



SERVICE DOG GAMES INTERNATIONAL

Evaluator's Guide March 2024



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<http://sdgamesintl.org>

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Rules for Service Dog Games and Titles

Service Dog Games is intended to be an accessible sport to both dogs and humans. Dogs of all ages and breeds (or mixes!) are welcome. Dogs with disabilities of any kind are able to participate as long as they can do so safely and have no trouble working as a service dog to a disabled human. In order to demonstrate the spirit of what service dogs do for us and promote the ideals of exploration, handlers may no longer repeat the same behavior with the same environment in submissions with the service dog. Each time a specific or similar behavior is performed, it MUST be with a different environment (e.g. first time in the kitchen, second time in the bedroom). This applies to ALL titles.

Emotional Support Dogs (dogs, cats, parrots) are welcome to try their hand at these games as well. We understand that by legal definition in the USA, Emotional Support Animals don't need training. But as trainers and service dog handlers and owners, we feel that ALL dogs should be trained for more than just sit, go potty outside, don't jump on guests and don't eat the cat. It is inherent by law that emotional support animals only work in the home.

We will also welcome, on a case-by-case basis, other species as in home service animals. One of our trainers has personally trained several cats and a couple of parrots as service animals. All the cats were for seizure alert. One of the parrots was for general assistance and the other was for hearing.

Remember that this is a sport. It is not a way to get a certification for your Service Dog or Emotional Support Animal. You and your dog will receive a "title" for games played, NOT a certification.

If you have any questions, please send an e-mail to info@sdgamesintl.org prior to videoing your run as some other comfort equipment or exemptions may be permitted.

[Click here for a printer ready copy of the Rules](#)

Safety:

Not following any of these rules will automatically result in a non-passing score. We reserve the right to give a dog a non-passing score if a dog seems overly fearful or stressed, or if we feel that there is a safety risk at any time. All dogs should find joy in the work they do for us. This must be apparent in the videos you submit. Any indication of corrections, punishment, fear or stress will be an automatic non-passing score.

- Must be wearing a collar or a harness with leash. Harness width straps must be appropriate for the size of dog (minimum 1-inch straps for all but the smallest dogs). If there is a leash, it has to be on the back of a harness and handled in a safe manner at all times. If the dog is off leash, it has to be in a safe area. A leash with a collar must be fitted correctly and used only for safety (staying out of traffic or away from dangerous substances).
- Demonstrate proper technique for handling scent, desensitization of sound, socialization rules and an understanding that a dog is a dog, not a substitute human.
- If off leash, must be in a safe area. All Foundation tasks and games must be done without a leash, including those games that are the foundations for loose leash walking.
- If on leash, the leash should be 4-6 ft (1-2 meters) in length, no flexi leashes. Long lines are highly discouraged except where required as they easily get caught and harshly stop a dog in the midst of a movement. This has the potential to be quite dangerous both physically and mentally for dogs. Long lines may be used for sends and retrieves occurring in busy areas but must be appropriately and carefully managed to avoid dangers to people and dogs.
- The shoulder height rule is ALWAYS in effect. No dog should jump down to hard surfaces (concrete, rock, asphalt, etc.) from anything higher than their shoulder height for any reason. If jumping down to soft surfaces

(dirt, rubber, etc.) this may be increased to twice shoulder height or no more than 42” (1.1 meters). When in doubt, opt for safety! Dogs may be carried or lowered down if this can be done so safely and comfortably. If they can’t be carried, an alternate route down must be found. Dogs under the age of 18 months (Foundation Level only) should not jump down from anything higher than their stopper pad. Dogs must be shown getting on and off obstacles when performing tasks that require the dog to get on things such as beds, couches, chairs or benches.

- Dogs must perform all tasks independently and with confidence and joy. All tasks must be intentionally cued either by voice or body movement (hand signals, foot placement, body orientation or arm movement) or with environmental cues that have been trained. Handlers may touch their dog at any time in order to ensure safety, but they may not lift or pick up a dog and put them on an obstacle, in a vehicle or cart. The only time picking up a dog is allowed is to safely remove a dog from an obstacle. If task is cued, there must be only one cue. This also means only one type of cue (hand signals, foot placement, body orientation or arm movement).
- No prong collars, choke/slip collars, shock collars, slip leads or head halters. Properly fit limited slip and martingale style collars are acceptable. As part of qualifying videos, the collar must be shown first, then put on the dog, then the task/game performed with no lag or stops in the video. Service dogs should be trained, not constantly in training with devices that correct improper behavior or tasks.
- Demonstrate appropriate inspection of obstacles for safety and only ask dogs to interact with safe obstacles. Watch out for slippery obstacles or unsafe surfaces. This includes scent articles and articles for retrieval that are safe for dogs.
- Dogs must be seen getting safely and confidently onto and off of obstacles (this is from ground level to ground level) and safely interacting with obstacles and objects in the environment when necessary.
- Disposal of scent articles must be shown at the end of each video. Disposal containers must be airtight and dog proof.
- Leashes are optional at all levels. Please consider this option if working in unfenced areas with reactive dogs. Leashes may be any length and may be dropped, shortened, exchanged, or removed for distance stations, jumps, weaves, etc.
- The dog may wear a flat buckle collar, snap collar, properly fitted martingale collar, no collar, body harness (front or rear clip is fine), and/or a service vest. Tags on collars/harnesses are permitted.

Obstacles:

- Playgrounds may be used if playground rules permit, but remember they are the kids’ playgrounds first. If a kid approaches, move your training elsewhere. If a kid is already on the playground, move your training elsewhere. At no time should a dog be doing training on a playground with kids present. This is for the safety of both the kids and the dogs and to show respect for the environments that give us the ability to train this sport. Respect for the environment must be demonstrated at all times.
- Agility equipment may be used sparingly, but we highly encourage you to use and find other obstacles. If agility equipment is used the use must be minimal and it must be used in a novel or non-traditional manner.

Titles:

- Titles are earned with three qualifying sets of videos at each level.
- Treats and/or toys may be used at any level but cannot be used as a lure. Corrections may not be used at any time. Multiple cues may be given, but if a handler has to give more than 2 cues, more training is needed, and a non-passing score will be given.

- Videos should only include one unedited repetition of the behavior and should be 2 minutes or less in length unless otherwise noted. It is IMPERATIVE that we see how a dog gets onto and off of an obstacle necessary for the task, the collar off the dog, being put on and then the game played.
- Videotaping may occur on separate days at separate locations.
- All dogs must be 18 months of age or older unless participating in Foundation or Novice Levels. The Foundation Level is an optional level designed for dogs new to the sport, young dogs, old dogs, and dogs with physical limitations. All dogs must complete their Novice title before moving on to Intermediate, Champion or Specialist levels.
- Champion level is attainable after passing in Novice without having to do Intermediate or Expert. However, if the first attempt at Champion level gets a non-passing score, Intermediate level must be passed before Champion level is attempted again.
- The same video may not be used twice for a submission, and the same obstacle may not be used twice for the same behavior (for example: couch for DPT or bed for DPT).
- Videos must have their original audio, no editing of the video or the audio.
- Each time a specific behavior is performed with the same handler, it MUST be with a different obstacle or location. This applies to ALL titles.

Obstacle and Public Access Modification and Exceptions:

- Senior dogs (defined as dogs in the last 1/3 of expected lifespan for breed or size of dog), dogs with medical disability (veterinary note may be required) may request exemption from one any task requiring an obstacle. Service Dog Games International must approve all accommodations before titles are submitted.
- Dogs not needing to be outside the home may request additional home-based tasks when a level calls for outside the home performance. Service Dog Games International must approve all accommodations before titles are submitted.

