

Health Testing & Physical Soundness Requirements

Because Mobility Assistance Service Dogs may perform physically demanding tasks, additional health screening requirements apply beyond those required for other service dog pathways.

Prior to certification, dogs must successfully complete the following health evaluations and obtain passing results through the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA):

- Hip Evaluation
- Elbow Evaluation
- Spine Evaluation

All radiographs must be performed by a licensed veterinarian and submitted to the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA) for official review. Dogs must receive passing results for all required evaluations in order to qualify for certification through the Mobility Assistance Service Dog Program.

In addition, dogs must undergo a cardiac examination performed by a licensed veterinarian. A basic cardiac auscultation (heart examination by stethoscope) is sufficient to meet program requirements unless additional testing is recommended by the attending veterinarian.

To maintain certification, additional health evaluations may be required if:

- The dog experiences a significant injury or orthopedic event
- The dog develops mobility concerns, discomfort, weakness, or reduced working ability
- Physical changes raise concerns regarding the dog's ability to safely perform mobility-related tasks
- Updated health clearances are required as part of the recertification process

CanineSidekicks Service Dogs Inc. reserves the right to require updated radiographs, cardiac evaluations, veterinary assessments, or OFA submissions when necessary to ensure the continued health, safety, and welfare of the service dog.

All costs associated with health testing, radiographs, OFA submissions, veterinary examinations, specialist evaluations, and repeat testing are the responsibility of the handler.