



Public Overview

Purpose

The O.D.O.R. Service Dogs Inc. Medical Alert Detection Title (OMAD) is designed to evaluate teams where the dog is trained to alert to and/or perform a task to mitigate a medical disability by recognizing the scent.

Some examples of medical conditions include:

- Blood Sugar High
- Blood Sugar Low
- Migraine
- Seizure
- Stress Event
- Asthma
- Other (scent based medical issue)

The dog must be able to demonstrate the ability to recognize the target odor in a variety of scenarios that mimic real life situations. Four (4) scent samples will be used for the evaluation, and each will be placed in a separate plastic tube with a lid. Evaluations will be performed over several days and in a variety of locations. Each day the person will place one (1) of the scent samples on their person, under clothing or in a pocket, the scent tube must be invisible to the dog.

During parts of the evaluation performed at the handler's home, the dog may be loose and perform normal behaviors during the testing period. When evaluating in a public area, the dog should remain on-leash, per local leash laws, unless actively performing a task. The evaluation will begin when the dog is not focused on the handler. The handler will discreetly open the scent tube and timing will begin. For each exercise scenario, the dog has a specified amount of time in which to alert to the odor and perform any subsequent trained tasks.

Dogs passing the OMAD will be able to perform a trained indication behavior to the odor, and perform any subsequent trained tasks, in the specified time period per scenario. The evaluation will occur in each of the following settings:

- A common area of the home
- A resting place such as a bedroom
- A bathroom
- Outside the home
- In a public setting

Evaluations will include the following, in addition to the target odor:

- A blank gauze or non-sterile dental cotton without added scent in the scent tube to ensure that the dog is responding to the trained scent and is not simply responding to a training aid. During this part of the evaluation, the dog must not perform their described alert behavior and trained tasks, unless evidence suggests that the handler has experienced a medical event during this evaluation. In that event, the evaluation will be repeated on a different day.
- A non-event scent sample odor from a healthy individual (not the handler) in the scent tube. For the dog to pass this evaluation, it must not perform their described alert behavior and trained tasks, unless evidence suggests that the handler has experienced a medical event during this evaluation. In that event, the evaluation will be repeated on a different day.
- To ensure the dog is responding only to an abnormal reading or medical event, and not to the handler's healthy scent, the handler will place a normal reading/non-event scent sample from the handler in the scent tube. During this part of the evaluation the dog must not perform their described alert behavior and trained tasks, unless evidence suggests that the handler has experienced a medical event during this evaluation. In that event, the evaluation will be repeated on a different day.

Prerequisites

When performing the Gluten/Allergen evaluation exercises in public areas where only service dogs are allowed, the team will need to submit the following prior to being eligible for evaluation:

- An O.D.O.R. Service Dogs Inc. Veterinary Clearance Form filled out by a veterinarian, including proof of vaccination or titers required in the handler's local area.
- Proof of training that the dog is suitable to work in areas where only service dogs are allowed. Any of the following will be accepted:
 - OPPT (O.D.O.R Service Dogs Inc. Pre Public Access Title)
 - UKC Socialized Pet Obedience Test (SPOT)
 - PDA Level 2 (Pet Dog Ambassador, available through Pet Professional Guild, must be current)
 - AKC CGC (Canine Good Citizen)
 - Advanced versions of the above listed manners or obedience titles
 - Similar manners or obedience evaluations not listed above may be accepted at the discretion of the Evaluator

Timing and Filming

All evaluations will be filmed. In the event that the Evaluator cannot be physically present, the team being evaluated may submit the filmed video of each of the exercises, with the assistance of a helper to record the OMAD and perform any exercises requiring an additional person. Both the



dog and handler must be completely visible in the frame at all times. The video should be of sufficient quality to easily see and hear all cues and interactions between the dog and handler, and there should be a minimum of three (3) seconds of video at the start and end of each exercise. As this Title requires multiple locations and can be time consuming, it is acceptable for the Evaluation to be filmed in multiple sessions over a 2 week period, if necessary.

Should any questions arise about the scoring and performance of the team, the Evaluator and O.D.O.R. Service Dogs Inc. will review the recorded searches.

An evaluation may be stopped at the discretion of the Evaluator if at any time the Evaluator deems the dog or handler to be under distress, or if the handler has a medical crisis.

Behavior and Well-Being Pass/Fail Sections

The following behaviors are assessed throughout the entire evaluation and are scored on a pass or fail basis. A failure in any of these behaviors will result in an immediate failure of the entire evaluation. If a team fails the “Inappropriate Dog Behavior” or “Inappropriate Handler Behavior” sections, the team must wait a minimum of thirty (30) days before attempting the evaluation again. If any other element/behavior is failed, the team must wait a minimum of one (1) week before attempting the evaluation again.

Dog Behavior

If the dog displays any of the following behaviors during the evaluation, the team will not earn the title:

- Aggression or growling;
- Inappropriate or excessive barking;
- Nipping or biting;
- Baring teeth;
- Lunging at other people or animals;
- Not under the handler’s control within one minute;
- Inappropriate elimination (defecation or urination); or
- Fear (startle with a quick recovery is acceptable), distress or anxiety (such as cowering, attempting to flee, hiding or trembling).

Handler Behavior

If the handler performs any of these behaviors during the evaluation, the team will not earn the title:

- Hitting, kicking, or shaking the dog;
- Physically or verbally intimidating the dog;
- Throwing something at the dog with the intent to harm or intimidate; or



- Physically manipulating the dog into a position.

Training Aids

The handler may praise the dog at any time throughout the evaluation. Treats and toys may be used to reward the dog at the completion of a task, but may not be used to lure the dog. Nothing worn by the dog should ever be used inappropriately, or for corrections.

Dogs may wear any of the following during the evaluation:

- Properly fitted flat, buckle or martingale collar;
- Non-constricting/non-corrective harness (front or rear attachment,) to include a Service Dog vest; and/or
- Head halter.

Dogs may **NOT** wear any of the following during the evaluation:

- Prong/pinch collar;
- Choke collar;
- Electric collar (such as shock, vibrating, GPS, and similar); or
- Studded or prong harness.

Protective Footwear

When performing an exercise outdoors on surfaces such as pavement, asphalt, gravel, sand, or wood, the handler should demonstrate at the start of filming each exercise that they have touched the surface with the palm of their hand for at least five (5) seconds to evaluate the temperature. If the handler is unable to hold their hand to the surface for the full five (5) seconds because the surface is too hot, the dog must wear boots or other protective gear for the exercises filmed on that surface.

Care and Well-being

The dog should be clean and well-groomed (e.g., nails, fur, etc.) and have no offensive odor. The dog should be friendly and relaxed. The handler's responses to questions about the care of the dog should indicate that the handler understands and is responsive to the dog's needs. The dog should be in good body condition.

Team Relationship

It is important for a Service 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. It should be clear to the Evaluator that the handler understands what type of praise and positive reinforcement the dog enjoys and uses those methods for encouraging their dog. Treats may only be used at the completion of an exercise as a reward, but are not to be used at any point during the Evaluation as a training aid.



Scent Based Medical Alert Evaluation Summary

- The evaluation has five (5) required scenarios, and eight (8) required evaluations.
- Timing begins one (1) minute after the dog settles/falls asleep in the evaluation scenario.
- The dog must perform their trained indication behavior in the presence of the target odor.
- The dog must not perform their trained indication behavior without the presence of the target odor.