Appearance

- Human - You don't have to dress professionally, but should be in clean street clothing. No PJs or sloppy sweats. Hair should be clean and combed, same with beard if you have one.
- Dog - Like the human, the dog should be clean and brushed with no tangles or bits of brush or dirt. Nails should be trimmed neatly.
- Gear - If the game requires gear because it's either part of the game or because you and your dog are out in public, gear should not be frayed or visibly chewed on.
- Environment - The environment should be uncluttered and if indoors, picked up and clean. No distracting objects or colors. At night lighting should be good enough to see your eyes and your dogs eyes clearly.

Videos

- The video clip must follow the team so the dog is visible at all times. For distance work, keep the camera on the dog.
- Ideally, the handler is visible throughout the run. However, if part of the handler is not in view, it is sufficient that the handler's hands are visible throughout the run.
- The video of the team negotiating the game may not be edited in any way other than to adjust lighting and to cut the excess footage prior to the start and after the end of the run.
- Do not add music to the video. The judge needs to hear the handler cueing the dog throughout the run.
- The videographer may zoom and/or pan, but the dog and handler must be visible throughout the clip.
- The video must be viewable. Video in high definition and upload in high definition.

Video Tips

- Place the camera on a tripod or other stationary object for a good, viewable result. This is the case whether or not there is a videographer.
- If you are attempting to self-record, make sure all areas where the game is being performed are visible and are not too small on the screen to be viewed easily by the judge.
- Outdoors in the sun, it's best to have the sun at the camera's back. Alternatively, shade the camera with an umbrella.
- Please review your clips before entering them. If the images are not large enough or are not clear, they can not be viewed for judging.
- Set up the game before you start filming. Make sure you have the collar, any scent needed, any other props needed, objects or furniture set up to facilitate performing the game.

Qualifying and Scoring

- The team begins each game with a score of 100 points. A Final Score of 70 points or more is required for a qualifying game.
- Scoring is based on :
 - A. Relationship between dog and handler (10 pts)
 - B. Completion of the game (30 pts)
 - C. All parts of the games are portrayed (30 pts)
 - D. Only one cue per game part (i.e. on a scent game there would be a cue to sniff the scent and another to do the alert and a third for ending the alert). (30pts)
- Points will be taken away for:
 - A. 10 points for improper equipment
 - B. 5 points for improperly fitting equipment
 - C. 5 points for each patch on the equipment that is deemed distracting or unnecessary
 - D. One point for each instance of a tight leash.
- An instant Non-Qual will be determined in the case of:
 - A. Shock, choke, prong collars or head halters
 - B. Punishment or corrections of the dog
 - C. Not following any of the rules in the Rules for the Service Dog Games
 - D. Any harsh treatment of the dog (including any deliberate pull on the leash)
 - E. Dog biting handler or handler's clothes
 - F. Dog stops working for 20 seconds or more
 - G. Peeing or pooping in the ring
 - H. Dog appears to be in pain or too stressed to work comfortably
 - I. Luring the dog (with treats, toys, air cookies, or the appearance of holding a lure) at any time
 - J. Continually begging the dog to perform
 - K. If the entry is an NQ, the team will have 30 days from the date of the e-mailed result to submit another video of the same or a different course.
 - L. The cost of the re-submission is \$10.00.

Disclaimer

Service Dog Games International is NOT a certifying agency for any Service Dog anywhere in the world. Anyone caught using their Title Certificates as a means of proving their dog is a service dog for the purpose of public access or living accommodations, will be fined and/or taken to court. Anyone caught using their Title Certificates as a means of proving their dog is a service dog for the purpose of public access or living accommodations, will be banned from further participating in the Games and all Titles revoked.

Frequently asked questions

- Do measurements need to be exact?
No, but they need to be commensurate with the size of your dog and close to the standard.
- Can I use a video from one level for a different level?
No, each video must be unique.
- How high of quality do the videos need to be?
You don't need to be a professional videographer! As long as we can see and recognize you, your dog and what is being done without squinting, adjusting any settings or turning up or down the audio, it's good enough.
- Are we allowed to use lures or targets?
No, lures, targets, special collars, remotes are all training tools. Even on the Foundation Level, none of these are allowed. The dog should be freely doing the behavior with only a cue. If dogs are not worried about being corrected for getting things wrong, they start to think more and more for themselves. In the process they are increasing their ability to learn. We also have the added pleasure of watching our dogs thinking - which is absolutely fascinating!
- If a team does not qualify with an entry, can they use the video clips that did qualify and just redo the problem one(s)?
Yes, if a team does not qualify the qualifying video clips from that submission may be reused.
- Do titles need to be earned in order?
Yes, but there are multiple orders in which they can be earned. Foundation Level is an optional titling level. All teams must earn a Novice title before they can earn an Intermediate title, and then an Expert title. Once teams have earned a Novice title they are also eligible for the Championship and Specialty Titles. The Championship Title does not require that a team has earned an Intermediate or Expert Title. Champion Level is for those who have completed prior levels as well as for those who have fully trained dogs and want the Title of Champion Service Dog.
- Can I combine my submission into one video?
No, in order to make reviewing as easy and quick as possible each video clip needs to demonstrate only the skill listed. Clips that show multiple skills will not be reviewed. If you know how to link to a specific TIME in a video, that is also acceptable.
- Do I have to use YouTube to upload my video?
There are many services on the Internet for uploading videos. As long as you are able to send a separate link for each video and we can view these links. Some other popular programs are Vimeo and Dropbox. The main criterion is that we do not have to pay a fee to see your videos.
- Can I use a prong collar to control my dog because of my disability or age?
No, you can use a modified slip collar or a martingale type collar. They are just as effective and have minimal impact on the neck organs of the dog.
- Do I need to be fully visible in the videos?
Yes, invest in a cheap tripod with a remote to your phone if necessary or have a helper who takes the video. We must be able to see and hear your cues and whether you are using subtle corrections.

Waiver of Liability and Informed Consent Release:

I, the Releasing Party and the undersigned, have enrolled myself and my dog in service dog training classes, private consultations, workshops or other related activities (Titling) offered by Service Dog Games International (SDGI) The Released Party.

By signing hereunder, I certify that I have been informed and understand that there is always some unavoidable risk of injury involved when working with animals, especially animals with behavioral issues. I acknowledge that dogs can be inherently difficult to control and that not all dogs will be under control at all times resulting in the possibility of injury to myself, my dog, my family members, or third parties. Additionally, I have had full opportunity to discuss all concerns I have about the foregoing risks with SDGI and its authorized representatives. I have also made all inquiries and investigations to my satisfaction related to such risks, including, but not limited to, an examination of the training area (if applicable). I hereby accept and assume, without reservation, all risks associated with my participation in the Classes, including, but not limited to: the risks of any and all injuries to myself, my dog and any of my family members or third parties who may attend; the risks that my dog may cause injury to other persons and/or dogs while training.

As lawful consideration for participating in the classes, I, for myself, my heirs, executors, administrators, legal representatives, successors and assigns hereby waive, release, discharge and agree not to sue and to indemnify, defend and hold harmless SDGI and their members, managers, agents, and employees from any and all injuries, losses, claims and damages to any person or persons of any nature whatsoever, including claims arising from the Released Party's own negligence, and all costs associated therewith, including attorney's fees, court costs and consultant fees, arising from my participation in the Classes.

