

Guide Dog Puppy Raising Program

Guide•Dogs
FOR THE BLIND



Puppy Raising Final Skills Goal Behaviors as of 14 months of age

From Puppy to Guide Dog

One Very Important Year

Guide dogs work in real-life environments that constantly present demanding and stimulating situations. A guide dog puppy needs to develop skills that support its intended future work as a guide dog and life companion to a blind handler. The puppy raiser has the challenging task of developing a young puppy into a mannerly young adult dog that is prepared for formal guide dog training and prepared for relating with a blind handler.



Guide dogs are given daily care by their visually impaired or blind handlers. A guide dog puppy must be easy for a blind handler to care for by having developed biddable and compliant husbandry behaviors.

Trained Behaviors and Cued Responses

It is important for the adult guide dog puppy to respond to cued behaviors in a variety of environments and situations. Puppies need to be prepared in their ability to perform basic management behaviors, for a blind handler, in a variety of circumstances.

It is desirable that goal behaviors can be performed in real-world situations.



Audible Marker Response - “Nice” (marks desired behavior)

- ❖ Ideal – Dog immediately reacts to hearing the verbal marker “Nice” with animated anticipation of food reward. While showing excitement, the dog is able to maintain its current location (at the time of the mark) expecting direct food reward delivery from the handler.
- ❖ Acceptable - Dog immediately reacts to hearing the verbal marker “Nice” with animated anticipation of food reward. Some movement towards the food reward delivery may be present yet the dog remains mannerly during the delivery.
- ❖ Less Desirable – Dog does not react upon hearing the verbal marker “Nice” (no obvious change in demeanor) or becomes assertive towards getting to the food reward (e.g. moving to the food reward supply, paws on handler).





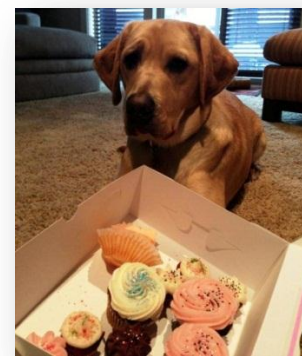
Food Reward Acceptance

- ❖ Ideal – Dog demonstrates eagerness over dry kibble food reward (their regular diet) while maintaining a gentle manner of taking food from the hand. Handler feels no discomfort when delivering food reward directly to the dog's mouth (even when closing their eyes).
- ❖ Acceptable - Dog demonstrates enjoyment over dry kibble food reward (their regular diet). Dog may require a specific method of delivery for handler comfort (e.g. cupped hand delivery) but presents no discomfort to handler during hand delivery.
- ❖ Less Desirable – Dog shows little enjoyment over dry kibble food reward and requires higher value food rewards to spark enthusiasm. Dog is rough in its manner of taking food reward from the hand, causing handler discomfort.



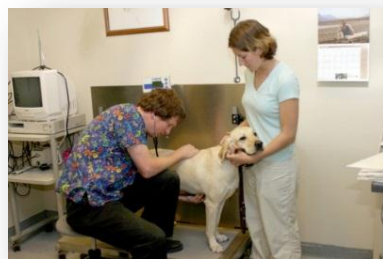
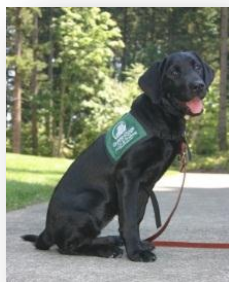
Enjoyment (Valued) Secondary Reinforcement

- ❖ Ideal – Dog demonstrates enjoyment of and the desire to receive affection via verbal praise and physical touch. Physical and verbal rewards are clearly rewarding to the dog, acting as effective reinforcement for desired behavior.
- ❖ Acceptable - Dog demonstrates enjoyment of and acceptance of affection via verbal praise and physical touch. Physical and verbal rewards are pleasing to the dog, helping to maintain established desired behaviors.
- ❖ Less Desirable – Dog shows little emotional change during verbal and/or physical affection from the handler. Undesirable responses to verbal and/or physical praise include: low interest in relating to handler, indifference towards affection, and avoidance of physical touch.



