

Medical Alert & Support Board & Train Program Overview

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Medical Alert & Support Board & Train Program is designed for individuals living with disabilities or medical conditions that may benefit from a trained medical alert service dog. This pathway is intended for individuals who already own a suitable dog and wish to develop reliable alert behaviours alongside advanced obedience, public access skills, and service dog foundations.

Dogs accepted into the program participate in a structured professional training program focused on public access skills, obedience, environmental stability, handler engagement, alert development, and response training. Training plans are individualized based on the handler's disability-related needs and the dog's aptitude, temperament, learning ability, and suitability for alert work.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

Dogs accepted into the program undergo structured development including suitability assessment, obedience training, socialization, environmental exposure, confidence building, public access preparation, alert development, response training, real-world application, and handler transfer training.

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 ALERT DEVELOPMENT

Medical alert training is highly specialized and individualized to the handler's specific medical condition and needs. Training may include alert development, alert generalization, response training, emergency response behaviours, assistance skills, retrieval tasks, and medical response behaviours.

Please refer to the corresponding Task Specifications for detailed information regarding each specialized Medical Alert & Support Program.

HANDLER DEVELOPMENT & TRANSITION SUPPORT

- Twelve (12) individualized follow-up training sessions
- Twelve (12) weeks of written guidance and reintegration support
- 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

TRAINING HOURS & DEVELOPMENT SUMMARY

Dogs complete a minimum of sixteen (16) weeks of foundational training, obedience development, public access preparation, and environmental exposure, followed by an additional twelve (12) to sixteen (16) weeks of individualized alert development, response training, proofing, and real-world application.

- Minimum Professional Training Hours: 392 hours
- Maximum Professional Training Hours: 448 hours

Training hours do not include routine care, feeding, exercise, transportation, veterinary appointments, or other management activities.

PROGRAM SUMMARY

The goal of this program is to develop reliable, highly trained medical alert service dogs that provide meaningful disability mitigation while increasing handler independence, safety, confidence, accessibility, and quality of life.