This Waiver of Liability & Informed Consent Release shall be legally binding on the Releasing Party. Should the Releasing Party assert a claim to the contrary to what has been agreed to in this Waiver of Liability and Informed Consent Release, the claiming party shall be liable for all expenses (including attorney's fees, court costs and consultant fees) incurred by both the Releasing Party and the Released Party. No waiver or modification of any provision herein shall be valid unless expressly agreed to in writing by both the Released Party and the Releasing Party. Every provision herein is intended to be severable. If any one or more of the provisions herein is found to be unenforceable or invalid, that shall not affect the other terms and provisions hereof, which shall remain binding and enforceable.

SDGI will endeavor to create as safe an environment as possible for the training of my dog and will offer only sound, safe, and responsible training and training instructions. However, to the extent that SDGI is insured for any unintentional or negligent errors, omissions, or incorrect assertions, SDGI LLC will be responsible for any such acts or omissions, but only to the extent of such insurance. I have been told by SDGI and understand the inherent risks of owning a dog, including but not limited to the risk of dog bites to myself or others, and consequently I am and will remain responsible for the actions of my dog at all times, and I hereby agree to indemnify and hold harmless SDGI, LLC of any and all claims of injury, expense, costs, or damages caused by my dog. SDGI, its owners, contractors, and/or its staff are not liable for any injury to any person or dog and are not liable for professional liability associated with any dog or person. I understand that the recommendation of any other product or service is not a guarantee of my satisfaction with that product or service. I hereby agree to abide by the rules and policies of SDGI LLC training classes as set forth in this contract. I understand that attendance of dog training classes is not without risk to myself, members of my family, guests who may attend, or to my dog. In consideration of, and as inducement to the acceptance of my application for training membership in this training class, I hereby agree to indemnify and hold harmless SDGI, its officers, directors, instructors, agents, employees and/or representatives of any and all claims, or claims by any member of my family, or accompanying guests of mine of injury, expense, costs or damages to myself, my dog or any handler sponsored by me both in class and out of class. In addition, I agree that I will defend and indemnify SDGI for any injury, expense, costs or damages to any dog handlers or dogs, whether sponsored by me or not, or to third parties arising out of my own actions or the actions of my dog. I have read the above-stated provisions, and agree to accept those responsibilities.

Refund Policy for Classes and Workshops:

We offer a 90% refund for all current classes if you meet the conditions related to your class level. (The other 10% (minimum \$10) covers non-refundable processing fees.) You will receive a refund if:

- You request your cancellation at least four days before the class or workshop begins, AND
- The class or workshop you are canceling has not already sold out.

Refund policy for workbooks, independent training, workshops, seminars.

There are no refunds available for workbooks, workshops, seminars, training from independent instructors using our curriculum or registration fees. We suggest you read the information before making your purchase. If you have additional questions on the materials to be covered please contact the instructor

or help@sdgamesintl.org PRIOR to purchasing so we may help determine if the topic is suitable for your needs.

All refund requests should be directed to help@sdgamesintl.org

Title Information

Service Dog Games International Titles

Puppy Levels

Puppy Level Titles (SDG-P1, 2 or 3)

The Puppy Levels are for raising a service puppy, which is different from raising a pet dog. Service puppies must understand self-control, must do lots of socialization and learn the foundations of what they will be doing as Service Dogs.

The Puppy Levels are available to puppies between the ages of 8 weeks and 5 months. There are three levels corresponding to the abilities and cognition levels of puppies in 3 general groups. Group one is from 8 to 14 weeks. Group two is from 14 to 20 weeks. Group three is from 20 weeks to 26 weeks. These are not burned in stone but left to the discretion of the handler/owner/trainer.

You will choose 8 games from the available list of Puppy Level Games. There are twelve sections in this level but you will only choose one game from each section until you have 8 games. Each game in the game list is marked as to which level it is most appropriate for.

In the Puppy Levels, naked play, social play and toy play is acceptable as reinforcement. No food allowed in the videos but if you want to train with food, that is your choice.

If your submission is not passed, you will be informed within 30 days. You may resubmit at that time with NEW videos for the ones that were not passed. Each of the new videos must be in a different location than the original video.

Remember, your video MUST include the full performance of the game!

The cost to submit any of the Puppy Level Titles for review is \$10 USD. You will pay upon submitting your form for review.

You will pay upon submitting [your form](#) for review.

Please make sure to read ALL the [rules](#) and title guidelines before submitting a title. The [Frequently Asked Questions page](#) will also be a helpful resource. Titles will be reviewed once the submission form and payment is received. Applicants will receive an email within a month concerning the status of their submitted titles. Expert and Championship titles may take longer to review due to the complexity of these titles. No refunds will be given for title submissions that do not meet our criteria, but you are welcome to resubmit for titles as many times as necessary (payment will be required each time). Certificates are e-mailed out quarterly.

For a printer-friendly checklist of all the behaviors, [click here](#).
[Puppy Level Titles Submission Form](#)

Example of Level 1 Puppy game choices

- Accepting Full Body Petting
The puppy must accept slow strokes over the whole body and minimal pinching of toes and ears.
- Puppy targets the handlers hand with his chin
Puppy rests his chin in the handlers hand for 20 seconds on cue.

- **Puppy chases bubbles**
Handler blows puppy safe bubbles for the puppy to chase for 30 seconds. Puppy chases the bubbles with no fear.
- **Puppy finds the treat under a cup**
Handler sets out three cups upside down and puts a treat under one of the cups. Cues puppy to find the treat. 3 times.
- **Puppy looks at an object that is making a sound**
Dog must look at an object that makes a sound. Do this with 5 different objects with 5 different sounds.
- **Puppy to tug on a toy with the handler**
Tug to be at least as long as the puppy is. Handler to keep the toy very close to the ground and not move the puppy's head up and down. Puppy should win the toy.
- **Puppy Willingly Trades One Toy for Another on cue**
Handler to cue the puppy to drop a toy and accept another one in it's place
- **Puppy Sits at the Handlers Side on Cue**
Handler cues the puppy to come to his side and sit facing the same direction the handler is facing.

Foundation Level

Foundation Level Title (SDG-F)

The Foundation Level is about basics and fundamentals. This means most of what is taught to any dog no matter what place in life that dog is meant for. The games played at this level are the foundation for all other games and tasks that a service dog needs to know.

You will choose 8 games from the available list of Foundation Level Games. There are twelve sections in this level but you will only choose one game from each section until you have 8 games.

Most games are played once, some are played 3 to 5 times in different locations. You should submit a video for each iteration of the game. Therefore you may end up with more than 8 videos that you will need to upload for your submission.

The Foundation Level title is available to dogs of ANY age with no minimum. As stated in the [Service Dog Games Rules page](#). This title level is an optional level and is a great place to start with young puppies, dogs and handlers who are new to training a service dog or online titling.

The cost to submit a Foundation Level Title for review is \$20 USD. You will pay upon submitting [your form](#) for review.

Please make sure to read ALL the [rules](#) and title guidelines before submitting a title. The [Frequently Asked Questions page](#) will also be a helpful resource. Titles will be reviewed once the submission form and payment is received. Applicants will receive an email within a month concerning the status of their submitted titles. Expert and Championship titles may take longer to review due to the complexity of these titles. No refunds will be given for title submissions that do not meet our criteria, but you are welcome to resubmit for titles as many times as necessary (payment will be required each time). Certificates are e-mailed out quarterly.