Environmental Food and Debris Avoidance

- ❖ Ideal – Dog seeks food reward via handler delivery only. Dog will by-pass available food or debris in the environment, confidently choosing to disregard accessible oral temptations. This includes disregarding food rewards dropped by the handler.
- ❖ Acceptable – Dog regularly demonstrates the ability to by-pass available food or debris in the environment, confidently choosing to leave accessible oral temptations alone. Dog may require occasionally handling to prevent transgressions in more tempting circumstances. Dog is able to disregard food rewards dropped by the handler.
- ❖ Less Desirable – Dog does not demonstrate the ability to frequently by-pass available food or debris in the environment, frequently or obsessively picking up/eating environmental food or debris. Dog acts impulsively on opportunities to take food or debris in the environment.



“Sit” /”Stand” /”Down”

- ❖ Ideal – The puppy performs behaviors of Sit, Stand, and Down upon the verbal cues, while remaining in place.
- ❖ Acceptable – With lack of response to the verbal cue, the puppy performs the behavior upon a minimal leash cue while remaining in place. May have minor movement out of position when performing the behavior.
- ❖ Less Desirable - Puppy shows partial or no response to verbal and leash cues. Undesirable responses include not remaining in place or changing to another behavior immediately after responding to the cue.



“Stay”

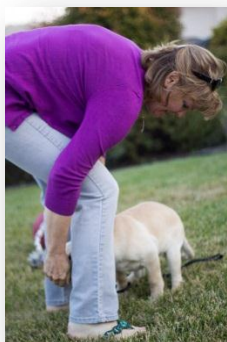
- ❖ Ideal – Upon the verbal cue “Stay”, the dog will maintain in Sit or Down behavior (for a reasonable length of time) regardless of distraction until released by the handler. If left in a Sit for more than 30 seconds or on a slick floor, lying down in that location is a reasonable choice for comfort.
- ❖ Acceptable – Dog requires reminder cues to remain in place. Dog may move slightly out of position but maintains their body on the basic space they were left.
- ❖ Less Desirable - Dog does not maintain behavior without excessive handler input.



“Wait”

Used for brief stationary behavior that will soon be released via another cue (e.g. “Come” or “Okay”). Used for safety and control in everyday situations (e.g. entering or exiting vehicles, going through doorways, commencing eating meals, exiting crate).

- ❖ Ideal – Upon the verbal cue “Wait”, the dog will hold its current location (regardless of being in Stand, Sit, or Down position) until given a release cue.
- ❖ Acceptable – The dog requires reminder cues to remain on the spot left in a “Wait”.
- ❖ Less Desirable - Puppy does not maintain behavior without excessive handler input.



“Come” (Off Leash Recall in Enclosed Areas Only)

- ❖ Ideal – Upon the verbal cue “Come”, the off leash dog immediately comes to the front of the handler regardless of distance or distractions. Upon arrival the dog places itself very close to and/or gently touching handler’s legs, allowing handler to easily reach for and take hold of collar.
- ❖ Acceptable – While wearing a long line, upon the verbal cue “Come”, the dog immediately comes to the front of the handler regardless of distractions. Upon arrival the dog places itself very close to and/or gently touching handler’s legs, allowing handler to easily take hold of collar.
- ❖ Less Desirable – Dog lacks consistent response to the verbal cue “Come” with or without leash or long line. Additional undesirable behaviors: avoidance of hands reaching for collar (keep away behavior); upon arrival immediate attempts to leave the handler; upon arrival to handler excessive movement making it difficult to touch the collar.



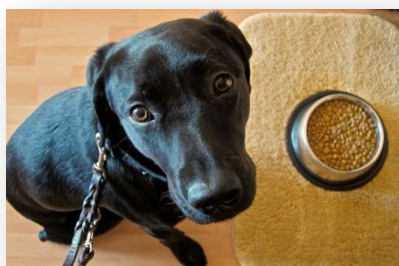
“Go to Bed”

- ❖ Ideal - Upon the verbal cue, dog goes to a designated bed or mat, lies down on the bed, and remains on the bed (for a reasonable length of time) until given another cue.
- ❖ Acceptable - Upon the verbal cue, the dog goes to a designated bed or mat and lies down on the bed. Dog may change positions or leave the bed within a short period of time.
- ❖ Less Desirable – Lack of any response upon hearing the verbal cue. Dog requires extra direction from handler to go to the designated bed. Once on the bed the dog does not remain on the bed.



