



Service Dog Training Standards Manual

Loyal Guardians Service Dogs Training (LGSDT)

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This manual outlines the standards, procedures, and expectations for service dogs trained through the Loyal Guardians Service Dog Program.

The purpose of this manual is to ensure that all service dogs trained through LGSDT demonstrate reliability, stability, and professionalism in assisting individuals with disabilities.

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1. Program Philosophy

Loyal Guardians Service Dogs Training is committed to producing reliable, stable, and highly trained service dogs capable of assisting individuals with disabilities in real-world environments.

Our training philosophy emphasizes:

- clarity in communication
- balanced training methods
- environmental neutrality
- handler engagement

- real-world reliability

Service dogs must be capable of performing tasks consistently and safely across environments.

2. Ethical Training Standards

All dogs in the LGSDT program are trained using humane and ethical training methods.

Training emphasizes:

- positive reinforcement
- clear communication
- structured guidance
- consistency

Dogs must be treated with respect and handled in ways that prioritize their physical and emotional wellbeing.

3. Service Dog Selection Criteria

Not all dogs are suitable for service work.

LGSDT selects dogs based on the following criteria:

- stable temperament
- confidence in new environments
- low reactivity
- high trainability
- environmental resilience

Dogs displaying aggression, severe fear, or unstable behavior are removed from the program.

4. Puppy Development Standards

Early development is critical for future service dogs.

During puppy development, dogs are exposed to:

- different surfaces
- various environments
- new people
- sounds and movement
- transportation experiences

The goal is to build confidence and environmental neutrality.

5. Foundational Training Standards

All service dogs must master the following foundational behaviors:

- sit
- down
- stay
- recall
- loose leash walking
- place command

Dogs must demonstrate reliable responses across multiple environments.

6. Advanced Obedience Standards

Advanced obedience ensures the dog can remain reliable in complex environments.

Dogs must demonstrate:

- extended duration stays
 - calm public behavior
 - impulse control
 - distraction neutrality
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7. Task Training Standards

Service dogs must be trained to perform specific tasks that mitigate a disability.

Examples include:

- deep pressure therapy
- behavioral interruption
- medical alerts
- mobility assistance
- grounding behaviors

Tasks must be:

- consistent
 - reliable
 - clearly understood by the dog
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8. Public Access Training Standards

Service dogs must perform reliably in public settings.

Training environments include:

- grocery stores
- restaurants
- medical offices
- airports
- schools
- public events

Dogs must remain calm, focused, and under control.

9. Environmental Stability Training

Dogs must be comfortable in a variety of environments including:

- crowds
- loud noises
- elevators
- moving objects
- traffic

Dogs must recover quickly from unexpected stimuli.

10. Handler Focus Development

Service dogs must maintain strong engagement with their handler.

Training focuses on:

- eye contact
- responsiveness to cues

- calm engagement

The dog must prioritize the handler over environmental distractions.

11. Behavioral Expectations

Service dogs must demonstrate:

- calm demeanor
- no aggression
- no excessive barking
- no lunging or pulling

Dogs must remain well-mannered in public environments.

12. Training Equipment Standards

Approved training equipment may include:

- flat collars
- martingale collars
- slip leads
- prong collars when appropriate
- e-collars used responsibly

Equipment is used to create clear communication and reliability.

13. Reinforcement and Correction Protocols

Training utilizes a balanced approach that includes:

- positive reinforcement
- clear boundaries
- consistent expectations

Corrections are applied responsibly and proportionately to maintain clarity for the dog.

14. Socialization Standards

Service dogs must be comfortable interacting with:

- adults
- children
- other animals
- unfamiliar environments

Socialization is structured to create confidence rather than excitement.

15. Stress and Recovery Evaluation

Dogs are regularly evaluated for their ability to:

- tolerate stress
- recover quickly from startling events
- remain calm during environmental pressure

Dogs that cannot recover appropriately may be removed from service training.

16. Service Dog Evaluation Criteria

Dogs are evaluated throughout training for:

- temperament stability
- task reliability
- obedience reliability
- environmental confidence

Dogs must consistently meet LGSDT standards before placement.

17. Public Access Certification

Before placement, each dog must demonstrate reliability in:

- public behavior
- task performance
- handler responsiveness

Dogs must pass the LGSDT Public Access Evaluation.

18. Handler Matching Process

Each service dog is matched carefully with a handler based on:

- disability needs
- temperament compatibility
- household environment

- handler lifestyle

Matching decisions prioritize long-term success.

19. Team Training Standards

After matching, handlers receive instruction on:

- handling techniques
- task usage
- public access expectations
- maintaining training reliability

Team training ensures both dog and handler function successfully together.

20. Follow-Up Support

LGSDDT provides continued support to ensure successful service dog teams.

Support may include:

- follow-up training sessions
 - problem solving guidance
 - refresher training
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Final Statement

Loyal Guardians Service Dogs Training is committed to maintaining high training standards to ensure that each service dog team is safe, reliable, and successful.

Our goal is to provide life-changing service dogs while maintaining ethical and professional training practices.