Remember, your video MUST include the full performance of the game!

For a printer-friendly checklist of all the behaviors, [click here](#).

Example of Foundation level game choices

Touch an object with nose or paw. Two attempts with different objects A "target" is anything that the dog must focus on and perform some action towards. The way the dog targets the intended object is either by a nose touch or a paw touch. Targeting is one of the most effective ways to teach many of the tasks and public access behaviors for a service dog. There are other ways to target objects than by nose or paw, but for our purposes the exercise must be with either nose or paw. Objects do not include parts of the handler's body at this level.

Push an object with the nose. Two attempts with different objects that roll: Teaching dogs to push objects with their noses or paws is often such a fun training exercise and game. The dog must push an object that will roll or has wheels at least 2 feet.

Walk 30 feet with a loose leash including right turn, left turn, about turn, backup 3 steps, halt and go (counts as two games): The dog may be on either side of the handler. The dog's position should leave no doubt that the dog is attentive to the handler and is responding to the handler's movements and changes of direction. The dog need not be perfectly aligned with the handler and need not sit when the handler stops. The evaluator may use a pre-plotted course or may direct the handler/dog team by issuing instructions or commands. In either case, there should be a right turn, left turn, and an about turn, backing up for 3 human steps, with at least one stop in between and another at the end. The handler may talk to the dog along the way, praise the dog, or give commands in a normal tone of voice. The handler may sit the dog at the halts if desired.

Sit on Cue in 5 locations for 1 minute at each location at the side of the handler handler: The dog must assume the sit position when the handler asks for it. The sit position does not have to be a perfect sit according to AKC

Obedience rules. But the dog's focus must stay on the handler and must be sitting at the handlers side, not in front or back of the handler unless the game asks for it.

Ignore food in a bowl on the floor for 60 seconds: A path is created for a dog and handler to walk past a bowl full of food on the ground. Your dog should pass within two feet of the bowl. Your dog may not touch, pick up or mouth the food. Looking and sniffing is acceptable.

Stand In Motion for 30 seconds in each of 3 locations: Stand is one of the basic positions that dogs need to know in competitive obedience and very important for service dog training, especially for stability and mobility. In many cases the dog is required to do this "in motion." That means you walk and tell your dog to stand, and he must STOP and STAND where you told him for at least 30 seconds.

Go To Your Place and Stay for 60 seconds, owner 5 feet away from the "place": The Place command teaches dogs how to relax in a specific spot." Place" can be a dog cot, a bed, a rug, a chair – you decide – and you can change where & what the "place" is that you want your dog to relax

List of Foundation Games

Novice Level

Novice Level Title (SDG-N)

This title level is the prerequisite level for most of the other titles offered and is a great place to start exploring what tasks are available for a service dog. If your dog is young, new to dog sports, or needs to gain some confidence, we recommend starting with the [Novice Level Title](#).

You will need to perform and video 8 tasks selected from the list of tasks for the Novice Level. No more than one task from each section of the list. There are 12 sections.

Most games are played once, some are played 3 to 5 times in different locations. You should submit a video for each iteration of the game. Therefore you may end up with more than 8 videos that you will need to upload for your submission.

The Novice Level title is available to all dogs over the age of 12 months of age. This title level is the prerequisite level for most of the other titles offered and is a great place to start exploring what tasks are available for a service dog. If your dog is young, new to dog sports, or needs to gain some confidence, we recommend starting with the [Foundation Level Title](#).

You will need to perform and video 8 tasks selected from the list of tasks for the Novice Level. No more than one task from each section of the list. There are 12 sections.

The cost to submit a Novice Level Title for review is \$25 USD. You will pay upon submitting [your form](#) for review.

Please make sure to read ALL the [rules](#) and title guidelines before submitting a title. The [Frequently Asked Questions page](#) will also be a helpful resource. Titles will be reviewed once the submission form and payment is received. Applicants will receive an email within a month concerning the status of their submitted titles. Expert and Championship titles may take longer to review due to the complexity of these titles. No refunds will be given for title submissions that do not meet our criteria, but you are welcome to resubmit for titles as many times as necessary (payment will be required each time). Certificates are e-mailed out quarterly.

Remember, your video MUST include the full performance of the task including showing the collar off the dog and then put on the dog and any scent articles properly disposed of at the end of the video.

The links on each behavior name will take you to a YouTube example of that expected behavior.

For a printer-friendly checklist of all the behaviors, [click here](#).

Example of Novice level game choices

Public Access - **40-foot recall with no distractions; Put your dog on a 50 foot leash.** Walk your dog to a specified spot in a safe area (fenced) or have a helper hold the dog's leash loosely about 8 feet from the attachment on the dog. Ask your dog to sit. Walk 40 feet (the remaining feet on the leash) away from your dog still holding on to the end of the 50 foot leash. Call your dog. When you call your dog, the helper should prepare to let go of the leash but no actually let go until the dog starts to move toward you. Your dog should come straight to you with no deviations.

Scent Tasks - Scent One Food Zero on cue: 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"

Assistance Tasks – **Dog lies on handler's lap with handler on a couch for 2 minutes on cue:** Handler lies on a couch and cues the dog to get on the couch and lie on the handler's lap. The dog must remain on the handler's lap for at least 2 minutes without any restraint.

Obstacle Avoidance - 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.

Moving Through the Environment: Cue your dog to go back and forth between obstacles 10 times: 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.

Find a named object, like the morning newspaper on the porch, on cue The object should be something that is related to your disability or something valuable like your keys or glasses.

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.

Wind up a minute timer, oven or microwave timer going off. When it rings, cue the dog to "find it": Use whatever cue you've been using to train this behavior.

Intermediate Level

Intermediate Level Title (SDG-I)

The Intermediate Level title is available to dogs who have already earned a Novice Level title and are at least 23 months old. This is a technically challenging title level that ensures your dog has the awareness, control, strength, and body awareness to safely continue on to the Expert Level. It will also put your dog on the path to his Specialty or Champion Service Dog Titles. The Intermediate level is here to ensure you can work safely and successfully as a team.

The Intermediate Level is about basics, the start of public access and strengthening what has been learned about tasks.

You will choose 8 games from the available list of Intermediate Level Games. There are twelve sections in this level but you will only choose one game from each section until you have 8 games.

When viewing the list of games for this level, click on the name of the game and you will see a video of the game and the instructions. Most games are played once, some are played 3 to 5 times in different locations. You should submit a video for each iteration of the game. Therefore you may end up with more than 8 videos that you will need to upload for your submission.

If your submission does not pass, you will be informed within 30 days. You may resubmit at that time with NEW videos for the ones that were not passed within 30 days of receiving the notice of not having passed. Each of the new videos must be in a different location than the original video.

Remember, your video MUST include the full performance of the game!

The cost to submit an Intermediate Level Title for review is \$25 USD. You will pay upon submitting [your form](#) for review.

Please make sure to read ALL the [rules](#) and title guidelines before submitting a title. The [Frequently Asked Questions page](#) will also be a helpful resource. Titles will be reviewed once the submission form and payment is received. Applicants will receive an email within a month concerning the status of their submitted titles. Expert and Championship titles may take longer to review due to the complexity of these titles. No refunds will be given for title submissions that do not meet our criteria, but you are welcome to resubmit for titles as many times as necessary (payment will be required each time). Certificates are e-mailed out quarterly.

