



Public Overview

Purpose

The purpose of this Home Obedience and Manners Evaluation (OHOM) is to demonstrate that the dog and Handler are learning all the basic obedience skills needed for service dog work and should be viewed as an initial assessment for those looking to take the O.D.O.R. Service Dogs Inc. Pre-Public Access Test (OPPT) and Public Access Test (OPAT) in the future. This is also a good assessment tool for those looking at training an “at-home” service dog. It will assess the dog’s temperament and trainability to determine if the dog and handler team have a good working relationship and are ready to start training outside the home in pet friendly areas. The skills demonstrated in this evaluation will prepare the team for the O.D.O.R. Service Dogs Inc. OPPT and OPAT titles. All evaluation and exercise instructions should be adhered to as closely as possible, given the constraints of the geographic location, the dog’s abilities (small vs large breeds) and the handler’s abilities. Minor adjustments may be made at the discretion of the Evaluator but the spirit of the exercise should always be met, any modifications or adjustments should be noted on the score sheet in the comments. O.D.O.R Service Dogs Inc. is not liable for any risks or consequences of performing this evaluation. All dogs performing this evaluation must be current on all legally required vaccinations in the team’s area.

The OHOM Evaluation will assess whether the handler appears to be in control of the dog in training situations, the dog appears to be safe and responsive to the handler, and the dog demonstrates the basic standard of training expected of a service dog prospect or an at home service dog.

Prior to starting the evaluation, the Evaluator will explain the OHOM evaluation thoroughly to the handler. If the evaluation is being done in person, the Evaluator will follow the team in a discreet manner, except when required to interact with the team for an assisted exercise. The OHOM evaluation will be performed off-leash for any exercise performed inside the home and on a lead for any exercise performed outside. The handler may choose not to use a leash for exercises performed outside when they are in a secured, fenced area and in compliance with local laws and guidelines.

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

Timing and Filming

All the evaluations will be filmed. The video should be of sufficient quality to easily see and hear all cues and interactions between the dog and handler. Each video should also have a minimum of three (3) seconds of video at the start and end of each exercise. Both the dog and handler must be completely visible in the frame at all times. In the event that the Evaluator cannot be physically present, the team being evaluated may submit a video of each exercise. The handler may receive assistance from another person to record the exercises and assist with exercises requiring an additional person.

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.

Evaluation Specifications

In order to earn the OHOM Title, the team must satisfactorily demonstrate that:

- The dog can remain calm or regain focus on the handler with distractions;
- The team demonstrates the dog is able to perform basic obedience such as sit, stay, down, loose leash walking;
- The dog is appropriately focused on the handler and responds to cues without showing signs of stress; and
- The handler is able to control the dog while maintaining a positive team relationship.

Defined Terms

- **Working Position** for the purposes of this test is defined as the dog remaining in a relative heel position (within an arm's length, or two (2) feet, or half (1/2) a meter, while remaining relaxed, comfortable, and confident). Each team's working position may be different to meet the handler's individual needs or requirements. The Evaluator should be informed of any exceptions to the typical heel position expected based on the handler's needs. All dogs, regardless of size, must remain under control at all times, with four feet on the floor, unless required otherwise while actively performing a task.
- **Leash Tension:** For the purposes of this evaluation, leash tension is defined as a dog maintaining light tension on the leash while in working position. The dog should not attempt to pull against, strain, lunge or surge ahead.

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.

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 to encourage their dog.



OHOM Exercise Overview

1. Targeting and Eye Contact/Focus

Handler asks the dog to nose touch each of the student's hands-on cue and calls for eye contact.

2. Sit, Down, Stand

Handler will ask the dog to sit, down, and stand.

3. Wait for the Food Bowl

Handler will ask the dog to wait for the food bowl until the student releases the dog to eat out of the bowl.

4. Handling/ Cooperative Care

The handler will have the dog stand, sit or lay down while they handle each of the dog's paws, then stroke the dog on one side from shoulder to tail, and examine the dog's ears and the dog's teeth from each side of the mouth.

5. Sit Stay

Handler asks the dog to stay in a sit and handler walks backward at least 6 feet/1.5 meters (or to the end of a 6 foot leash) waits for 3 seconds then returns to the dog and releases it from the stay.

6. Under/Tuck

The handler should be sitting and asks the dog to move under an object such as a table, chair or the handler's bent legs and stay there for the allotted time.

7. Go to Place

Handler instructs the dog to go to its place (mat, blanket, crate or kennel) then the handler steps 10 feet away from the dog for 15 seconds

8. Recall and Leash up

The handler asks the dog to come from at least 10 feet/3 meters away. The dog should come to the handler and calmly wait to be leashed.

9. Wait at the Door

The handler asks the dog to wait on leash at an open exterior door, then the handler releases the dog to exit.

10. Loose Leash Walking and Focus

The handler walks with the dog on a loose leash in a loop pattern. Going around cones/visual markers set up 20 feet/6 meters apart in a figure eight two times.