“Let’s Go” / Leash Walking Behavior

- ❖ Ideal – Upon the verbal cue, dog walks willingly with handler on a slack leash on buckle collar equipment. Dog understands how to move in the direction of collar cues from handler. The dog observes the environment while in motion and its position next to the handler’s left leg may range between the area of the dog’s nose and shoulder. Dog is relaxed, notices the environment when moving, and remains aware of handler cues.
- ❖ Acceptable – Upon the verbal cue, dog walks willingly with handler and understands how to move in the direction of collar cues from handler. Position may be slightly forward or backward of ideal and/or dog may create minor tension on leash. Dog may display some interest in environment but responds well to handler cues. Dog may require alternative equipment for ideal leash walking behavior (e.g. headcollar).
- ❖ Less Desirable – Dog has little response to verbal cue. Dog pulls firmly forward or lags behind the handler. Dog creates notable tension on leash and lacks response to handler cues. Dog requires alternative equipment for controlled leash walking behavior (e.g. headcollar).



“Okay” (cue that releases the dog from a previously cued behavior)

- ❖ Ideal - Upon the verbal cue, dog is allowed to end a current behavior it was cued to perform (commonly a “wait”). Response to “okay” is a composed yet cheerful interaction with handler.
- ❖ Acceptable – Dog demonstrates energetic movement upon the verbal cue “okay” but remains manageable and responsive. Response to “okay” may be an interaction with dogs, people, or environment.
- ❖ Less Desirable – Dog does not respond to “okay” cue to end its current behavior, due to uncertainty. Upon cue, dog engages in undesirable behaviors (e.g. jumping up, mouthing, lunging, leaving)



“Kennel” – Crate Behavior

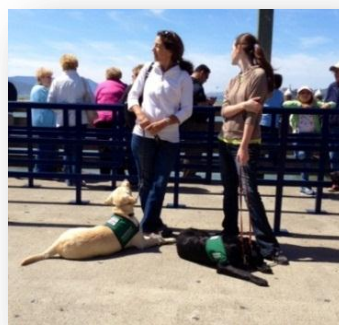
- ❖ Ideal – Dog responds to verbal cue by promptly entering a confined space (e.g. dog crate, vehicle, kennel run). Once in space the dog displays calm, quiet, and non-destructive behavior. Dog does not require toys or food rewards to maintain desired behavior even in novel environments.
- ❖ Acceptable – Dog responds to verbal cue but may require repeated cues to enter the confined space. Dog remains relaxed but may occasionally whine or need toys to maintain calm behavior. Is comfortable in any location although might take five minutes or less to relax in a novel environment.
- ❖ Less Desirable - Dog does not respond to verbal cue and requires luring or physical manipulation to enter confined space. Dog does not relax or become inactive. Undesirable behaviors include: vocalizing, increased panting, frequent turning around/ activity, noticeable change in behavior when in unfamiliar areas (i.e. ideal at home but undesirable behaviors at meetings).



“That’s Enough” (cue to stop allowable behavior)

- ❖ Ideal – Dog will immediately stop a current activity upon the verbal cue. Includes but is not limited to playing tug-of-war, interacting with a toy, and energetic running in an enclosed area.
- ❖ Acceptable – Dog will lessen or gradually cease activity upon the verbal cue. May require repetition or additional guidance from handler.
- ❖ Less Desirable – Dog does not respond to verbal cue or repetitions of cue. Handler has to physically intervene to stop dogs’ behavior.