For a printer-friendly checklist of all the behaviors, [click here](#).
[Intermediate Level Title Submission Form](#)

Example of Intermediate Level game choice

- Tuck for 2 minutes
Dog must put itself under a chair, bench, low table or inside a box turned on it's side. Tail must be tucked to prevent being stepped on. 2 minutes.
- Hard touch on the hand or other body part on cue
Dog must touch the handler's hand or other body part with some force when cued.

- Lie down on partner's chest for 2 minutes on the floor, couch or a bed on cue
At least 25% of the dog's body should be on the handler's chest, preferably head, chest and front legs of the dog. The dog must remain on the handler's chest for at least 2 minutes without any restraint but can be cued once.
- Go Over There
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, restraint or correction.
- Pull up partner with a strap from floor to feet on cue, then brace till partner catches balance
Always remembering on the brace that weight put on the dog should ideally not be more than 25% of the dogs weight (plus gear), except when the bracing time is less than 5 seconds. The tug should be of sufficient size and width that the dog can easily hold it with pressure.
- Retrieve Dog Bowls to handler on cue
Make sure bowls are plastic or metal, nothing that will break if dropped. Bowls should be sized appropriately for the size of the dog.
- Alert to Cell phone or beeper
Alert should be whatever you have trained the dog to do to alert as well as back and forth to show the handler where the noise is.

Expert Level

Expert Level Title (PKD-E)

Expert and Championship titles may take longer to review due to the complexity of these titles. No refunds will be given for title submissions that do not meet our criteria, but you are welcome to resubmit for titles as many times as necessary (payment will be required each time). Certificates are e-mailed out quarterly.

This level is different from the others. This level thoroughly tests your dog's and your knowledge of not only the tasks and public access abilities of your dog, but also YOUR knowledge of what it means to have a Service Dog.

You will choose 12 games from the available list of Expert Level Games. There are twelve sections in this level but you will only choose one game from each section until you have 8 games.

Most games are played once, some are played 3 to 5 times in different locations. You should submit a video for each iteration of the game. Therefore, you may end up with more than 8 videos that you will need to upload for your submission.

The Expert Level title is available to any dog who has successfully earned an Intermediate Level title. The dog should be at least 18 months old. This is an extremely challenging title that requires both physical and mental confidence and strength as well as a handler with a well-developed knowledge of service dog etiquette and tasks. In the service dog training world, it can take 2 years or more to train to this level.

The Expert Level title is available to any dog who has successfully earned an Intermediate Level title. The dog should be at least 18 months old. This is an extremely challenging title that requires both physical and mental confidence and strength as well as a handler with a well-developed knowledge of service dog etiquette and tasks. In the service dog training world, it can take 2 years or more to train to this level.

Please make sure to read ALL the [rules](#) and title guidelines before submitting a title. The [Frequently Asked Questions page](#) will also be a helpful resource. Titles will be reviewed once the submission form and payment is received. Applicants will receive an email within a month concerning the status of their submitted titles. Expert and Championship titles may take longer to review due to the complexity of these titles. No refunds will be given for title submissions that do not meet our criteria, but you are welcome to resubmit for titles as many times as necessary (payment will be required each time). Certificates are e-mailed out quarterly.

The cost to submit an Expert Level Title for review is \$25 USD. You will pay upon submitting your form for review.

Remember, your video MUST include the full performance of the obstacle including the gear, putting the gear on and any necessary scent handling.

For a printer-friendly checklist of all the behaviors, [click here](#).

[Expert Level Title Submission Form](#)

Example of Expert Level game choice

This is the complete list of Section One Games, You need to select at least 3 games from this section.

- Unload from a vehicle
After a suitable place has been found, the individual will unload the dog and any necessary equipment (wheelchair, walker, crutches, etc.) out of the vehicle. The dog must wait until released before coming out of the vehicle. Once outside, it must wait quietly unless otherwise instructed by the individual. The dog may not run around, be off lead, or ignore the commands given by the individual. Once the team is out of the vehicle and settled, the assistant should walk past with another dog. They should walk within six (6) feet of the team. The Assistance Dog must remain calm and under control, not pulling or trying to get to the other dog. The

emphasis on this is that the Assistance Dog remains unobtrusive and is unloaded in the safest manner possible for everyone.

This must be done in a parking lot, not your driveway. The leash must stay loose. The dog must wait for its cue to load or unload. This is one of those skills that MUST be cued for the safety of all.

- Approaching a Building

For those of you who will not be using your dog in public, malls are mostly empty in the early morning, especially on Sunday.

After unloading, the team must maneuver through the parking lot to approach the building. The dog must stay in a relative heel position and may not forge ahead or lag behind. The dog must not display a fear of cars or traffic noises and must display a relaxed attitude. When the individual stops for any reason, the dog must stop also.

- Entry through a doorway

Once at the doors of the building, the individual may enter however he/she chooses to negotiate the entry safely. Upon entering the building, however, the dog may not wander off or solicit attention from the public. The dog should wait quietly until the team is fully inside and then should calmly walk beside the individual. The dog must not pull or strain against the lead or try to push its way past the individual but must wait patiently while entry is completed. distractions while navigating through the parking lot and approaching a building. The leash must remain loose, no cues or signals. A sit or down is not required.

- Moving through the building

Once inside the building, the individual and the dog must walk through the area in a controlled manner. The dog should always be within touching distance where applicable or not greater than a foot away from the individual. The dog should not solicit public attention or strain against the lead (except in cases where the dog may be pulling the individual's wheelchair). The dog must readily adjust to speed changes, turn corners promptly, and travel through a crowded area without interacting with the public. In tight quarters, the dog must be able to get out of the way of obstacles and not destroy merchandise by knocking it over or by playing with it.

- Six foot recall on lead

A large, open area should be found for the six-foot recall. Once found, the individual will perform a six-foot recall with the dog remaining on lead. The individual will sit the dog, leave it, travel six feet, then turn and call the dog to him/her. The dog should respond promptly and not stop to solicit attention from the public or ignore the command. The dog should come close enough to the individual to be readily touched. For Guide Dogs, they must actually touch the person to indicate location. The recall should be smooth and deliberate without the dog trudging to the individual or taking any detours along the way.

- Restaurant

The team should enter a restaurant and be seated at a table. The dog should go under the table or, if size prevents that, stay close to the individual. The dog must sit or lie down and may move a bit for comfort during the meal but should not be up and down a lot or need any correction or reminding.

- Dog taken by another person

To show that the dog can be handled by another person without aggression or excessive stress or whining, someone else will take the dog's leash and passively hold the dog (not giving any commands) while the dog's partner moves 20' away.

- Exiting the Building

The team will leave the building in a similar manner to entering, with safety and control being of prime importance. The team will proceed across the parking lot and back to the vehicle. The dog must be in an appropriate heel position and not display any fear of vehicles or sounds.

- Load into vehicle

The individual will load the dog into the vehicle with either entering first. The dog must not wander around the parking lot but must wait patiently for instructions. The emphasis is on safety and control.

- Team relationship

It is important for an Assistance Dog Team to have a positive and close relationship. Both the handler and the dog should be relaxed; there should be positive reinforcement for the dog's good behavior; the dog should be under control; and the team should present a positive image to the public.

Champion Level

Champion Service Dog (CH-SDG)

Our championship title is very different from your typical dog sport championship. That's because Service Dog Games is vastly different from any other dog sport. Practicing Service Dog Games is more about show casing you and your dog's expertise and knowledge about being a team.

