Autism Support & Regulation

Owner-Trained Program Overview

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Autism Support & Regulation Owner-Trained Program is designed for individuals living with autism spectrum disorder and related disabilities who wish to train their own service dog with professional guidance and support.

The Owner-Trained Pathway is designed for handlers who wish to take an active role in training their own service dog while receiving professional coaching, instruction, evaluations, and support. Teams are expected to meet the same public access, obedience, control, and task performance standards required of all CanineSidekicks Service Dogs program pathways.

Handlers accepted into the program receive structured coaching, education, evaluations, and training support to develop a reliable service dog capable of meeting public access standards and performing individualized disability-mitigating tasks.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

Teams accepted into the program undergo structured development including dog suitability assessment, obedience training, socialization, environmental exposure, confidence building, public access preparation, disability-mitigating task development, real-world application, and ongoing handler coaching.

PUBLIC ACCESS SKILLS

Training includes loose leash walking, public settling, neutrality to people and animals, stores, restaurants, medical facilities, elevators, automatic doors, vehicle travel, crowded environments, and extended public outings.

CARE, OBEDIENCE & CONTROL

Training includes marker-based communication, sit, down, place, recall, loose leash walking, greeting manners, impulse control, crate training, household manners, vehicle manners, social skills, and cooperative care procedures.

SPECIALIZED TASK DEVELOPMENT

Task training is individualized to the handler's disability-related needs. Not all dogs will perform all tasks listed within the Autism Support & Regulation Service Dog Program Task Specifications.

Certain advanced disability-mitigating tasks and response sequences may not be available through the Owner-Trained Pathway.

These tasks require intensive professional development and are available exclusively through the Board & Train and Placement Dog pathways.

Training may include Alert Tasks, Tactile Grounding Tasks, Interruption Tasks, Regulation Tasks, Transition Support Tasks, Routine Support Tasks, Navigation Tasks, Safety Tasks,

Retrieval & Assistance Tasks, and Response Sequences.

Response sequences are multi-step trained behaviours designed to assist the handler through specific disability-related events or episodes.

• Sensory Overload Response Sequence
• Transition Support Response Sequence

HANDLER DEVELOPMENT & TRANSITION SUPPORT

• Individualized coaching and training guidance
• Written training plans and progression recommendations
• Written command list and handling reference guide
• Homework plans and skill maintenance exercises
• Video demonstrations
• Access to Puppy FUNdamentals 2.0
• Access to Life Skills Level 1
• Access to Service Dog Foundations and Public Access skills online resources
• Ongoing progress evaluations and feedback

TRAINING HOURS & DEVELOPMENT SUMMARY

The Owner-Trained Pathway combines professional instruction with independent training completed by the handler.

Program participants receive:

• Twenty-eight (28) private training sessions
• Sessions range from sixty (60) to ninety (90) minutes in duration
• Approximately thirty-five (35) hours of professional coaching, instruction, and evaluation

In addition to professional instruction, handlers are responsible for completing independent training, practice, public access exposure, task development, and skill maintenance between sessions.

Owner-trained teams are expected to meet the same public access, obedience, control, and task performance standards required of all CanineSidekicks Service Dogs program pathways.

PROGRAM SUMMARY

The goal of this program is to provide handlers with the knowledge, coaching, and support required to develop reliable service dogs that provide meaningful disability mitigation while increasing handler independence, emotional regulation, confidence, accessibility, participation in daily activities, and quality of life.