



TDT UK – Foundation Training For Assistance Dogs Policy Document.

Standards for Public Access Rights

The standard any dog must achieve to qualify for public access rights is set by Assistance Dogs International (ADI), a coalition of dog training organizations worldwide. Assistance Dog UK is a member of ADI and set the standards for the UK. ADUK recommend that an assistance dog can perform the following when out and about with their owner:

- Staying with the owner at all times.
- Getting out of a vehicle in a controlled manner.
- Entering through a doorway in a controlled manner.
- Staying within six feet of the owner.
- Dealing confidently with distractions.
- Dining with the owner in a restaurant.

Eligibility for a Public Access Test with Therapy Dog Training UK

We adhere fully with the standards set by ADI and ADUK. To pass a public access test with TDT UK in addition to the above requirements you will require:

1. Obedience Training to a High Level:

- Our course provides easy to learn online video-based dog training tutorials to help you achieve the necessary obedience training for your owner-trained dog.
- You will have access to **all the required dog training criteria** at your fingertips, allowing you to work at your own time and pace until you and your dog feel confident to take the public access test if you meet the eligibility criteria.

2. Eligibility for Public Access Rights:

- You must be eligible for public access rights with your dog.
- This eligibility is dependent on providing evidence of a legitimate diagnosis from a certified healthcare professional, such as a GP or medical consultant, and/or evidence of a benefit entitlement such as PIP or DLA (UK Benefits).

3. Dog's Age, Health and Temperament:

- Your dog must be a minimum of 18 months old, fit and healthy
- Your dog should not be more than 5 years old when taking the initial public access test.

- We would recommend dogs are fully retired from the demands of Assistance Dog work at the age of 8 years.
- We will assess your dog's temperament to ensure suitability for being in public places, checking that your dog is not stressed or unhappy in public environments or when in contact with other people or dogs.

4. Task Performance:

- Your dog will need to demonstrate the ability to perform **three tasks** in addition to the required training behaviours (see point 1). Your dog must not show any signs of stress when presenting the behaviours and tasks and should undertake them willingly without any force or undue persuasion from you.
- Our course will coach you on various useful tasks to help in your daily life and for presentation (3 only required at your public access test).
- In addition, we will also check that your dog is able to:

Politely greet other dogs and humans when instructed to do so.

Toilet in appropriate places or when instructed to do so.

Be left with another person if necessary for a short time.

Be left alone without feeling stressed or unhappy for short periods in the car.

Walk in a controlled way on a loose lead and be aware of his/her surroundings in public places.

Be called back to you when called, on and off lead.

Ignore Food & Wait to eat.

Emergency stop.

5. Ethical and Force-Free Training Methods:

- We will ensure that your training methods are ethical and force-free and that you do not use any aversive training methods or equipment. We only recommend using a flat collar and flat lead, a body or a guide harness.
- Food, praise, toys and stroking your dog can all be used as rewards for tasks that have been completed, no punishment or physical restraint is acceptable. Lures are used when training your dog but all tasks must be completed without luring.

Other Considerations:

We will check that your dog is fully up to date with vaccinations & general health & wellbeing protocols. We will ensure your dog is meeting the legal requirements for general identity and travel safety in your car. We will also ensure your dog is not fearful or reactive to people other dogs and unusual objects such as prams, bicycles & mobility aids.

We will advise you on gaining the necessary public liability insurance as well as recommending annual public access assessments for your dog.

A Public Access Assessment is only arranged when you have completed the Family Dog – Foundation Training for Assistance Dogs and completed the eligibility quiz and submitted your eligibility documents via the online platform for review.

A certificate is issued to you on completion of the Family Dog Foundation Training for Assistance dogs as well as documentary proof of eligibility for public access if you pass the public access assessment with TDT UK.

A certificate and verification document and dog coats, lead sheaths are available to you only when you have passed the public access assessment. The TDT UK dog uniform is available at an additional cost.

N.B. We are presently identifying from our existing 65 qualified and experienced trainers within the TDT UK Trusted Trainer Network who will be willing to undertake the public access test for you. We will do our best to find a trainer near to your location. Remember the Public Access Assessment must take place away from home.

We will endeavour to help you wherever we can to support your specific needs.

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TDT UK

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