



Introduction to Service Dog Commands

4 Paws for Ability service dogs are trained in both foundational commands and contracted tasks. We provide case specific training depending on the partner's disabilities as determined in the application process. After all application components have been received and a phone interview completed, you will receive a contract with the tasks your service dog will be trained to provide. Please review the following information to gain an understanding of the possible tasks the 4 Paws provides to and consider what may benefit the partner.

Foundation Tasks

All 4 Paws service dogs are trained to perform the following commands in home and in public places.

- Loose leash walking by your left side
- To lay down for an extended period of time
- To go into a sit and maintain for a period of time
- To come when called
- To go to a place/dog bed and lay there
- To jump into a vehicle or on other indicated area as appropriate
- To get off an item/area when indicated
- To perform a stand for a period of time
- To go under a table in a restaurant when indicated
- To navigate a tight surrounding by walking backward a short distance
- Tricks such as shake, rollover, etc

Contracted Tasks

4 Paws trains service dogs case specifically, so the important aspect when considering tasks is less a consideration of type of service, but more an evaluation of what tasks would be helpful to the partner. As such the tasks are not grouped together under a heading of type of dog. Service dog tasks are not tricks, and must relate to the disability and used on a regular basis for the task to be maintained.

4 Paws has two different types of certification that indicate how the service dog will be utilized.

- Three unit team certification means that a parent or other trained adult is the handler of the service dog and utilizes the service dog to benefit the partner. This means that a parent or trained adult must be accompanying the partner any time they are in public. Note: This is the majority of 4 Paws placements and the case for children or teens who would not be able to make 100% correct choices for the team

- Two unit team certification means that the partner is also the handler and does not need any help to be able to independently work with the service dog in public. They can give commands, reinforce commands, interact with the public and advocate for the service dog, interpret public situations, care for the service dog, physically manage a large breed dog, etc.

Some of the following tasks are only trained as part of a two unit or a three unit team, this will be noted by the following icons:



Three Unit Team



Two Unit Team

If there is not an icon next to the task, then it can be used for either type of certification. When considering which tasks may benefit the partner, be sure to note which tasks are relevant to which types of certification.



Tracking - for the handler to use search and rescue training if the partner has eloped



Tethering/2nd Leash - for the handler to hold on to the primary leash and for the partner use a second leash/tether used primarily to prevent elopement



OR



Behavior Disruption - Calming, comforting and redirecting commands given by the partner or handler (Note: The 4 Paws dogs are able to follow commands given by the handler and provide deep pressure through laying over a lap, comfort during a meltdown by giving kisses or snuggling, etc. They will not be able to interpret a situation as dangerous or wrong. Behavior disruption is not used to prevent situations such as touching a hot stove, jumping off furniture, leaving the house, getting out of bed at night, jumping into water, crossing a street, etc



OR



Bark Alert - The handler or partner can give the command for the service dog to bark to draw the attention and assistance of those around. At times, if a situation is audibly and/or physically unique and it is replicable in training, this can be used to have the dog recognize and alert (ie medical alarm beeping)



Mobility Tasks on Parent Command - On the command of the handler, the service dog can 1. pick up dropped items to give to the partner, 2. press a door button in public, 3. provide on leash balance/stability support, and 4. carry light items in their vest.



Mobility Tasks on Partner Command - On the command of the partner, the service dog can 1. pick up dropped items to give to the partner, 2. press a door button in public and/or elevator buttons, 3. provide on leash balance/stability support, 4. carry light items in their vest, 5. Turn lights on/off, 6. Open/close doors/drawers, 7. Pull wheelchair, 8. Help with clothes



Hearing Ear Tasks - In response to the sound of the fire alarm, door knock/bell, timer, alarm, or name call, etc the service dog alerts the handler to the sound and they respond to the sound appropriately.

Contracted Tasks - Not Guaranteed

4 Paws has a high success rate with a service dog providing a trained alert to a scent event that occurs regularly, due to variables related to scent work outside of our control this is a task that cannot be guaranteed.

Alerting to a scent means that the service dog must be trained in the task through the provision of scent articles and the ongoing nature of the medical event would mean that the task would be maintained. Scent events must occur on an average of weekly but can be as often as daily. Events that occur less than once a month or more than a couple times a day, are less likely for a dog to either maintain the skill due to the lack of scent or provide an effective alert due to the saturation of scent in the environment.



OR



Scent Alerts that 4 Paws trains:
1. Seizure Alert

2. High and Low Blood Sugar Alert

Note: It is likely that many other medical events also produce a scent (migraines, heart attack, shunt malfunction, etc), often these events may not occur on a regular basis for which the service dog could be trained. For medical events that are not listed above that do occur regularly (multiple times a month), you are welcome to reach out to 4 Paws to discuss the possibility of the scent training, but it isn't our area of expertise.

Summary

4 Paws service dogs are trained to perform tasks related to the needs of the individual with a disability. These tasks are case specific and will be determined during the phone interview and included in your contract for your review. 4 Paws sees a contract as a working document with the purpose to accurately reflect the needs of the partner. At times the needs may change during this process before placement, and we are happy to update the tasks whether it means that some tasks are no longer needed or whether additional tasks that 4 Paws trains should be added.

Service Dogs are bred, raised and trained first based on the tasks that they are contracted to provide, but also important aspects related to personality and behavior are taken into account. Through this journey to receive a service dog, we make it a priority to understand the placement and do our best to place service dogs that are a great fit for their partner. Each dog has their own personality and certain tasks lend themselves to certain types of personality and behavior in the service dog. For example, a dog trained to find someone who is lost is energetic and playful and will need lots of opportunities for exercise. If the child would do best with a dog that has a calmer personality, 4 Paws will work with the family to determine the pros and cons of tasks related to personality in the final determination of what the primary needs are.

We hope this information has been helpful in your understanding of what tasks 4 Paws trains as well as what may benefit the partner. We look forward to receiving your application and working with you on this journey to receive a life changing service dog!