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# INTERMEDIATE SKILLS FOR SERVICE DOG GAMES INTERNATIONAL

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## Intermediate Level Games

### Public Access Skills

- Tuck  
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.
- What's Under My Feet  
Dog must walk over 5 different surfaces without stress, wanting to get off, sniffing or dancing around
- Get Dressed  
Dog must accept without stress or fidgeting all gear put on the dog. Collar, harness, leash.
- Dog Taken By Another Person  
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.
- Do You Really Know Sit?  
Your dog must sit in 5 different situations: you lying down, you sitting in a chair, in a large box, on a platform, your choice.
- Do Nothing  
The dog must lie down and stay in that position in that place for 5 minutes.

### Alerting Tasks

- 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.
- Mouth lick alert: Licking the handler's mouth on cue
- Wake Human Alert: Jumping on the human in bed to wake them on cue
- Foot tap alert: Taping the human's foot on cue
- Brinsel Alert: Grabbing a short tassel that is attached to the collar (called a bringsel) and coming to the human holding the bringsel. on cue
- Bark alert: Barking (not recommended for public access) on cue

### Assistance Tasks

- 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.
- Lay on handler's lap on a couch for 2 minutes on cue  
At least 25% of the dog's body should be on the handler's lap, preferably head, chest and front legs of the dog. The dog must remain on the handler's lap for at least 2 minutes without any restraint but can be cued once.
- Put head or body under handler's head on the floor on cue: Handler fakes falling to the ground and then cues the dog for "head help". Dog nudges the handler's head up and puts his head or body under the handler's head.
- Bark for help on cue: This should only be done in the home. Handler cues the dog to bark to alert a housemate or caregiver that help is needed. Barking should last 5 seconds.
- Operate push button device to call 911 on cue: Handler should cue the dog to retrieve the push button device and call 911.
- Open a door: Open any type of door with a strap or suction cup device on cue

## Moving Through the Environment

1. Seek & find teamwork: handler to direct the dog with hand signals, vocal cues to: retrieve an unfamiliar object out of partner's reach
2. Leash guiding around obstacles indoors or outdoors for a short distance: Dog should be on a leash or a harness with a handle. Dog should lead the handler around 5 obstacles. Directional cues from the handler as necessary.
3. Lead the handler in a 90 degree turn to the right and picking up the new travel line on the cue "right" • Lead the handler in a 90 degree turn to the left and picking up the new travel line on the cue "left"
4. 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 or correction.
5. Halt: Stopping and standing calmly after the verbal cue "halt"
6. Back up: Back up 5 feet on cue making sure to stay even with the handler.
7. Navigate a maze of furniture: Dog alone to navigate a maze of furniture to get to the handler. Only cue should be "come".
8. Navigate a maze of toys: Dog alone to navigate a maze of toys to get to the handler. Only cue should be "come". Dog should not investigate any of the toys.
9. Halt and stand and walk around: This means the handler stops the dog in a stand WITHOUT stopping, cuing the dog to stay, while handler KEEPS WALKING all the way around the dog counterclockwise and back into Heel Position.
10. 8 post Serpentine: Handler and dog move in a weaving motion around 8 posts. Directional cues allowed.
11. Changes of pace: normal, fast, slow: Handler and dog walk together, changing the speed of the walk every 10 steps. Cues are allowed.

## Obstacle Avoidance

- Halt Abruptly: Handler and dog on a walk. Dog sees an obstacle and halts abruptly.
- Navigate around low hanging obstacles like awnings or tree branches: Handler and dog on a walk. Dog to lead handler around obstacles that are head height to the dog. At least 3 obstacles.
- Guiding around obstacles indoors or outdoors: Dog should be on a leash or harness with a handler. Handler should guide the dog around 3 obstacles with directional cues.
- Lead the handler around a box on cue
- Avoid people in a store: handler and dog walking through a store. Dog should lead the handler around other people.
- Halt when confronted by a barrier: Handler and dog on a walk. Dog should stop when it sees a barrier in the path and wait for instructions.

## Retrieve Based Tasks

1. Retrieve Tissue: Handler should be crying, sneezing, or coughing. Dog should then bring a tissue to the handler.
2. Retrieve Vest/Harness/Leash/Gear: On cue the dog should retrieve his gear and bring it to the handler who then puts it all on the dog.
3. Retrieve Towel: Handler should be coming out of the shower or bathtub. Dog brings the handler a towel. The handler doesn't actually have to be taking a shower or bath.
4. Retrieve Emergency Medication: On cue the dog should find the emergency med bag and bring it to the handler.

