

Emotional Support Animal Training



While Emotional Support Dogs are not required to have any specific training certifications, it is ethically imperative to provide training for the safety of the public and the dog. Landlords cannot bar access to housing; however, a tenant can be evicted if that ESA poses a direct threat to the health or safety of others or causes significant damage to the property of others. For these reasons, an ESA owner should strive to master the skills necessary to pass the Canine Good Citizen Test.

1. Accepting a friendly stranger

Evaluator approaches and pretends to shake hands with handler (hands 6- 12" apart). Evaluator does not touch dog.

2. Sitting politely for petting

Evaluator pets dog; dog must show no shyness or resentment.

3. Appearance and grooming

Evaluator inspects dog, combs or brushes lightly, examines ears and each front foot.

4. Out for a walk

Handler takes dog for a short walk including right turn, left turn, about turn and stop.

5. Walking through a crowd

Dog and handler walk close to several people; dog may show causal interest but not jump up.

6. Sit and down on cue/Staying in place

Handler shows that dog can do both sit and down, then chooses a position, leaves dog and goes to the end of a 20 ft. line, and returns immediately.

7. Coming when called

With dog still on 20 ft. line from Test 6, handler walks out 10 ft. and calls the dog.

8. Reaction to another dog

Two handlers and dogs approach, pretend to shake hands (hands 6-12" apart), exchange pleasantries, then move on.

9. Reaction to distractions

Distractions are presented; dog may not panic or show aggression.

10. Supervised separation

Handler goes out of sight for 3-min. Dog is held on a 6-ft. leash by an evaluator.