The point of the championship title is to get people thinking, exploring and really doing Service Dog Games as opposed to just following a list of requirements. The goal is to be the best team YOU can be. We want you to develop your expertise as a team and continue honing your already learned skills and learning new skills to enhance your relationship. To be able to create new movements, and new tasks that are safe, appropriate, and fun for your dog. This title very intentionally does not require any specific skill on the dog's part. We believe that a true team is on a journey of learning and joy. This is the essence we hope to capture with the championship title. This title is not meant to be completed quickly. We want you to put a lot of time and thought into making it the best representation of you and your dog's journey as a Service Dog Team.

Please make sure to read ALL the rules and title guidelines before submitting a title. The Frequently Asked Questions page will also be a helpful resource. Titles will be reviewed once the submission form and payment is received. Applicants will receive an email within a month concerning the status of their submitted titles. Expert and Championship titles may take longer to review due to the complexity of these titles. No refunds will be given for title submissions that do not meet our criteria, but you are welcome to resubmit for titles as many times as necessary (payment will be required each time). Certificates are e-mailed out quarterly.

Remember, your video MUST include the full performance of the obstacle including getting onto and off of the obstacle!

For a printer-friendly checklist of all the behaviors, [click here](#).

[Championship Title Submission Form](#)

Example of Championship Level game choice

These lists are the complete lists of the game in each section. When you take the title test you will only be doing 4 per section for a total of 40 games. Each time you take this test, those 4 games will be different.

- **Unload from a vehicle**
After a suitable place has been found, the individual will unload the dog and any necessary equipment (wheelchair, walker, crutches, etc.) out of the vehicle. The dog must wait until released before coming out of the vehicle. Once outside, it must wait quietly unless otherwise instructed by the individual. The dog may not run around, be off lead, or ignore the commands given by the individual. Once the team is out of the vehicle and settled, the assistant should walk past with another dog. They should walk within six (6) feet of the team. The Assistance Dog must remain calm and under control, not pulling or trying to get to the other dog. The emphasis on this is that the Assistance Dog remains unobtrusive and is unloaded in the safest manner possible for everyone.
This must be done in a parking lot, not your driveway. The leash must stay loose. The dog must wait for its cue to load or unload. This is one of those skills that MUST be cued for the safety of all.
- **Approaching a Building**
For those of you who will not be using your dog in public, malls are mostly empty in the early morning, especially on Sunday.
After unloading, the team must maneuver through the parking lot to approach the building. The dog must stay in a relative heel position and may not forge ahead or lag behind. The dog must not display a fear of cars or traffic noises and must display a relaxed attitude. When the individual stops for any reason, the dog must stop also.

- **Entry through a doorway**
Once at the doors of the building, the individual may enter however he/she chooses to negotiate the entry safely. Upon entering the building, however, the dog may not wander off or solicit attention from the public. The dog should wait quietly until the team is fully inside and then should calmly walk beside the individual. The dog must not pull or strain against the lead or try to push its way past the individual but must wait patiently while entry is completed. distractions while navigating through the parking lot and approaching a building. The leash must remain loose, no cues or signals. A sit or down is not required.
- **Moving through the building**
Once inside the building, the individual and the dog must walk through the area in a controlled manner. The dog should always be within touching distance where applicable or not greater than a foot away from the individual. The dog should not solicit public attention or strain against the lead (except in cases where the dog may be pulling the individual's wheelchair). The dog must readily adjust to speed changes, turn corners promptly, and travel through a crowded area without interacting with the public. In tight quarters, the dog must be able to get out of the way of obstacles and not destroy merchandise by knocking it over or by playing with it.
- **Six foot recall on lead**
A large, open area should be found for the six-foot recall. Once found, the individual will perform a six-foot recall with the dog remaining on lead. The individual will sit the dog, leave it, travel six feet, then turn and call the dog to him/her. The dog should respond promptly and not stop to solicit attention from the public or ignore the command. The dog should come close enough to the individual to be readily touched. For Guide Dogs, they must actually touch the person to indicate location. The recall should be smooth and deliberate without the dog trudging to the individual or taking any detours along the way.
- **Restaurant**
The team should enter a restaurant and be seated at a table. The dog should go under the table or, if size prevents that, stay close to the individual. The dog must sit or lie down and may move a bit for comfort during the meal but should not be up and down a lot or need any correction or reminding.
- **Dog taken by another person**
To show that the dog can be handled by another person without aggression or excessive stress or whining, someone else will take the dog's leash and passively hold the dog (not giving any commands) while the dog's partner moves 20' away.
- **Exiting the Building**
The team will leave the building in a similar manner to entering, with safety and control being of prime importance. The team will proceed across the parking lot and back to the vehicle. The dog must be in an appropriate heel position and not display any fear of vehicles or sounds.

Specialty Titles

Dogs must have obtained the Novice title before testing for the specialty titles. You must earn your Level 1 title before submitting for Level 2 and earn your level 2 before submitting for Level 3.

You must complete the following number of games for each level:

- 10 for Level 1
- 15 for Level 2
- 20 for Level 3

Choose a minimum of three requirements from each category.

At each level, each game must be on the requirement list and not repeated for that level. For example, you cannot submit two videos for closing a cupboard and then closing a door.

All games must be completed both inside and in public. A ratio of half inside and half in public is required for each level unless prior permission has been gotten from Service Dog Games International.

The cost to submit a Specialty Title for review is \$25 USD. You will pay upon submitting [your form](#) for review.

Please make sure to read ALL the [rules](#) and title guidelines before submitting a title. The [Frequently Asked Questions page](#) will also be a helpful resource. Titles will be reviewed once the submission form and payment is received. Applicants will receive an email within a month concerning the status of their submitted titles. Expert and Championship titles may take longer to review due to the complexity of these titles. No refunds will be given for title submissions that do not meet our criteria, but you are welcome to resubmit for titles as many times as necessary (payment will be required each time). Certificates are e-mailed out quarterly.

Remember, your video MUST include the full performance of the obstacle including getting onto and off of the obstacle!

[Specialist Title Submission Form](#)

Available Specialty Titles

Medical Response and Assistance

A medical service dog is a 'terrier of all trades,' trained to support individuals with unique medical needs. These canines can fetch medications, detect and respond to medical crises, and in some cases, take emergency action — even dialing 911 with a special service dog-friendly phone.

Medical Alert

There are some dogs which can be trained to recognize when their handler is about to have a medical event and can call for help and position themselves to protect them during the episode. In fact, larger support dogs can even move their owners away if they're in a dangerous location such as a road. As dogs are so in tune to our emotions, movement and scent that it's thought that they can sense the behavior change prior to a medical event and can be taught to detect and respond accordingly.

Hearing Assistance

For people with hearing impairments, service dogs assist by alerting to noises such as alarms, doorbells or crying babies. When the dog hears the sound, they'll touch their human and lead toward the noise.

Mobility Assistance

These types of service dogs can perform a wide range of tasks for people with a wide range of mobility issues. Mobility assistance dogs can bring objects to people, press buttons on automatic doors, serve as a brace for people who are ambulatory or even help pull a wheelchair up a ramp. These dogs help people increase their independence and confidence.

People with spinal cord injuries, brain injuries, and arthritis are among those who benefit from a mobility assistance dog. While the dogs must be large enough to support their human partner, many different can be mobility assistance dogs.

