



NOVICE SKILLS FOR SERVICE DOG GAMES INTERNATIONAL



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SERVICE DOG GAMES INTERNATIONAL
<https://sdgamesintl.org>

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Novice Level Games

Public Access Skills

- Orbit the handler on cue: Dog must go around the handler on cue
- Load up into the car on cue: Dog must get into the car on cue without any assistance from the handler
- Unload from car on cue: Dog must wait until cued and then leave the car. Once having left the car the dog should stand or sit and wait for further cues from the handler.
- Move through entrance carousel on cue: Dog must go through the entrance to a building without issue, but waiting first for the handler to cue the dog to enter.
- Lead handler to an exit on cue: Dog to locate the handler's car, leading the handler, on cue.
- 40-foot recall with no distractions: Dog must come to handler from 40 feet away on cue. Handler may use a 50 foot leash to prevent reactions to distractions.

Alerting Tasks

- Put the paw on the arm: Dog must put his paw on the handlers arm. The arm must be raised 90 degrees from the lowered position and the elbow bent like an L. Cued behavior.
- Put the paw on the shoulder: When handler is sitting, dog is to put his paw on the handler's shoulder when cued. The paw must stay there for at least 10 seconds.
- Touch and Hold Scent Alert: Dog must touch the human with nose or paw and hold the touch for 10 seconds and then released by the handler with a "thank you".
- Put Your Head on My Chest: Dog to put its head on the handler's chest on cue. Handler can be sitting or lying down. Dog to stay with head on the handler's chest for 20 seconds.
- Smack It – Hard smack with the paw on the handler's leg
- Push It – Push the handler's hand into the air

Assistance Tasks

- Move bucket from one location to another, indoors to outdoors or room to room: Dog must move an empty bucket from one location to another on cued.
- Lug a basket of items around the house: Handler to put a few light weight items in a basket with a handle. Dog is to carry the basket from one location in the house to another. Handler must name the room to take the basket to.
- Carry item(s) from the partner to a caregiver or family member in another room: Carrying may be via a backpack, saddle bags, a pouch attached to the collar or harness. Cued behavior with handler naming the person the dog is to carry the basket to.
- Dog carries a prearranged object to caregiver as a signal help is needed: Determine what item is to be carried to indicate help is needed. Put the item in a pouch, saddlebag or backpack on the dog and cue it to carry it to the caregiver by name.
- Carry items following a partner using a walker, other mobility aids: Dog with backpack, saddlebags or a pouch to carry necessary items while following the handler at least 20 steps.
- Carry mail or newspaper into the house: Dog to meet a helper posing as a mail person or newspaper person and they to put mail or newspaper in a backpack, saddlebags or pouch. Dog to carry the items into the house.

Moving Through the Environment

- Halt or Sit to indicate a curb on cue: Dog to halt to a stand or sit on 5 different curbs. Cued behavior.

- Halt or Sit to indicate the top of steps on cue: Dog to halt to a stand or sit at the top of a set of stairs. Cued behavior.
- Halt or Sit to indicate steps up on cue: Dog to halt to a stand or sit at the bottom of a set of stairs waiting to go up. Cued behavior.
- Back and Forth
Get two identical objects (hardback books or bricks work great). Put the objects about 4 feet apart. Stand between the objects, centered between them and about 1 feet away from an invisible line that extends from one object to another. Cue your dog to target the object on the left, then cue to target the object on the right. Do this 10 times. Your dog should eagerly go between the objects without reinforcement or correction.
- Lead the handler to a door on cue: Dog to lead the handler to a door on cue. Dog should be on leash and pulling handler, not heeling.
- Lead the handler to the restroom or bathroom on cue: Dog to lead the handler to the bathroom on cue. Dog should be on leash and pulling handler, not heeling. The handler should name the bathroom as part of the cue.

Obstacle Avoidance

- Lead the handler around a post on cue: Post can be any post or pole type obstacle. Dog should be on a leash or a harness with a handle and actually leading the handler, not at heel.
- Lead the handler around a hole on cue: Hole should not be deep, just enough that it can be seen as a hole. Dog should be on a leash or a harness with a handle and actually leading the handler, not at heel.
- Lead the handler around furniture on cue: Even though this is basically an indoor activity, the dog should be on a leash or a harness with a handle. The furniture could be on the patio.
- Lead the handler around a box on cue: Box should be big enough that it is easily seen in your video. Dog should be on a leash or a harness with a handle and actually leading the handler, not at heel.
- Tuck under 3 different types of furniture, without moving the furniture, and stay tucked for 60 seconds under each piece of furniture (separate videos)
On cue, the dog must move under an obstacle that is less than shoulder height. Dog must be as completely under the obstacle as possible considering the size of the dog and the size of the obstacle. There are to be no restraints keeping the dog under the obstacle.

Retrieve Based Tasks

- Find a named object on cue: Handler should cue the dog to "find" Generally naming the type of article, not a specific item. Do this with 3 objects. The object should be something that is related to your disability or something valuable like your keys or glasses.
- Carry note in backpack from the handler to a care-giver or family member in another room on cue: There should be nothing else in the backpack. Saddlebags and pouches could be used as well.
- Seek & find teamwork: using directionals from Foundation Skills Level, guide your dog to the TV remote while remaining in your chair
- Use target stick to retrieve an indicated item off shelves in store or at home: use a target stick to retrieve three different items from a location that is at least 6 inches from the floor.
- Deposit dog toys into designated container on cue: The container can be anything the dog can reach the mouth of.

Locate Objects On Command

- Find a closed exit from a room; indicate the doorknob
Lead your dog into a room that has a door that can be closed. Close the door. Walk as far away from the door as you can, with your dog. Ask your dog "where's the door/exit". When he walks to it, follow

him. Ask him where the doorknob is using whatever cue you have trained with. When he indicates the doorknob, say "thank you", open the door and walk out of the room with your dog.

