



Guide Dogs for the Blind

Puppy Raising Department

Final Goal Behaviors Skills as of 14 Months of Age



**From Puppy to Guide Dog –
One Important Year!**

Guide dogs work in real-life environments that constantly present demanding and stimulating situations. A guide dog puppy needs to develop skills that support its intended future work as a guide dog and life companion to a blind handler. The puppy raiser has the challenging task of developing a young puppy into a mannerly young adult dog that is prepared for formal guide dog training and can be readily managed by a blind handler.

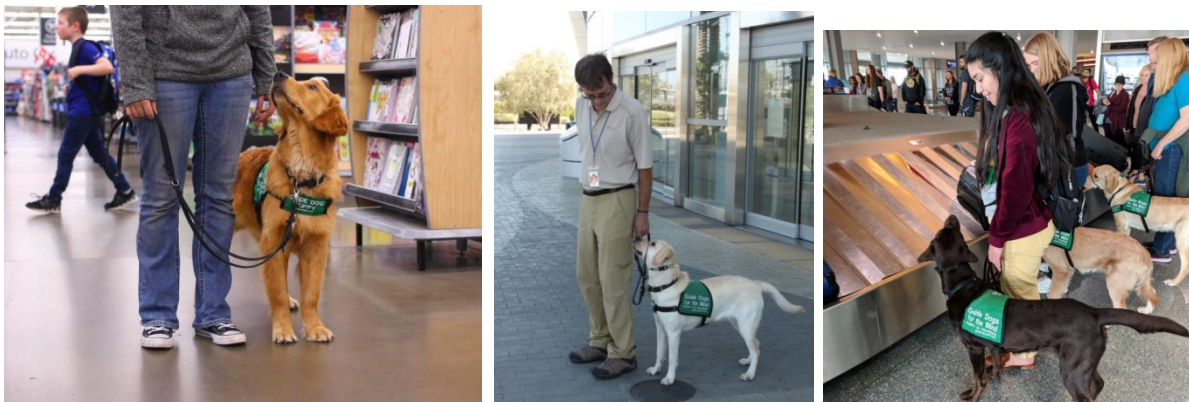


Trained Behaviors and Cued Responses



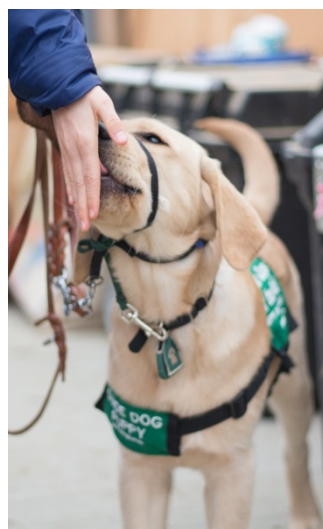
It is important for the adult guide dog to respond to cued behaviors in a variety of environments and situations. Puppies need to be prepared to perform basic management behaviors, for a blind handler, in a variety of circumstances. It is desirable that goal behaviors can be performed in real-world situations.

Audible Marker Response – “Nice” (marks desired behavior)



- ❖ Ideal – Dog immediately reacts to hearing the verbal marker “Nice” with animated anticipation of food reward. While showing excitement, the dog is able to maintain its current position (at the time of the mark) anticipating direct food reward delivery from the handler.
- ❖ Acceptable – Dog immediately reacts to hearing the verbal marker “Nice” with animated anticipation of food reward. Some movement towards the food reward delivery may be present yet the dog remains mannerly during the delivery.
- ❖ Not Ready for Recall – Dog does not react upon hearing the verbal marker “Nice” (no obvious change in demeanor) or becomes assertive getting to the food reward (e.g. moving to the food reward supply, significantly out of position).

Food Reward Acceptance



- ❖ Ideal – Dog demonstrates eagerness for dry kibble food reward (its regular diet) while maintaining a gentle manner of taking food from the hand. Handler feels no discomfort when delivering food reward directly to the dog's mouth.
 - ❖ Acceptable – Dog demonstrates enjoyment of dry kibble food reward (its regular diet). Dog may require a specific method of delivery for handler comfort (e.g. cupped hand delivery) but presents no discomfort to handler during food delivery.
 - ❖ Not Ready for Recall – Dog shows little enjoyment over dry kibble food reward and requires higher value food rewards to spark enthusiasm. Dog is rough in its manner of taking food reward from the hand, causing handler discomfort.
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Enjoyment of Secondary Reinforcement



- ❖ Ideal – Dog demonstrates enjoyment of, and the desire to receive, affection via verbal praise and physical touch. Physical and verbal rewards are clearly rewarding to the dog, acting as effective reinforcement for desired behavior.
- ❖ Acceptable – Dog demonstrates enjoyment and acceptance of affection via verbal praise and physical touch. Physical and verbal rewards are pleasing to the dog, helping to maintain established desired behaviors.
- ❖ Not Ready for Recall – Dog shows little emotional change during verbal and/or physical affection from the handler. Undesirable responses to verbal and/or physical praise include: low interest in relating to handler, indifference towards affection, and avoidance of physical touch.

Environmental Food and Debris Avoidance



- ❖ Ideal – Dog seeks food reward via handler delivery only. Dog will by-pass available food or debris in the environment, confidently choosing to disregard accessible oral temptations. This includes disregarding food rewards dropped by the handler.
- ❖ Acceptable – Dog regularly demonstrates the ability to by-pass available food or debris in the environment, confidently choosing to leave accessible oral temptations alone. Dog may require occasionally handling to prevent transgressions in more tempting circumstances. Dog is able to disregard food rewards dropped by the handler.
- ❖ Not Ready for Recall – Dog does not demonstrate the ability to frequently by-pass available food or debris in the environment, frequently or obsessively picking up/eating environmental food or debris. Dog acts impulsively upon opportunities to take food or debris in the environment.