Life Management Skills / House Manners



Public Settling Behavior (community environments - on leash)

- ❖ Ideal – Dog remains in relaxed down position with minimal shifting, non-vocal, will often sleep after a reasonable amount of time, and does not require equipment or toys to remain stable. Is easily cued to get up and move or reposition. Able to settle with an unfamiliar handler and in novel environments.
- ❖ Acceptable – Dog remains in one place (lying down, sitting or standing) with minimal input from handler. May occasionally whine but ceases with minor handler input, may sporadically need a toy to remain stable. Is easily cued to get up and move or reposition. Ideal settling behavior might be dependent on familiarity to handler and environments.
- ❖ Less Desirable – Dog changes position and gets up frequently with temporary response to handler direction. Undesirable behaviors include: moving about, creeping along floor looking for food or other distractions, vocalization, solicitation towards handler or others, resists handler cues to move.



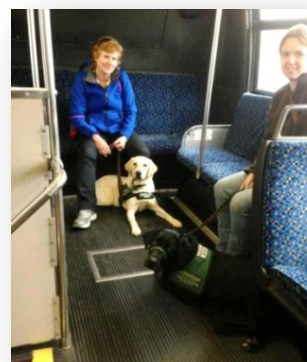
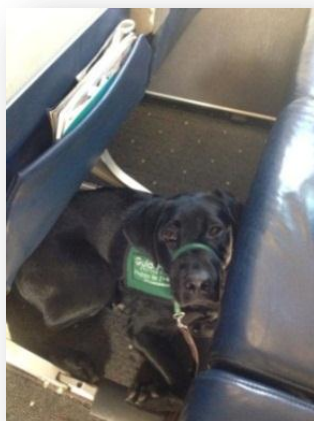
Home Settling Behavior (home environment - off leash)

- ❖ Ideal- After brief roaming in familiar and calm environment, dog lies down, often sleeping, and remains inactive during regular household activities. Does not require toys to stay occupied, although may engage with available toys for brief periods.
- ❖ Acceptable – Dog lies down after more than 5 minutes of exploring a familiar and calm environment, may remain awake but has minimal reaction to regular household activity (might get up to investigate but lies down shortly thereafter), may prefer to regularly interact with toys.
- ❖ Less Desirable - Dog constantly explores and moves about a familiar and calm environment. Undesirable behaviors include: pursues attention from others, vocalizes, seeks human items to chew, looks for garbage or food, toys are required to prevent destructive behavior.



Tether Behavior (fixed objects and ground tether)

- ❖ Ideal – Dog accepts tethering in a variety of locations, remaining at the tether in a relaxed position. The dog is quiet, inactive with occasional shifts for comfort, does not require toys to stay occupied.
- ❖ Acceptable – Dog accepts tethering in a variety of locations, remaining at the tether. The dog remains relaxed but may occasionally shift positions, whine or need toys to maintain calm behavior. Comfortable in any location although might take five minutes or less to relax in a novel environment.
- ❖ Less Desirable – Dog does not relax and remains active. Undesirable behaviors include: pulling on the tether, chewing at the tether, barks or whines, increased panting, frequent movement, destruction to environment, noticeable behavior change in unfamiliar areas (i.e. ideal at home but undesirable behaviors at meetings).



Vehicle Riding

- ❖ Ideal – Dog promptly and willingly enters any type of vehicle or crate inside the vehicle. Dog is relaxed and well-mannered riding on the vehicle's floor (loose or leashed) and crated in multiple types of vehicles. Dog waits for cue to enter or exit vehicles and does so in a calm manner.
- ❖ Acceptable – Dog requires encouragement to enter or exit vehicles. Dog may take a minute to settle in the vehicle or whine occasionally. May need reminder "wait" cues when entering/exiting vehicles.
- ❖ Less Desirable – Dog avoids entering vehicle and requires physical aid from handler. While riding in vehicles, dog demonstrates undesirable behaviors either from fear or excitement (e.g. carsickness, panting, drooling, vocalizing, pacing, jumping on seats, destructive, bolting into and/or out of vehicles).