General Assistance

General assistance is similar in many ways to Mobility Assistance but do not do those actions that require size and strength. For example, if a person has bad knees, but can walk with a cane or walker, but has difficulty picking up dropped objects, a general assistance dog is necessary. Paraplegics and others who are confined to a wheel chair and don't need a dog to help them walk would also benefit from general assistance which would include retrieving objects, loading and unloading the washer and dryer, or opening and shutting doors.

Psychiatric Assistance

These types of service dogs assist people who are suffering from issues like depression, anxiety and most often post-traumatic stress disorder. PTSD can afflict people after they've served in combat, worked as a first responder, or experienced abuse, natural disasters, terrorism and other life-altering events, such as car crashes.

The human handlers in this category can feel hyper vigilant about their safety, and service dogs can make them feel safer by doing things like entering the home before the human, and turning on the lights with a foot pedal. These dogs can also help PTSD sufferers who feel overwhelmed in public places by creating a physical barrier between the handler and others, giving the handler more personal space. Many PTSD sufferers find that having a service dog to care for forces the human to also take care of themselves, by getting out into the world and getting exercise with their dog.

Guiding

Assistance dogs who lead visually impaired and blind people around obstacles are one of the most commonly known types of service dogs.

Autism Support

For kids on the autism spectrum, these dogs provide a sense of predictability as the children navigate social settings. The dogs can be a big help for kids who have trouble connecting with classmates. The canine acts as an icebreaker in social situations. They improve the child's quality of life by reducing isolation and comforting the child in stressful times. These dogs are also trained to keep children from running away and can track children if they do run off

Service Dog Games Specialist Title Application

Dogs must have obtained Novice Service Dog Games title before testing for the specialty titles. You must earn these titles in order from 1 to 3.

You must complete the following number of games for each level:

10 for Level 1, 15 for Level 2, 20 for Level 3.

Choose a minimum of three requirements from each category.

At each level, each obstacle must be for a distinct item on the requirement list. For example, you cannot submit two different obstacles to meet the "plastic object" requirement twice. No obstacle can be repeated at ANY level within a specialist designation.

All obstacles must be done with objects found outside naturally in the environment.

Please review the rules before submitting titles, you will be required to resubmit the entire title (including payment) if requirements are not met.

General Information

Age Requirements for Dogs

There is no age limit for dogs submitting for titles in Service Dog Games International. However, before submission, dogs must adhere to the rules of the level being tested and the age recommendations of that level.

Please read the descriptions of the different title levels. Age requirements are included there. Age requirements for title submissions also apply to evaluations.

Inappropriate Behavior

All title levels require a certain amount of calm, relaxed, but joyful attitude. When being evaluated or submitting videos, the dog should show that it is enjoying the work.

Any dog that growls or snaps at, bites, attacks, or attempts to attack another person or another dog should be re-evaluated by a competent service dog trainer and must be dismissed from the title evaluation. If an Evaluator observes any signs of aggression (biting, snapping, growling, attempting to attack) the evaluation should not be continued.

Further, if any of these behaviors are observed in the immediate area prior to or after the evaluation, the Evaluator should send a written report to SDGI. If you witness a dog engaging in an aggressive incident after passing the evaluation, you should NOTIFY THE SDGI when sending in your Evaluation Summary Form.

As an Evaluator, if you are having a difficult time reading the dog and/or you feel uncomfortable, you may tell the owner your concerns and stop the evaluation.

Collars, Leashes and Equipment

All evaluations must be performed on leash except where noted that leashes are not to be used. Dogs should wear well-fitting buckle or quick release collars or body harnesses. Body harnesses should not restrict the movement of the dog. Special training equipment such as shock collars, vibration collars, electronics of any sort except GPS, choke collars, pinch collars and head collars are not permitted. The leash should be made of either leather or fabric. Retractable leashes may not be used in the evaluation.

We recognize that special training collars may be used in the beginning stages of dog training, however, we feel that dogs are ready to be evaluated after they have been transitioned to a quick release or buckle collar (body harnesses are also acceptable). If an evaluator is teaching classes and does not feel comfortable with one of the permitted collars, the evaluator must understand that students will be required to do evaluations and title submissions in the type of collar permitted by SDGI. If the evaluation is advertised for the general public, all of the permitted collar types and body harnesses should be allowed in the evaluation.

Each dog should be comfortable with the gear being used.

Corrections

Service Dog Games International is a program that encourages owners to have fun with their dogs and for the dogs to have joy in their work. SDGI also believes that to be a Service Dog, the dog must be fully trained. Training equipment and corrections show, to us, that the dog is not fully trained.

We are Service Dog trainers and have trained disabled persons from early teens to the elderly. In none of these cases has a fully trained Service Dog needed special collars or leashes or corrections while working or being in public. If we can do it, anyone can.

Corrections of any sort are not permitted in evaluations or submission videos. Throughout the evaluation and in submission videos, dog owners may praise and interact with their dogs. In a few of the games, food can be used as a decoy or distraction. But no corrections are allowed.

Disabilities – Dogs

Dogs with disabilities are not allowed in the games. Dogs must have a full vet check up within a year of submitting for titles with no indication of illness, disability or parasites. The summary of the vet check up must be included in any submission or evaluation.

Disabilities – Handlers

Evaluators may make changes to standard procedures to accommodate handlers with certain disabilities that prevent them playing a particular game. In cases where there are questions, email us at help@sdgamesintl.org.

Eliminating (Urinating/Defecating)

Any dog that eliminates during one of the games being evaluated will not pass that evaluation at that time. Service dogs should be able to eliminate on cue and not eliminate in the middle of doing their job or indoors anywhere.

Certificates

All Title Certificates come from the offices of Service Dog Games International. Evaluators are there to test the dog's readiness to submit to SDGI for a Title. Evaluators can also be the photographer for title submissions. Evaluators may charge for their services, but the fee for each title submission must be made to SDGI and the proper forms filled out.

Disclaimer

Service Dog Games International is NOT a certifying agency for any Service Dog anywhere in the world. Anyone caught using their Title Certificates as a means of proving their dog is a service dog for the purpose of public access or living accommodations, will be fined and/or taken to court. Anyone caught using their Title Certificates as a means of proving their dog is a service dog for the purpose of public access or living accommodations will be banned from further participating in the Games and all Titles revoked.

Fees

Evaluators may charge a fee for conducting an evaluation of a dog's readiness to submit for a title. Those fees are between the evaluator and the client. Fees for title submission and registration with SDGI are paid to SDGI through the proper channels. Amounts of fees are listed in the descriptions of each title at the top of this document for each title.

Food and toys

Handlers are not permitted to use food or toys as a bribe, reward or reinforcement during any evaluation or submission of videos. While we recognize that food and toys can be effectively used as a reinforcer during training, it should not be used in the evaluation or submission videos. The purpose of evaluations and submissions is to see that the dog can do what is needed as a service dog and have public access manners without the need for reinforcement in the form of food or toys.

Retesting

Evaluators may choose to allow dogs who have only missed one game in the evaluation be evaluated for that particular game again. This may be at the end of the day's evaluations, or if there is time, before the next dog is evaluated.

Dogs that are not service dogs and other species.

All dogs, no matter whether they are pets or have a different job than service, are welcome to earn titles in Service Dog Games International provided they follow the rules. We also accept cats, parrots, miniature horses and pigs. If you as an evaluator feel you do not have the skills to evaluate species other than dogs, please contact SDGI at help@sdgamesintl.org.

Evaluator Actions

Qualifications of Evaluators

We welcome any trainer of service dogs whether you work independently or with a program. Client letters required.

