff, or create a disturbance in the restaurant | | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Mid-way through the meal, an assistant may challenge the dog's training by dropping a small piece of food near the dog. A well-trained mindDog will not break its position, nor will it attempt to sniff or eat the food.

- Dog did not break its position during this challenge Yes No
- Dog did not sniff the food item Yes No
- Dog did not try to consume the dropped food item Yes No

9. Bathrooms

The team should enter a public restroom. The dog should follow its handler into the bathroom stall, if physically possible. The dog should not squirm or attempt to escape the bathroom stall, nor should it peek into adjacent stalls or whine to get out. When the handler leaves the bathroom stall, the dog should move synchronously and effortlessly with its handler.

When the handler washes his/her hands and/or is unable hold the leash, the dog may be placed out of the way, either in a sit-stay or a down-stay, until cued by the handler to exit the bathroom. In cases where there is no accessible bathroom stall, or where stalls are too small to fit dog and handler, the handler should place the dog in a down-stay, out of the way, while the handler uses the toilet.

Carriers with tiny mindDogs inside may be hung on the hook on the back of the bathroom door or held as appropriate.

- Dog entered the bathroom without obvious fear Yes No
 - Dog remained in position while handler washed his/her hands Yes No
- | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|--|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Dog did not whine or peek into adjacent stalls | | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

10. Lifts

The team should enter and leave a lift in a controlled fashion. The dog should ride both up and down. It should not startle or cower out of fear and should be at ease, confident, and attentive to its handler throughout the ride.

Dog entered, rode the lift without fear, and exited appropriately 1 2 3 4

11. Escalators

NOTE: This part of the test is optional

The team should practice using an escalator (ascending and descending), only if it is physically possible for the handler to do so safely. In other words, escalator work is optional, because if not done correctly, your dog's feet could be seriously injured. When preparing to embark on the escalator one should do so in a full and confident stride. In order to step off the escalator safely, you will need to be walking at full stride.

You should allow at least six empty steps between you and the person in front of you when you first get on. Some dogs prefer to pace themselves more quickly than the handler when getting off the escalator. So long as the handler is always in control of the dog, and the dog is not getting in the way of others who are stepping off the escalator at the same time, this is OK. Smaller mindDogs may be carried when using the escalator.

Dog got on the escalator without incident Yes No
 Dog rode the escalator calmly Yes No
 Dog got off the escalator in a controlled manner Yes No

12. Stairs

The dog should master stairways (ascending and descending). The dog should not run up the stairs, nor should it be fearful of them. A team should be climbing stairs together in a controlled manner.

Dog climbed stairs with handler in a controlled manner Yes No

13. Off lead recall with distraction

Dog should come when called by the handler at a distance no less than 10m and in the presence of high distraction. Distractions may include a group of people moving or standing around, children playing, or the presence of another dog or multiple dogs. Dog's recall should be rapid, deliberate, and focused. Dog should not amble along, sniff, or otherwise become distracted by extraneous stimuli.

Dog came immediately to the handler without hesitation or distraction Yes No

14. Surfaces

Your mindDog will likely encounter a variety of surfaces in the course of its travels. It could be asphalt, gravel, linoleum, marble, cobblestones, or a metal grating of some kind. It may be glass blocks over a commercial kitchen, a propped-open manhole cover, or a piece of iron sheeting in a construction zone.

Dog walked confidently on a variety of surfaces 1 2 3 4

15. Basic commands

Dog sat on command
 Dog laid down on command

16. Team relationship

Handler positively reinforced dog when commands were followed correctly

1 2 3 4
 Dog was confident, relaxed, and friendly
 Dog was under the handler's control

Score

Dog and handler must score Yes 80% of the time on the yes/no parts of the test and a 1 or a 2 on the rest of the test.

To be certified as a mindDog, the dog must pass this test with the scores outline above. Should the dog fail to pass the test, the client will be referred to a mindDog approved trainer for further work.

The team may then sit the test one more time at a cost of \$50. If the dog fails the second test it will be deemed unsuitable as a mindDog.

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