



## O.D.O.R. Service Dogs Inc. Membership Code of Ethics

O.D.O.R. Service Dogs Inc. was founded to set and elevate the standards of scent detection/discrimination tasks for service dog training. Additionally to provide continuing education and research opportunities to expand the knowledge and understanding of canine olfaction. Service Dog Teams are the source of our commitment to excellence as a Professional Service Dog Organization. The integrity of our members and the services they provide will reflect upon our reputation and ability to make a positive impact upon the Scent Detection Service Dog community. Acknowledging these facts, the members are pledged to maintain a high level of trust and integrity in the practice of their skill.

Our members have an obligation to serve and represent the Service Dog community, which will be achieved through a common Code of Ethics to guide our professional business practices. This Code of Ethics should not be recognized in passive observance, but as a set of dynamic principles guiding the members' conduct. Therefore compliance with this Code of Ethics is a requirement for all members.

Each individual member of O.D.O.R. Service Dogs Inc. shall:

1. Remember that to each individual encountered, and the community at large, your conduct while working with a Service Dog, typifies Service Dog Teams. It is every member's duty to maintain a high code of ethics and standards. Making the profession, and the work that is undertaken worthy of respect and admiration.
2. Always strive to better the understanding of scent detection tasks. Members will advocate training by such methods that will serve the best interests of the dog and the owner. Members may freely exchange ideas, methods, and techniques in connection with scent detection/discrimination instruction with other members.
3. Work towards improved methods of instruction for all breeds of dogs that are deemed to have a suitable temperament for service dog work. At all times in association with the public and in work with dogs, a member will conduct themselves in a professional manner. Member will never conduct themselves in such a manner that will bring discredit to this Organization or to the profession of scent detection/discrimination or service dog training.
4. Conduct their business in a professional manner, honestly, with trust, respect, without denigration, or disrespect to other members. Members will not publicly criticize other members or their training methods. This includes expressly or implicitly criticizing other members in



advertising or promotional material.

5. Assist in maintaining the honor and reputation of O.D.O.R. Service Dogs Inc. and avoid any form of fraud, deception or impropriety.
6. Serve their client(s) competently and proficiently with care and attention, and make no guarantees on the tasks/behaviors the dog is trained to do. Dogs can make mistakes, and the risk of a mistake to a disabled handler should be made clear and the handler accept the risks without liability to the member(s) or O.D.O.R. Service Dogs Inc.
7. Use professional judgment on behalf of each client without regard to personal interests or interests of other clients or the desire of another person(s).
8. Not undertake any service or employment for which they are not competent. They shall seek appropriate answers and/or support from other members, or refer out to a fellow professional with the necessary experience and ability.
9. Continue to further their education and increase their knowledge, skills and experience to stay current with the up to date scientific research and practices. Acceptable venues of Continuing Education shall include, but not be limited to, Association of Professional Dog Trainers (APDT), Pet Professional Guild (PPG), e-TrainingForDogs, Karen Pryor Academy, courses and webinars. Refer to O.D.O.R. Service Dogs Inc. CEU Acceptance Policy for more details.
10. Give their client an honest opinion when consulted, avoiding bold, confident and false assurances to obtain employment, sales and/or status. Any guarantees of performance of a scent detection/discrimination task made by a member to their client, will not be validated nor endorsed by O.D.O.R. Service Dogs Inc. or any other members. Making guarantees for scent detection/discrimination performance is a liability that remains solely with the individual member making such a claim.
11. Giving false information to O.D.O.R. Service Dogs Inc. Doing so shall be considered grounds for lifetime dismissal.
12. Fees charged to clients are a negotiated between trainer and client and shall remain private. O.D.O.R Service Dogs Inc does not make recommendations for a fee structure.
13. Conduct themselves in a business like and professional manner while maintaining empathy and understanding for the needs of the client, customer, community and dog.



14. Any member that offers board and train, or sells finished scent detection/discrimination service dogs, shall maintain safe and sanitary conditions for the dogs. Dogs must be properly fed, have access to water at all times, be a healthy weight, have frequent access to proper exercise and enrichment, be under the care of a veterinary professional when needed, and up to date on legally required vaccinations. Any member found to violate any of these basic requirements, or found to have sold a “finished” scent detection/discrimination service dog that cannot pass the O.D.O.R. Service Dogs Inc. Standards for such tasks at the time of sale, shall be considered grounds for lifetime dismissal.

15. All communications between professionals with regard to clients shall be responsible, respectful, and effective while remaining confidential, maintaining the confidentiality and integrity of the professional/client relationship.

16. Co-operate with the O.D.O.R. Service Dogs Inc. Ethics Committee on any reported violation. Following a full investigation and adjudication of any violation, the Ethics Committee will be required to make recommendations to the Board of Directors on any action that may be taken. The final decision will rest with the Board.

17. Any member who has been convicted in court of cruelty/inhumane treatment of animals shall be terminated from O.D.O.R. Service Dogs and all privileges withdrawn.

The Organization for Detection and Olfaction Reliability of Service Dogs, while striving to maintain the highest standards of conduct and ethics among its members, shall not and cannot be liable in any way for the individual acts of its members.