

ACT Assistance Animal Public Access Test

For the testing and accreditation of assistance animals in the ACT



A registered assistance animal trainer or assessor must complete this form **after** a veterinarian has completed the Veterinarian Declaration at Appendix 1.

This form is intended for assistance animal accreditation. The Public Access Test must be conducted by a registered trainer or assessor under the *Domestic Animals Act 2000*.

How to complete the form

1. A registered veterinarian is to complete the Veterinarian Declaration at Appendix 1
2. The applicant or applicant's guardian is to complete Part A
3. A registered assistance animal trainer or assessor is to complete Part B

Before conducting the Public Access Test, registered trainers and assessors should confirm the following:

- Evidence of disability from a medical practitioner
- Evidence of completed Veterinarian Declaration within 6 months prior to the Public Access Test taking place (Appendix 1)
- At least 4 weeks has passed since any previous Public Access Test attempts

NOTE: An assessor or trainer may refuse to conduct a Public Access Test if they believe accrediting the animal may bring reputational damage or if they are uncomfortable working with the handler.

Grounds for automatic failure

An assistance animal cannot be accredited or retake another Public Access Test for 4 weeks if any of the following conditions apply immediately prior to or during testing.

General

- animal displays behaviour that suggests increased risk to public safety, public health or to the welfare of the animal or to other animals.
- Handler has contravened a relevant law under the *Domestic Animals Act 2000* or *Animal Welfare Act 1992*.
- Handler behaves in a way that may bring the business or organisation into disrepute.

Public health and safety

- Animal has been declared dangerous in the ACT or equivalent in another jurisdiction.
 - If a animal's history is not disclosed to the assessor or trainer conducting the Public Access Test and the animal is subsequently accredited, the Registrar may refuse registration if the animal is found to have been declared dangerous. Registration may be revoked if a registered assistance animal has been declared dangerous.
 - Registrar may refuse to register an accredited assistance animal if it has been associated with a control order. It is at a Registrar's discretion if a animal associated with a control order is suitable to be registered as an accredited assistance animal.
- Animal shows clear signs of aggression, such as growling, snapping or aggressive guarding tendencies e.g. visibly guarding the handler or its territory.
- Animal is unclean and poorly groomed to the extent it presents a health risk in public places.
- Veterinarian Declaration indicates the Animal is at increased risk of aggression due to a health condition e.g. advanced periodontal disease can cause pain leading to the animal snapping at people or other animals.
- Trainer or assessor conducting the Public Access Test has reason to believe there is an unacceptable safety risk associated with the animal accessing public places.

Animal welfare

- Animal displays stress, anxiety or fear and the handler does not demonstrate a working knowledge of the animal's stress signals.
- Veterinarian Declaration indicates the animal is not up to date on vaccinations.
- Veterinarian Declaration indicates the animal has an infectious disease.
- Handler demonstrates harsh or aggressive behaviour towards the animal.

Part A - Applicant details

Primary handler

Given name

Residential address

Surname

Email address

Date of birth

Mobile

Home phone number

Work phone number

Secondary handler

Given name

Email address

Surname

Mobile

Date of birth

Assistance animal

Name

Breed

Microchip No.

Date of birth or age

Registration No.

Has the animal been
declared dangerous?

Has the animal been subject
to a control order?

Part B - Public Access Test

Date

Section 1 - General

1.1 Ability to assist	Pass	Fail
1.1.1 Assessor/trainer is satisfied the animal helps alleviate the effects of the handler's disability. If the assistance provided cannot be demonstrated to the assessor/trainer, the handler must be able to explain the assistance provided and, if self-trained, how the animal was trained to provide the assistance.		

Notes

1.2 Animal welfare	Pass	Fail
1.2.1 Veterinary Declaration (Appendix 1) provided indicates the animal: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • appears clean • shows no signs of pain • shows no signs of contagious disease • shows no signs of parasites 		
1.2.2 Animal does not display fear, anxiety or stress.		
1.2.3 Handler demonstrates a sustainable team relationship with the animal, manages the animal appropriately and demonstrates positive encouragement to the animal.		
1.2.4 Handler gives consideration to the animal's need for rest and downtime.		

Notes

For the following section (1.3), choose at least 3 of the following locations for the team to demonstrate animal obedience (please mark chosen locations):

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bus, light rail or other public transport option | <input type="checkbox"/> Supermarket or grocery store |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Café, pub, restaurant, food court or other public eating area | <input type="checkbox"/> Markets |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Town centre or city centre | <input type="checkbox"/> School grounds (if the assistance animal will be working on school grounds and if permission from the principal is granted prior to testing). |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Shopping centre | |

1.3 Animal obedience and behaviour	Pass	Fail
1.3.1 Animal is composed, calm and stays by the handler as necessary according to the type of assistance provided.		
1.3.2 Animal recovers (refocuses attention back to handler) within 3 seconds if startled and does not respond aggressively (e.g. lifted lip, snarling, growling). Handler may use positive encouragement to refocus the animal within the 3 seconds.		