5. Retrieve Mobility Aid: On cue, the dog should find the crutches, walker, or cane and bring it to the handler. Handler should name the item to be fetched.
6. Retrieve Dog Bowls: On cue, the dog should retrieve his own food and water bowls (unless full) to the handler. Handler should give a separate cue for each. Make sure bowls are plastic or metal, nothing that will break if dropped. Bowls should be sized appropriately for the size of the dog.

### Locate Objects On Command

- Find the Car on a named cue
- Find a Bathroom on a named cue
- Find a Specific Person by name.
- Find empty seat in a group of seats, all but one with other people sitting in them.
- Find Handler when asked by a helper to find "handler's name"
- Find an item in the store by name
- Finding Elevator/Stairs/Escalator by name.

### Bracing Based Tasks (With and Without Harness)

1. Steady partner getting in or out of the bathtub
2. 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.
3. 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
4. Tow ambulatory partner up inclines [harness with rigid handle or pull strap may be used]
5. Brace on cue to prevent ambulatory partner from stumbling [rigid handle]
6. Help ambulatory partner to climb stairs, pulling then bracing on each step [rigid handle or harness with pull strap may be used to assist partner to mount a step or catch balance]
7. Help ambulatory partner to walk short distance, brace between each step [rigid handle]

### Protection Based Tasks

1. Find item in a room: Dog retrieves a toy from a room without handler following. The only cue is the one to check the room.
2. Turn on a light: During a room check (cued) the dog should automatically turn on a light.
3. 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. Not cued.
4. Orbit around the handler: The cue is one or more people getting too close to the handler. 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.
5. Block from Moving Towards Danger (busy road, away from home, etc).
6. Watch My Back: Handler to cue the dog "six" so that the dog goes between the handlers legs facing to the rear.
7. Interrupt Crying, Dissociating, and Freezing Behaviors: Handler pretends to cry, disassociate, or freezes in place and dog must paw at the handler or lick the handler's face to stop the behavior.
8. Disrupt Harmful Behavior (skin picking, scratching, pulling hair, etc..) : Handler pretends to scratch hard or pull hair and dog must paw at the handler's hands to stop the behavior.
9. Dance to provide an excuse to leave an uncomfortable situation: This is a cued behavior.

### Scent Based Tasks

Scent based tasks are not necessarily to be done on cue. They are initially taught with cues, but eventually the dog should know what to do when it smells "that" smell.

1. Lean on handler to prevent a fall on cue or when sensing a medical event
2. Assist Handler to the ground during a faint or low blood pressure incident and do DPT on cue or when sensing a medical event
3. Put head or body under handler's head when handler is lying down on cue when sensing a medical event
4. Operate push button device to call 911, an ambulance service or another person to help in a crisis
5. Let emergency personnel into home and lead to partner's location
6. Find the caregiver on cue, lead back to location of disabled partner

### Sound Based Tasks

Like Scent based tasks, sound based tasks are initially taught with cues, however, eventually the dog learns what to do when it hears a sound, especially a trained sound. 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

- Alert to the Siren of police car, fire truck or ambulance and indicate direction
- Alert to a Smoke alarm in the home
- Alert to someone else's phone ringing
- Alert to handler's cell phone or beeper
- Alert to a Smoke alarm not in the home
- Fire drill at school or work: you can usually find out from a local school when they are planning a fire drill. Go to a place where the students will not be during the drill and have your dog alert you to a fire alarm.
- Alert to a close vehicle honking

### Nose and Paw Tasks

1. Dryer door - hard nudge
2. Stove drawer - push it shut
3. Dishwasher door - put muzzle under open door, flip to shut
4. Refrigerator & freezer door - close with nudge
5. Open sliding door – with nudge
6. Interrupt Scratching/Skin Picking – with paw taps
7. Paws Up to Help With Putting on Dog Gear: dog to put paws on handler's lap or chair to make it easier for handler to put the gear on the dog.
8. Flush the toilet: Use paw to push the toilet lever down.
9. Put the toilet seat down: Use paw or nose to push the toilet seat down.