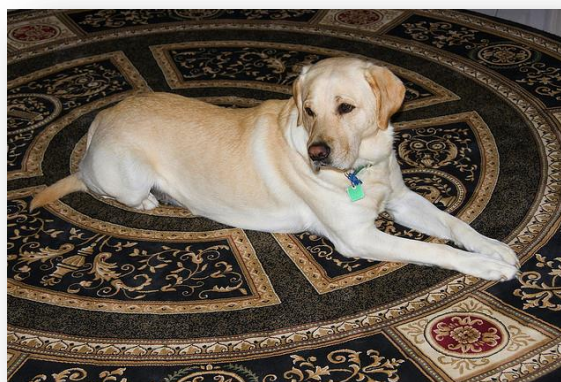
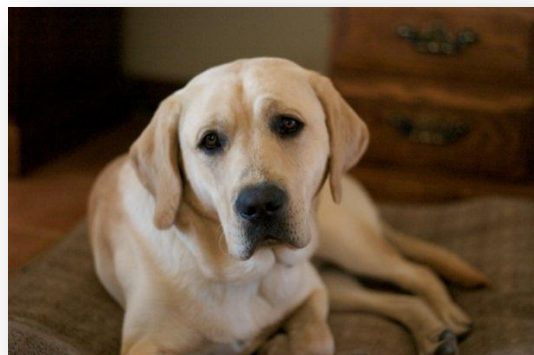
Off Leash Household Demeanor

- ❖ Ideal – While free in house, dog keeps all feet on the floor, remains settled, non-vocal, and relaxed. Dog may occasionally wander around but settles again quickly.
- ❖ Acceptable – On infrequent occasions dog shows higher energy in the house but responds to handler direction and settle quickly. May tend to be active but does not demonstrate undesirable behaviors.
- ❖ Less Desirable – Dog is very active in the house and rarely settles. In addition to high activity level, undesirable behaviors may be present (e.g. running, jumps on people or furniture, seeks food or garbage, rough play with other pets, oral behaviors on people, destructive to household items).



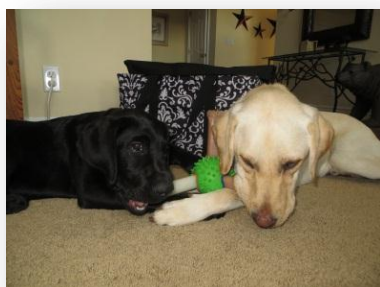
In Home Play Behavior

- ❖ Ideal – Dog only picks up, mouths or chews on intended dog toys, parades/presents toys to raiser, plays non-vocally (except for tug of war). Will play and interact with family members in a gentle manner.
- ❖ Acceptable – On rare occasions a dog picks up but does not destroy household items. Will play and interact with family members in a gentle manner.
- ❖ Less Desirable – Destructive chewing of household items, scavenging, stealing /routinely carrying around household items, counter/table surfing, garbage raiding, barks when playing, attention-seeking, keep-away behaviors when handler tries to touch dog.



Unsupervised Behavior at Home

- ❖ Ideal – Dog keeps all four feet on the floor, ignores household items and is non-vocal for at least 30 minutes unsupervised loose in the whole home.
- ❖ Acceptable – Dog keeps all four feet on the floor, ignores household items and is non-vocal for at least 30 minutes unsupervised loose in one room in which temptations are removed.
- ❖ Less Desirable – Dog is not able to be left home alone due to undesirable behaviors (e.g. destructive, vocalizing, relieving, anxious).



Resource Sharing

- ❖ Ideal – Dog happily shares toys and other valued objects with humans and other pets. Dog is relaxed when people or pets are near his/her food dish at meal time.
- ❖ Acceptable – Dog disengages from other pets over toys or other valued resources. May demonstrate minor apprehension over resources in the presence of other pets and/or people (e.g. eating food faster, removing a toy from the area).
- ❖ Less Desirable – Dog demonstrates resource guarding behaviors (e.g. defends or guards objects or people, growls, hackles or shows other defensive/aggressive behavior towards people or pets around food or other resources).



Home Greeting Behaviors

- ❖ Ideal – Dog maintains location until given the release to greet. Upon release, greets with reasonable energy while keeping four feet on the floor. Settles very quickly after greeting.
- ❖ Acceptable – Dog maintains location until given the release to greet. Upon release, greets enthusiastically while keeping four feet on the floor. May remain animated after greeting but will settle via handler direction.
- ❖ Less Desirable – Upon seeing desired target, dog actively moves towards it, soliciting attention. Additional undesirable behaviors: vocalizing, paws on person, body slam into person. Continues solicitation behavior after initial greeting.



