

Canadian Association of Service Dog Trainers ^{CASDT} Benchmark Interim Standard



Until either a Canadian Industry Standard or a National Standard of Canada for Service Dogs is developed CASDT is recommending the following benchmark to be used as an Interim.

1. **Obedience inside vehicle before unloading**
The dog must wait calmly and remain in the vehicle until the release command is given by the handler.
2. **Obedience outside the vehicle after unloading**
The dog is on-leash, under control and waits calmly outside the vehicle, attentive to the commands of the handler.
3. **Heel position when approaching the building or through parking lot**
The dog remains in a heel position, not pulling on the leash, not trying to run ahead or lag behind.
4. **Calmness around traffic**
The dog demonstrates calm/relaxed behaviour and no fearful attitude around traffic, noise and distractions while navigating through a parking lot and approaching a building.
5. **Obedient stop before entering doorway**
The dog stops and waits calmly when the handler comes to a stop.
6. **Obedience before entering doorway**
The dog waits calmly at the doorway until the command to enter is given.
7. **Obedience going through doorway.**
The dog enters a building through the door in a safe and calm manner.
8. **Obedience after entering doorway**
The dog waits after entering a building, attentive to the handler until able to resume the heeling position.
9. **Heeling inside building**
The dog walks beside the handler in a controlled way. The dog remains within 1 foot of handler or at an indicated distance. The dog/handler team manages slippery floors, stairs, and/or elevators depending upon the location chosen. Escalator use is to be avoided.
10. **No soliciting public attention**
The dog remains focused on the handler and ignores other people.
11. **Adjusting to speed changes**
The dog adjusts to changes in handler's speed. The dog does not pull on leash (unless required to do so due to mobility issues).
12. **Adjusting to changes in direction**
The dog adjusts readily to changes in direction or to corners. No coaxing or dragging is needed by the handler.
13. **Obedience through narrow/ tight areas**
The dog calmly negotiates tight quarters without disturbing or trying to play with merchandise on shelves.

14. Obedience through crowds

The dog manoeuvres calmly through a crowd of people without trying to interact with people.

15. Six-foot recall on- leash: Command

The handler has the dog sit in a large, open area. The handler can walk six feet away, turn and call the dog. The dog must respond right away to the recall command. The dog does not try to ignore the command or respond hesitantly/slowly.

16. Six-foot recall on- leash: Control

The dog remains focused on handler and under control at all times. The dog does not try to pull away or seek attention from the public.

17. Six-foot recall on- leash: Distance

The dog comes within the appropriate distance of handler, or so that the handler can readily touch the dog.

18. Six-foot recall on- leash: Direction

The dog comes directly to the handler and does not try to take any detours along the way.

19. Sit command

The dog responds to the "sit" command with no more than two commands by the handler.

20. Sit command next to plate of food

The dog does not attempt to eat or sniff food. The dog holds a sit-stay position and ignores the food. The dog does not require repeated corrections. Note: The handler may correct the dog verbally or physically away from the food. The dog should not be taunted or teased with the food.

21. Sit command while shopping cart passes

The dog remains in the sit position and is relaxed as a shopping cart passes by. The dog does not show signs of fear, moving away or anxiety. Note: The shopping cart should be pushed in normal manner.

22. Sit command while being petted by stranger

The dog remains in the sit position as a stranger walk up, talks to the handler and pets the dog. The dog does not break the sit position, show aggression or solicit attention from the stranger.

23. Down command

The dog responds to the "down" command with no more than two commands by the handler.

24. Down command with food dropped on floor

The dog remains in a down position and under control when food is dropped onto the floor. The dog does not try to get the food and does not need repeated correction from handler.

25. Down command while child approaches

The dog remains calm and in a down position when an adult and child approaches and pets the dog. The dog does not solicit attention or need repeated correction from handler. Note: The child should not taunt the dog or act dramatically.

26. Noise distraction (drop object on floor behind the dog)

The dog remains composed during noise distractions. It is acceptable that the dog turn or show quick startle reaction at the noise. It is not acceptable if the dog exhibits fear, aggression or continued negative behaviour due to the noise.

27. Behaviour in restaurant

The dog is not a nuisance and is quiet in a restaurant. The dog stays out of the way of people. If applicable, the dog should remain in a down-stay position under the table, close to the handler.

28. Ignoring food in restaurant

The dog ignores food and other distractions in a restaurant.

29. Off-leash exercise

The handler drops the leash, and the dog is aware that the leash had been dropped. The dog remains under control while the leash is dropped, and the handler is able to pick up the leash and get the dog back into proper position.

30. Human aggression test

The validator can passively take the dog's leash without giving any commands and move 20 feet away from handler and stay there for one minute. The dog does not display any aggression, stress or whining. (not for all dog teams)

31. Obedience before exiting doorway

The dog maintains a relaxed, heeling position when approaching an exit doorway.

32. Obedience going through doorway during exit of building

The dog maintains a relaxed, heeling position, with no straining on the leash to exit rapidly, when going through the doorway to exit a building.

33. Obedience after exiting the building

The dog maintains a relaxed, heeling position beside the handler after exiting a building.

34. Calm around traffic after exiting building

The dog maintains a relaxed and calm demeanor around traffic noise after exiting a building.

35. Obedient stop after exiting building

The dog stops and waits calmly when the handler comes to a halt.

36. Dog aggression test

In a parking lot, a person and a non-aggressive dog or puppy can approach the dog to a six-foot distance. The person can have a short conversation with the handler. The dog must remain calm and under the control of the handler, not displaying aggression, vocalizations, or a desire to play with the other dog.

37. Loading into Vehicle

The dog loads into a vehicle calmly and willingly under control.