



Working dogs for Warriors Service Dog Training Standards

WDFW service dog program is intended to provide high quality service dogs that satisfies the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and be able to cater to the unique needs of a warrior with PTS/TBI/MST or any other service-related need.

WDFW strives to provide the handlers with the knowledge to sufficiently train and maintain their service dog as well the theory behind our dog training. The handler will be taught the necessary tools needed to successfully work with their service dog in a home and work environment. The handler will also be taught how to properly care for and maintain a healthy service dog which will in turn provide a working relationship for many years to come.

Age requirements

- a) Participants can begin our S.T.A.R puppy training program as early as 14 weeks, given they are on a veterinarian's vaccination schedule.
- b) Public access training cannot begin until at least 17 weeks and the puppy has all required vaccinations.
- c) A potential service dog must begin our service dog training program under 3 years of age.
 - Exceptions can be made if the dog is an active working dog, such as trained hunting dog, tracking or trailing SAR dog, detection dog etc. This exception is at the discretion of our lead trainer.

Service Dog Training

- a) Each team will be trained to meet the standards for a service animal established by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and each service dog will be trained to pass the AKC+ Test mentioned below.
- b) The handler must be able to master basic commands (sit, down, stay, off, heel, Come, leave it, and wrong)
- c) Under the guidance of our lead trainer, the participant should feel comfortable teaching the service dog new commands.
- d) Working Dogs for Warriors service dog training program includes two parts, hands on dog training, and classroom instruction.



1. Each Handler must undergo 360 supervised training hours.
 - 240 hours – obedience training (including on and off leash commands)
 - 60 hours – public access training
 - 60 hours – training in public areas (Pack walks, off site training Etc.)
 - Service task training
 - (a) service dogs will be taught at least three (3) tasks to assist the handler with his/her disability.
 - (b) Length of task training is dependent on the needs of the handler.
 - Total length of the training program is no less than 12 months of regular trainings.

2. Classroom
 - Basic service dog and public access laws / Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and associated regulations.
 - Intro to dog behavior
 - Basic dog grooming
 - Training philosophy & techniques
 - First aid and health care for dogs
 - Having a service dog in home and work environments.
 - (a) Additional classes may be added at the trainer's discretion.

Temperament

- a) Every potential service dog must be free of aggression, they cannot bark, growl, or lunge at dogs or people. If the dog displays signs of aggression the handler must focus on desensitization training to the specific stimuli.
- b) If the potential service dog continues to show a pattern of aggression, it will be at the trainer's discretion if the dog will be able to continue the training program.

Training Equipment:

- a) Each handler is required to bring the following to **every class**
 1. 4'-6' standard non retractable leash
 2. Training collar as recommended by WDFW Trainer
 - Martingale training collar
 - Herm Sprenger Prong collar



- Fur Saver training collar
- 3. Water Bowl
- 4. Training Harness
- 5. Disposable bags
- 6. Training binder

Record Keeping

1. Participants are required to document trainings immediately after class in their training binder provided by WDFW.
 - These records must be stored in a manner that allows easy access for audits and reviews by WDFW staff and Trainers.
2. Every participant is required to sign in and out of every training.

Testing

- a) For individuals starting with puppies, the dog team will begin with the American Kennel Club (“AKC”) S.T.A.R. Puppy Certification
- b) Prior to Graduation, a team must pass the AKC+ test as described below:
 1. AKC Canine Good Citizen Test (“CGC”)
 2. AKC Community Canine (CGCA)
 3. AKC Urban Canine Good Citizen (CGCU)
- c) In addition, each team must demonstrate proficiency in the specific tasks the service dog has been trained to perform.
- d) Public Access Testing
 1. The Team will demonstrate that they can work in multiple environments without distraction and also not be a distraction during public access. The service dog should not bark, growl, lunge, or be disruptive.

Outreach

- a) Each participant is required to engage in community outreach projects conducted by WDFW.
 1. Outreach projects may include but not limited to: volunteering for events hosted by WDFW, attending public events where WDFW is a vendor, library reading programs, school site visits, and/or any further outreach events.



Graduation

- a) In order to achieve graduate status, a service dog team must demonstrate proficiency in the following areas.
 - 1. General obedience: including, general commands (sit, down, stay, off, heel, Come, leave it, and wrong)
 - 2. Walking on a loose leash, in a public area such as a store.
 - 3. The handler team must demonstrate proficiency in at least 3 service tasks that assist the handler with their disability.
- b) Upon Graduation, each handler team will receive a service dog ID Card issued by WDFW with an expiration date of 12 months after graduation date.

Recertification

- a) To maintain service dog status with WDFW, the team must recertify, to demonstrate continued proficiency and care of their service dog.
 - 1. A team must first recertify 12 months after graduation of the program then every two (2) years after that.