Relieving – “Do Your Business” (Adult dog - 5 to 7 relieving opportunities per day)

- ❖ Ideal – Dog readily leash relieves on cement and other surfaces when offered regularly scheduled opportunities. Dog is comfortable with handler physically close during relieving. Dog does not relieve in the house, demonstrating self-control over urinating or defecating (waits for offered relieving). Although waiting for offered relieving is ideal, indicating a necessity to relieve is desirable. Dog is able to walk briskly for 1 mile without relieving.
- ❖ Acceptable – Dog leash relieves on cement and other surfaces but may need extra time to complete the process. When in the house, dog indicates a need to relieve in a recognizable manner (e.g. standing at door or minor vocalizing). Dog is able to walk briskly for 1 mile without relieving.
- ❖ Less Desirable – Dog favors specific surfaces and/or requires additional procedures to prevent relieving accidents in the home or on walks. Dog is reluctant to relieve on leash or in new environments. Dog relieves during walks, indiscriminately in the house or requires confinement to prevent relieving accidents.

Husbandry (Grooming and Care)



Grooming / Examination

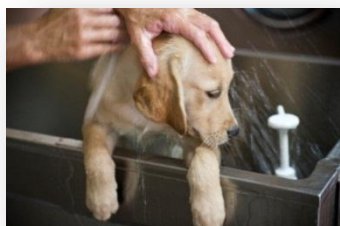
- ❖ Ideal - Dog readily allows all body parts to be examined and cleaned, with a variety of utensils meant for grooming, while remaining calm and relaxed.
- ❖ Acceptable - Dog accepts all body to be examined and cleaned, with a variety of utensils meant for grooming. Dog may move around a bit without making it difficult for the handler to groom.
- ❖ Less Desirable – Dog avoids grooming and/or handling of body. Undesirable behaviors include: pulling away from the handler, ducking head, tucking tail, mouthing hands or equipment during grooming.

Nail Clipping / Ear Cleaning / Eye Cleaning / Teeth Cleaning / Pilling

- ❖ Ideal – Dog readily allows all body parts to be handled while remaining calm and relaxed. The care process is easily done by a single handler.
- ❖ Acceptable - Dog allows all body parts to be handled. Dog may move around slightly and/or make mild attempts to avoid a procedure but can be cared for by a single handler.
- ❖ Less Desirable – Dog avoids handling of body parts prior to or during the care process. Undesirable behaviors include: active avoidance; pulling away body part; ducking head; tucking tail; mouthing hands or equipment prior to or during the care process.

Bathing

- ❖ Ideal - Dog is easily moved towards bath and is easily shampooed and rinsed by a single handler. Dog remains calm and relaxed during the bathing process and while being towed dry.
- ❖ Acceptable - Dog is easily moved towards bath and is easily shampooed and rinsed by a single handler. Dog may be somewhat active, show excitement and/or playfulness over the bathing process. Dog may require the use of a tether to enable a single handler to complete the bathing and drying process.
- ❖ Less Desirable – Dog actively avoids the bathing process, requiring extra effort or assistance to complete the procedure. Undesirable behaviors include: active avoidance of the wash area, tub, or actual bath; active pulling away; ducking head; tucking tail; mouthing hands or equipment prior to or during the bathing process.





Equipment Acceptance

- ❖ Ideal - Dog readily and willingly accepts the handler putting any equipment on their body and the wearing of equipment (e.g. collar, headcollar, puppy jacket) for extended periods of time.
- ❖ Acceptable - Dog readily accepts the handler putting any equipment on their body and the wearing of equipment (e.g. collar, headcollar, puppy jacket) for extended periods of time. Dog may demonstrate minor dislike of equipment but tolerates wearing it without evasion (e.g. occasional scratching or rubbing).
- ❖ Less Desirable – Dog avoids having equipment put on and/or demonstrates discomfort while wearing it. Undesirable behaviors include: evading handler applying equipment; attempts to get equipment off; refusal to move with handler when wearing equipment; mouthing or pawing at equipment.