You will otherwise qualify for our program if you:

- are at least 18 years or age
- have no felony convictions on record
- submit the application to become a Games Evaluator along with the \$100.00 non-refundable processing fee; this is renewable every 2 years.
- meet at least ONE of the following criteria:
 - Have been a AKC Canine Good Citizen (CGC) Evaluator for at least one year and have actually done evaluations; or
 - Are a graduate of a professional Canine Obedience Instructor Training School (proof of graduation required) that teaches with positive reinforcement force free based methods ONLY; or
 - Are a graduate of the Service Dog Games International Training Program; or
 - Have at least 2 years of documented experience working for a Service Dog Training Program (letter from program required).
- You must have a working service dog, or access to one that you trained, and can demonstrate that this dog can pass at least the intermediate title.
- You must have some training experience with at least two written references from two different clients

Conflict of Interest

SKGI Approved Evaluators should avoid any situations that appear to be a conflict of interest such as using the Games as a certification for their students. Evaluators may not test dogs they own (or that live in their households). Evaluators may not test dogs that have lived in their homes for more than two months in a board and train situation.

Paperwork Requirements

Each evaluation done by an evaluator must have the proper paperwork filled out and sent to Service Dog Games International. When the client submits the form for a title, the Evaluator's ID # should be entered on the submission form so that the evaluator is acknowledged for their efforts and receive points toward becoming a Service Dog Games International instructor.

Paperwork can be done online or printed out, filled in and mailed to SDGI at evaluator@sdgamesintl.org.

Test Formats

Evaluators and clients can work together to select the games that will be tested from the lists of games for the level being tested for. The order of the games once chosen can be done in any order.

Witness Signature

The evaluation form has a place for a witness signature. Witnesses may be other evaluators, instructors, helpers, or spectators. The witness is attesting to the fact that the dog and owner were present, the evaluator administered all items of the test, and there were no incidents of aggression (toward people or other dogs).

Legal Stuff

Affirmations

By reading this booklet and practicing the games and exercises herein you are affirming that:

- I am aware that there are inherent risks and hazards involved in activities with and around dogs, and I am voluntarily participating in these activities with knowledge of potential dangers. I am aware that any dog, regardless of training, handling, or environmental circumstance, is capable of biting and I expressly acknowledge the risks therein.
- In order to participate in dog training classes or other activities, I, being fully informed of such risks and hazards, agree to assume all risks of such occurrences.
- I hereby waive any and all claims or actions that I or my guardians or representatives may have, from any and all personal injury to myself, my dog, children in my charge, or harm to property or person caused directly or indirectly, through action or inaction of self or others, by acts that might occur in dog training classes, any other format of training activities or secondary training without trainer present or engaged.
- I agree to indemnify Brains, Bones and Behavior and its employees and affiliates from any and all claims by myself, member of family, or any agent while within training facilities, within my home property, as a result of attempting to follow verbal or written instructions or in the general public as a result of any action or inaction, of either my dog or any another. This includes Paws In Service, Service Dog Games International and Dogs Above and Beyond.
- I also agree to assume sole responsibility for injury or damage caused by myself, children in my charge, or by the dog I own or handle and further agree to indemnify, defend and hold the instructors, trainers, assistants and property harmless from any damage, loss, liability or expense, including legal cost and attorney's fees, which result from damage caused by myself, children in my charge, or by the dog I own or handle.
- I expressly understand this to mean that I am relinquishing and releasing my right to sue others in either negligence or for strict liability based on either another person's act or the actions of their animal.
- I recognize that the role I play in my dog's learning process is integral to achieving desired results. I acknowledge and agree that there is no guarantee that my dog will achieve the desired level of training, despite the best efforts of the instructor or instructions. I understand that there are no refunds after payment has been made.
- I hereby declare that I am of legal age and competent to sign this agreement and that if not, that my parent or legal guardian is in complete understanding and concurrence with this agreement.
- I understand this agreement. I agree to be bound by it.

Informed consent

1. We love animals with all our hearts and are committed to training force-free maximizing fun and playful techniques. We emphasize fun and joy in our training and work to minimize stress as much as possible.
2. We base our training methods on scientifically proven methods that are animal friendly. If there should be a conflict between what is animal-friendly and what the animal's parent desires, we will side with what is animal-friendly.
3. We work to get animals out of crates so that they may move freely and safely coexist with humans.
4. There is overwhelming scientific evidence that positive reinforcement is the best way to train animals. We are committed to using at most a mild aversive only as a last resort. Shock collars, prong collars or choke chains are never used. We do not advocate physical corrections, throwing things at or near the animal or spraying liquid in an animal's face.
5. We foster our continuing education, and all consistently work to continue our education. All staff are certified and where they are not, they work under the supervision of a certified trainer while they are pursuing certification.
6. We educate humans to employ patience and to seek to understand animal's needs and wants.

7. We coach people to communicate consistently and clearly with their animals.
8. We work within our level of competence. Less experienced trainers are supervised by more experienced ones. We do not give advice on anything that is outside of our area of expertise. We refer clients to competent professionals for issues that are outside of our area of expertise.
9. We keep client information confidential sharing client info ONLY with staff and those in a position of supervision, with the exception of neglect or abuse of an animal or if the animal is dangerous.
10. Clients should know they are empowered to decline any recommendations that we make for them or their dogs. We encourage clients to ask questions.
11. The success of training strongly depends on three factors: an owner's willingness to heed the advice of the trainer (the professional), proper reinforcement at home and maintaining an open line of communication with the trainer. Cooperation from all parties is key to the learning process and to rehabilitation. This includes not mixing methods during your time of training with Brains, Bones and Behavior. We are positive reinforcement-based trainers and any deviation from that will ruin the gains made here. Not doing your homework at least 5 minutes a day will prevent your dog from learning also. An hour-long session once a week cannot teach a dog what it needs to know. YOU MUST be involved on a daily basis.
12. Photos and videos will be taken during training classes and private lessons. These photos are the property of Brains, Bones and Behavior but shall be available upon request to clients. These photos and videos will only be used for promotional purposes.

Our Guarantee

We believe it is unethical to make guarantees about behavior results. In fact, as members of the Association of Pet Dog Trainers (APDT), we pledge to refrain from giving guarantees regarding the outcome of training. Instead of guaranteeing specific behavior results, we promise to work with you and your dog to achieve a better relationship.

Brains, Bones and Behavior DOES guarantee you will receive:

- Stellar customer service
- Trained, expert staff who is committed to ongoing continuing education
- Commitment to positive reinforcement training methods
- Small group class sizes
- Customized approach to your training goals for private lessons and board and train
- A commitment to help clients seek relief, change, and improvement

We are committed to excellence, and that you can count on.

It is unethical for trainers to guarantee changed behavior results. This is due to the variables in dog breeding and temperament, owner commitment and experience, the dog's future life experiences, etc. You know this to be true when you consider that human behavior cannot be guaranteed, let alone a dog's behavior. Dogs are independent beings that we cannot sit down with and verbally convince them to comply with our instructions. It doesn't matter if that session is one hour or 10 hours long. One session is not going to change behavior patterns in either the dog or you. You must understand that when it concerns behavior, it's up to you to change and learn so that your dog can change and learn. No trainer anywhere can guarantee you and the dog.

Your dog's success is dependent on YOU doing your homework if you are getting private lessons or coming to group class. If at the end of each week the dog is not showing that he can do that week's homework, you will repeat that week. The dog cannot progress to the next set of exercises without some proficiency in the ones you were supposed to be teaching him.

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