1.3 Animal obedience and behaviour	Pass	Fail
1.3.3 Handler has effective control at all times e.g. animal is on a lead or harness device or in its carrier, stays by the handler as necessary according to the type of assistance provided and responds to the handler's commands.		
1.3.4 Animal responds appropriately to basic commands e.g. sit, stay, lay down.		
1.3.5 Animal sits or stands still and stays in position up to 6 metres away from handler for 90 seconds (the time and distance may be adjusted depending on the nature of assistance the animal provides).		
1.3.6 Animal returns directly to the handler at 6 metres on command (this distance may be adjusted depending on the nature of assistance the animal provides).		
1.3.7 Animal is able to walk on a lead or harness device without pulling, obstructing the handler, other people or other animals or changing sides unnecessarily (noting some assistance animals may need to change sides to provide personal space buffering).		
1.3.8 Animal is not disruptive and does not create safety hazards.		
1.3.9 If the animal is trained to bark, it must cease barking on command.		

Notes

Section 1 outcomes	Pass	Fail

Section 2 - Hygiene

2.1 Hygiene	Pass	Fail
2.1.1 Throughout testing, the animal does not attempt to mark over the top of other scents		
2.1.2 Animal has acceptable toileting routine throughout testing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Handler demonstrates knowledge of and makes an effort to accommodate the animal's toileting routine; and/or · Animal can 'toilet on command' when taken to a discrete location for toileting purposes. 		

Notes

Section 2 outcomes	Pass	Fail

Section 3 - Distractions

For the following section (3.1), choose at least 3 of the following locations for the team to demonstrate the animal's focus (please mark chosen locations):

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bus, light rail or other public transport option | <input type="checkbox"/> Supermarket or grocery store |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Café, pub, restaurant, food court or other public eating area | <input type="checkbox"/> Markets |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Town centre or city centre | <input type="checkbox"/> School grounds (if the assistance animal will be working on school grounds and if permission from the principal is granted prior to testing). |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Shopping centre | |

3.1 People and places	Pass	Fail
3.1.1 Animal is passed from front and rear and does not shy away, show aggression or attempt to solicit attention from people in response to any of the following (note: handler may use positive encouragement such as a voice cue or signals to maintain or re-establish the animal's focus): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High pedestrian traffic • Member of the public • Approached by an adult and child. 		
3.1.2 Animal remains under control and responsive to commands when another animal is nearby or passing.		
3.1.3 At a public place with seating (e.g. shopping centre, café or public transport station) the animal remains in an unobtrusive position (seated or laying down under the handler's chair/table or in its carrier) for 5 minutes without moving around or obstructing other people or animals.		
3.1.4 Animal is responsive to commands and remains calm and under effective control during and following a distraction event in a public place (e.g. in a bustling crowd or passed by multiple cyclists on a path). Some response to being startled is acceptable if this is corrected within 3 seconds after the event and does not impact other people or animals.		

Notes

For the following section (3.2) choose at least 3 of the following locations for the team to demonstrate the animal's focus (please mark chosen locations):

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bus, light rail or other public transport option | <input type="checkbox"/> Shopping centre |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Café, pub, restaurant, food court or other public eating area | <input type="checkbox"/> Supermarket or grocery store |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Town centre or city centre | <input type="checkbox"/> Markets |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Near construction or industrial site |

3.2 Noise	Pass	Fail
3.2.1 Animal is responsive to commands and remains calm and under effective control during and following a loud noise distraction e.g. a clapping or loud voice. Some anxiety is acceptable if this is corrected shortly after the event and does not impact other people or animals or its ability to assist the handler.		

Notes

For the following section (3.3) choose at least 3 of the following locations for the team to demonstrate the animal's focus (please mark chosen locations):

- Cafe Restaurant Other public eating area
 Pub Food court

3.3 Food	Pass	Fail
3.3.1 Animal is responsive to commands and remains calm and under effective control when food is present e.g. at a café or when people are eating nearby in a public eating area.		
3.3.2 Animal does not beg, whine, bark, drool or sniff excessively, lick the floor, chair or tables, become overly excited or attempt to reach food when food is present.		

Notes

Section 3 outcomes	Pass	Fail

Section 4 - Public places and transport

For the following section (4.1), choose at least 3 of the following situations for the team to enter into (please mark chosen situations)

- Bus or light rail Elevator Taxi or car
 Escalator or travelator Cafe or shopping centre

In each of the 3 chosen situations from the above list, the animal must meet the below criteria where applicable.

4.1 Public places and transport	Pass	Fail
4.1.1 Animal remains calm and under effective control at all times.		
4.1.2 Animal does not move from its designated position.		
4.1.3 Animal does not sit on a bus or light rail seat.		
4.1.4 Animal only enters/exits when required by the handler.		
4.1.5 Animal does not obstruct services or other people.		
4.1.6 When the handler is not walking, the animal remains in its designated position (either seated or laying down under a chair/table or by the handler's side or remaining in its carrier).		
4.1.7 When travelling in vehicles the animal remains in a safe position in agreement with the driver either by the handler's legs in the footwell or appropriately restrained in the back seat.		
4.1.8 Animal does not sniff, solicit attention from or impact other people or animals.		

Notes

Section 4 outcomes	Pass	Fail

Overall assessment

Pass	Fail
<p data-bbox="103 627 618 663">Trainer/assessor to sign here if passed.</p> <p data-bbox="103 787 688 823">This means the team is accredited for 2 years.</p>	<p data-bbox="818 627 1317 663">Trainer/assessor to sign here if failed.</p> <p data-bbox="818 768 1438 835">This means the team must wait at least 4 weeks before reattempting the Public Access Test.</p>

Notes

Authorised registered trainer/assessor details

Name

Signature

Date