Environmental Skills



*Guide Dogs
Work in the
Real World*



It is crucial for guide dog puppies to grow up with extensive socialization in a variety of real-world environments. Puppies must develop confidence to move within society and accept all types of encounters common to our culture. Without effective socialization to the world a guide dog will work in, there is little chance for a puppy to become a working guide dog.





Distractions (e.g. dogs, people, food)

- ❖ Ideal – Dog notices and demonstrates confidence over the presence of the distraction without notable emotional change and disregards the distraction quickly. Dog remains aware of handler cues, maintaining its current location, if stationary, or continuing past distraction when in motion.
- ❖ Acceptable – Dog moves slightly towards distraction but is easily redirected verbally to remain with handler or continue on travel path past the distraction. Disregards the distraction after passing or after it has left
- ❖ Less Desirable – Dog spontaneously moves towards distraction demonstrating undesirable behaviors (e.g. pulling on leash, scavenging, jumping up, vocalizing). Dog continues to remain focused towards the distraction after handler input and perhaps even after distraction has left.



Greetings – People in Public

- ❖ Ideal – Dog demonstrates confidence to be near strangers (adults and children). Dog demonstrates minor interest in strangers and maintains location until given the release to greet. Any emotional inclination is to be friendly towards strangers. Upon release, greets with low energy while keeping four feet on the floor. Settles very quickly after greeting.
- ❖ Acceptable – Dog maintains location until given the release to greet. May demonstrate excitement over meeting strangers. Upon release, greets enthusiastically while keeping four feet on the floor. May remain animated after greeting but will settle via handler direction.
- ❖ Less Desirable – Upon seeing person, dog actively moves towards it, soliciting attention or avoids and demonstrates fear behavior. Additional undesirable behaviors are: vocalizing; paws on person; retreating; growling. Dog may continue solicitation or fear behavior after greeting time.



Greetings - Dogs in Public

- ❖ Ideal – Dog shows low interest in strange dogs, remaining in place until given release. Dog keeps four feet on the ground, maintains a loose leash, and responds to handler cues. Upon release, dog demonstrates calm investigative behavior or willingly accepts other dog examining. May show lack of interest without actual avoidance behavior. No vocalizing. Will immediately recall to handler, away from dog.
- ❖ Acceptable – Dog shows some interest while maintaining four feet on the ground. May require some handler cues to maintain position. Upon release may energetically move forward but keeps four feet on the ground and does not demonstrate undesired greeting behaviors (e.g. pushing into, placing head over). May show animation, sniffing or whine. Will recall to handler away from the dog. May show minor apprehension, avoidance, or mild hackles but recovers quickly and demonstrates acceptance over dogs' close proximity.
- ❖ Less Desirable – Dog spontaneously shows excitement or fear behaviors towards other dogs. Undesirable behaviors include: lunging towards; straining at leash; jumping on; vocalizing; raised hackles; showing teeth; retreating; bolting away; pawing at; pushing body over dog.



Traffic

- ❖ Ideal – Dog shows confident behavior with all varieties of traffic both coming towards and from behind. Confident with traffic passing close to sidewalk and during both daylight and after dark walks.
- ❖ Acceptable – Dog may occasionally startle or demonstrate apprehension for short periods in response to heavy or close traffic, quickly resuming a confident posture and stride.
- ❖ Less Desirable – Dog frequently demonstrates apprehension towards traffic (e.g. avoids approaching, bolts away from, lowers body as vehicles pass).



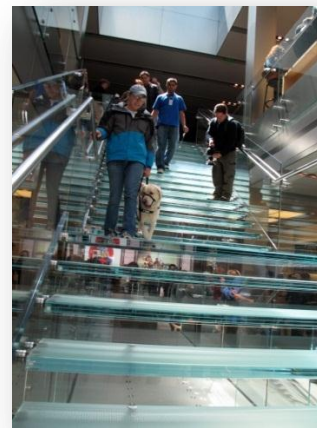
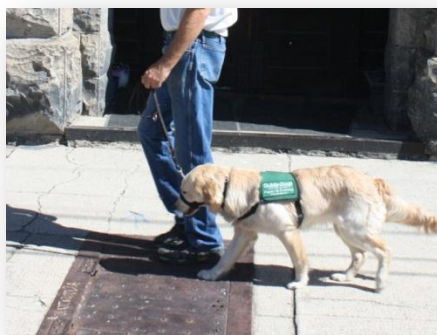
Noise