- Find the handlers bed: Cue your dog to find the "bed". Your dog should be on a leash so that he can lead you to the bed. Dog should go directly there, not have to search for it.
- Find the main entrance/exit in the home: Dog on lead, handler cues the dog to find the "exit". Dog should lead the handler to the "exit". Dog should go straight there, not have to search for it.
- Find an empty chair: Dog can be on or off leash, on leash if you are doing this somewhere other than your home. You can put boxes and things on all chairs but one – no human helpers at this level.
- Find a fire hydrant on your street: Handler should cue the dog to find a "hydrant"; Dog on leash as it's outside in public. Dog to lead the handler by being slightly in front of the handler, not at the handler's side or behind the handler. You can use a harness with a handle.
- Follow the flirt pole toy at various speeds without engaging with the toy: This is a task of following, not chasing and catching. The handler swings the flirt pole slowly enough that the dog can follow the toy.
- Locate a specified object by name: Handler cues the dog to "find". Do this with 3 objects.

Bracing Based Tasks (With and Without Harness)

- Brace handler getting out of a chair: Dog to position self and brace to help partner catch balance after partner rises from a couch or other seats in a home or public setting. If in public, dog must be on a leash.
- Open heavy door: Haul open heavy door, holding it ajar using six foot lead attached to back of harness, other end of lead attached to door handle or to a suction cup device on a glass door.
- Brace to prevent stumbling: Dog to brace on cue to prevent ambulatory partner from stumbling. This task requires a rigid handle on a harness.
- Backpacking: Dog and handler to set up leash, harness, for backpacking with a customary weight limit is 25% of the dog's total body weight. Dog should lead the handler on the trip. Trip to be 25 human steps in the grass or wooded area. No pavement, cement or graded road.
- Apply forward momentum: Dog should pull the handler lightly when walking up stairs or a ramp.

Protection Based Tasks

- Clear a room: Dog enters room on cue without handler following.
- Find item in a room: Dog retrieves a toy on cue from a room without handler following.
- Turn on a light on cue: Handler to cue the dog to turn on a light (doesn't matter what type of switch).
- Block approaching person on cue: Person must be stopped from approaching at 5 feet from the handler. This allows room on the leash for the handler to still be holding it. Cued behavior.
- Orbit around the handler: Handler cues the dog to orbit. Dog always facing out towards potential trouble. Dog's rear end is towards the handler, positioned 360 degrees anywhere around the handler, close to the handler and at a 5 foot distance.

Scent Based Tasks

- Scent One Food Zero: Dog must indicate the target scent from two containers, one container the target scent and one containing food. At this level, containers should be 10 feet apart. Repeat this task 3 times with different containers.
Get two containers. Put the target scent in one container and food in the other. Put the lids on the containers. Put both containers in front of your dog, 4 feet apart and 2 feet from the dog. Cue "find it"
- Find target scent with 10 tennis balls: Handler puts scent inside one of the balls. The handler throws all 10 balls about 5 feet away. Cue the dog to "find it".
- Find target scent in bucket: Handler puts scent inside a container and then inside one of 8 buckets. All other buckets should have empty containers. The handler cues the dog to "find" the target scent. Dog

can check each bucket until finding the scent. Indication should be noticeable to the person watching the video.

- Find target scent on the handler: Put the scent container in your pocket and give your dog the cue to “find it”. Then ask for the alert behavior you have trained.
- Find target scent in a bush: While walking with your dog, drop the scent container in a bush and walk on past it with your dog. Give your dog the cue to “find it”. Then ask for the alert behavior you have trained.

Sound Based Tasks

- Alert to a sound device on a platform
When a sound device is activated, the dog should touch the human to alert and then go to the device.
- Alert to a sound device on the handler
When a sound device is activated (a beeping watch), the dog should touch the human to alert and then touch the device.
- Alert to a knock at the door
The dog alerts the handler when the helper outside knocks. – 3 times with the handler in a different position each time: sitting, standing, and facing away.
- Alert to the doorbell
The dog alerts the handler when the helper outside rings the doorbell– 3 times with the handler in a different position each time: sitting, standing, and facing away.
- Dog alerts the handler on cue
The handler cues an alert behavior and the dog alerts. The handler should be in 3 different positions and alert 3 times for this task. Handler can be sitting, standing or lying down.
- Alert to the handler in the dark
The dog should alert on cue to the handler when the lights are turned off, in the dark. 3 times in different rooms OR on different furniture (bed, couch, or mattress.)d
- Dog to wake up and then alert to the handler on cue
Handler turns on a sound device and when the dog wakes, cue the dog to alert.
- What’s my name
A helper calls the handler’s name when the dog is at least 3 feet away from the handler. The dog should then alert on the handler and then either look at the helper or go to the helper. 3 times in different locations.
- What’s His Name
The dog alerts to the handler when the handler calls the helper’s name. The dog should then either look at the helper or go to the helper. The handler and helper are in the same room.

Nose and Paw Tasks

- Nudge a drawer shut: Handler to open a drawer, then cue the dog to shut it with a nudge. Nudge can be nose, paw, shoulder or hip.
- Nudge a cupboard door shut: Handler to open a cupboard door, then cue the dog to shut it with a nudge. Nudge can be nose, paw, shoulder or hip.
- Turn on light switches with a nudge: Handler to cue the dog to turn on the light switch. This should be done with a nose nudge or paw target.
- Operate button or push plate on electric commercial doors: Handle to cue dog to nudge a handicap door button with its nose or paw.
- Close heavy front door, other doors: Handler to cue the door to close a heavy door. Dog to jump up onto the door and use both forepaws to push the door shut.

