

Gluten Detection Alert & Response Program

Task Specifications

TASK 1. GLUTEN DETECTION & ALERT TASKS

The service dog is trained to detect the presence of gluten and gluten contamination within food items, beverages, medications, supplements and other substances presented for evaluation.

Detection and alert tasks may include:

- Gluten Contamination Detection
- Positive Alert Response
- Negative Clearance Response
- Multiple Item Screening
- Container and Packaging Screening

The service dog's gluten detection training in application will:

- Assist with identification of gluten-containing substances
- Assist with identification of potential cross-contamination
- Improve confidence when evaluating food and consumer products
- Reduce risk of accidental gluten exposure
- Increase independence in daily living and community access

TASK 2. RETRIEVAL & ASSISTANCE TASKS

The service dog is trained to retrieve and deliver items that may assist the handler following accidental gluten exposure or during periods of illness and reduced functioning.

Retrieval and assistance tasks may include:

- Retrieve Medication Bag
- Retrieve Emergency Supplies
- Retrieve Water Bottle
- Retrieve Phone
- Bring Items to Another Person

The service dog's retrieval and assistance training in application will:

- Increase independence during periods of illness
- Improve access to support items
- Reduce physical demands on the handler
- Improve safety and accessibility

TASK 3. EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE TASKS

The service dog is trained to assist the handler in obtaining assistance when the handler is experiencing significant symptoms or requires additional support.

Emergency assistance tasks may include:

- Retrieve Emergency Phone
- Retrieve Emergency Medication
- Seek Assistance from Another Person
- Activate Emergency Alert Device
- Remain With Handler During Medical Event

The service dog's emergency assistance training in application will:

- Improve handler safety
- Increase access to emergency support
- Reduce risk during medical events
- Improve confidence and independence

TASK 4. RESPONSE SEQUENCES

The service dog is trained to perform multi-step response chains that combine detection, retrieval, and emergency assistance tasks into a coordinated response.

Response sequences may include:

- Positive Gluten Alert Response Sequence
- Accidental Exposure Response Sequence

These integrated task chains are customized to the handler's disability-related needs and provide structured support following gluten exposure or during periods of reduced functioning.

The service dog's response sequence training in application will:

- Provide structured support following gluten exposure
- Improve safety and independence
- Reduce reliance on caregiver assistance
- Increase accessibility within home and community environments
- Enhance overall task reliability and effectiveness

CANDIDATE DOG REQUIREMENTS

Dogs considered for the Gluten Detection Alert & Response Program must meet all standard CanineSidekicks Service Dog Program health, temperament, and suitability requirements.

In addition, candidate dogs should demonstrate:

- Strong food and toy motivation
- Confidence in public environments
- Environmental stability and resilience
- Ability to work independently and problem solve
- Strong hunt, search, and scenting drive
- Willingness to engage in repetitive detection exercises
- Reliable public access temperament
- Ability to maintain focus in distracting environments

Not all dogs are suitable candidates for scent-based medical alert work. Final acceptance into the program is based on temperament, health, trainability, and suitability evaluations.

PROGRAM LIMITATIONS & HANDLER RESPONSIBILITIES

Gluten Detection Alert & Response dogs provide an additional layer of safety and support for individuals who require assistance identifying the presence of gluten. While these dogs may significantly reduce the risk of accidental exposure, they are not infallible and should not be relied upon as the sole method of gluten avoidance.

Handlers remain responsible for:

- Reading labels and ingredient lists
- Verifying ingredients with manufacturers and food service providers
- Communicating dietary restrictions to restaurants and other establishments
- Following medical recommendations and treatment plans
- Maintaining ongoing training and detection proficiency
- Utilizing additional safety measures recommended by their healthcare team

CanineSidekicks Service Dogs, Inc. makes no guarantee that a service dog will identify every source of gluten or prevent all accidental exposures. Gluten Detection Alert & Response dogs are intended to supplement, not replace, established gluten avoidance and medical management practices.