- ❖ Ideal – Dog disregards or acknowledges loud, unusual or sudden noises with no negative reaction.
- ❖ Acceptable – Dog may momentarily startle to loud, unusual or sudden noises but immediately recovers and disregards. Dog may become animated upon loud sudden noise but is easily and quickly redirected by handler.
- ❖ Less Desirable – Dog demonstrates fear behaviors in response to real-world noise (e.g. attempts to flee or hides, trembles, pants, paces). Dog becomes aroused and excited by real-world noise.



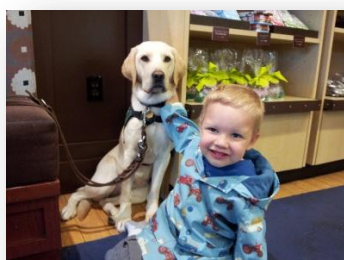
Objects

- ❖ Ideal – Dog disregards, or notices with little reaction, odd or unusual objects including but not limited to statues, mannequins, fountains, umbrellas, bags, flags, etc.
- ❖ Acceptable – Dog shows curiosity and desire to investigate new objects while remaining easily controlled. Dog promptly dismisses object after investigation. Dog may show minor concern over novel objects but recovers quickly.
- ❖ Less Desirable – Dog shows fear behavior towards real-world objects (e.g. avoidance, attempt to flee, hackles, vocalizations). Dog is unwilling to investigate object or continues to demonstrate fear after several minutes of exploration.



Surfaces (i.e. slick floors, variety of stairs, elevators, metal grates, ramps, etc.)

- ❖ Ideal – Dog readily and confidently walks over or onto a variety of real world surfaces, remaining with handler, matching handler's speed.
- ❖ Acceptable – Dog shows slight hesitation on some surfaces but does not avoid negotiating the surface.
- ❖ Less Desirable – Dog demonstrates avoidance behaviors on surfaces (e.g. reluctance to negotiate, energetic avoidance, freezes on surface, rushes to get off surface, vocalizes).



People

- ❖ Ideal – Dog disregards, or notices with little reaction, unusual looking people (e.g. children, firemen, people wearing unusual clothing or costumes, people in wheelchairs, odd gaits, people on crutches, tall, large, intimidating people). Any emotional inclination is sociable.
- ❖ Acceptable – Dog shows initial curiosity with the desire to investigate an unusual person. Dog is easily controlled and immediately relaxes after investigating or interacting with the person. Dog may show mild concern but recovers quickly, disregarding the person as a threat. Most emotional inclinations are sociable
- ❖ Less Desirable – Dog shows fear behaviors (e.g. avoidance, cowering, hackles, vocalizes, bolting away, unable to approach). Dog forcefully pulls handler towards the person and is non-responsive to verbal cues.



Animals (other than dogs)

- ❖ Ideal – Dog disregards or calmly observes other animals. Curiosity towards new animal is brief and of low energy.
- ❖ Acceptable – Dog shows curiosity and/or desire to investigate or mild concern towards animals but is easily redirected via cues for other behaviors. When allowed to meet or investigate new animals, dog quickly abandons interest.
- ❖ Less Desirable – Dog demonstrates prolonged excitement or concern over other animals. Undesirable behaviors include: strong lunging or pulling towards; avoidance; hackles; bolts away from.



Odors

- ❖ Ideal – Dog disregards odors with confidence (e.g. food scents, diesel fumes, barbeque smoke)
- ❖ Acceptable – Dog is easily controlled and redirected via cues. Dog may demonstrate minor concern or curiosity, with a desire to investigate an odor. Upon investigation, dog quickly disregards odor.
- ❖ Unacceptable – Dog demonstrates extreme excitement (moving towards) or fearful behavior (retreating) over odors. Dog is not easily redirected and excitement or fear behaviors over the odor remain for several minutes.