“Sit” / “Stand” / “Down”



- ❖ Ideal – The puppy performs behaviors of Sit, Stand, and Down upon the verbal cues, while remaining in place.
 - ❖ Acceptable – With lack of response to the verbal cue, the puppy performs the behavior with the addition of a hand-signal or upon a minimal leash cue while remaining in place. May have minor movement out of position when performing the behavior.
 - ❖ Not Ready for Recall – Puppy shows partial or no response to verbal/signal and/or leash cues. Undesirable responses include not remaining in place or changing to another behavior immediately after responding to the cue.
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“Stay”



- ❖ Ideal – Upon the verbal cue “Stay”, the dog will maintain a Sit or Down behavior (for a reasonable length of time) regardless of distraction until released by the handler. If left in a Sit for more than 30 seconds or on a slick floor, lying down in that location is a reasonable choice for comfort.
- ❖ Acceptable – Dog requires reminder cues to remain in place. Dog may move slightly out of position but maintains its body on the basic space it was left.
- ❖ Not Ready for Recall – Dog does not maintain behavior without excessive handler input.

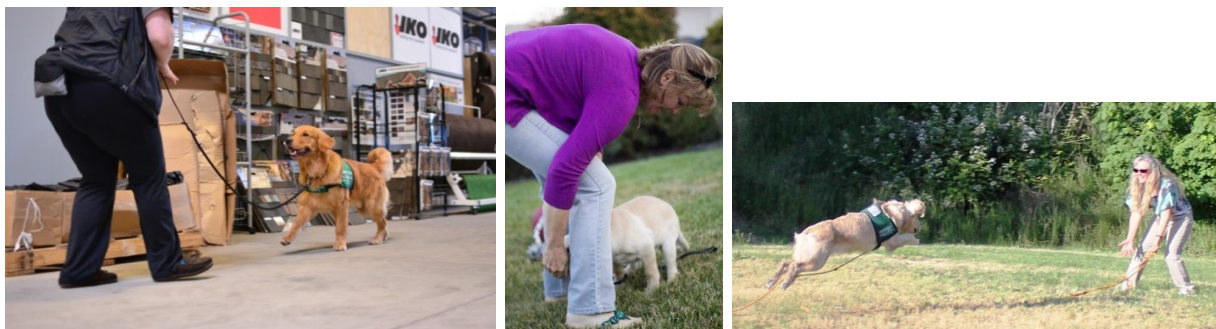
“Wait”



Used for *brief* stationary behavior that will soon be released via another cue (e.g. “Okay”). Used for safety and control in everyday situations (e.g. entering or exiting vehicles, going through doorways, commencing eating meals, exiting crate).

- ❖ Ideal – Upon the verbal cue “Wait”, the dog will hold its current location (regardless of being in Stand, Sit, or Down position) until given a release cue.
- ❖ Acceptable – The dog requires reminder cues to remain on the spot left in a “Wait”.
- ❖ Not Ready for Recall – Puppy does not maintain behavior without excessive handler input.

“Come” (Off-Leash Recall in Enclosed Areas Only)



- ❖ Ideal – Upon the verbal cue “Come”, the off-leash dog immediately comes to the front of the handler regardless of distance or distractions. Upon arrival the dog places itself very close to and/or gently touching handler’s legs, allowing handler to easily reach for and take hold of collar.
- ❖ Acceptable – While wearing a long line, upon the verbal cue “Come”, the dog immediately comes to the front of the handler regardless of

distractions. Upon arrival the dog places itself very close to and/or gently touching handler's legs, allowing handler to easily take hold of collar.

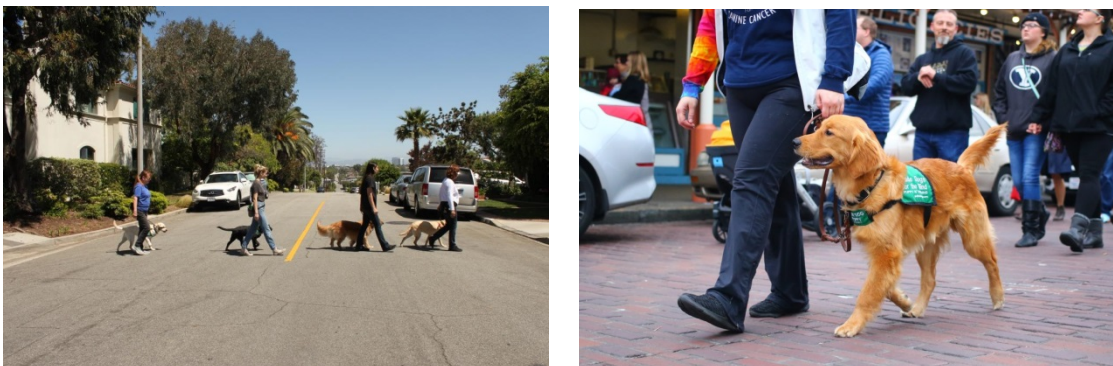
- ❖ Not Ready for Recall – Dog lacks consistent response to the verbal cue “Come” with or without leash or long line. Additional undesirable behaviors: avoidance of hands reaching for collar (keep-away behavior); upon arrival immediate attempts to leave the handler; upon arrival to handler excessive movement makes it difficult to touch the collar.

“Go to Bed”



- ❖ Ideal – Upon the verbal cue, dog goes to a designated bed or mat, lies down on the bed, and remains on the bed (for a reasonable length of time) until given another cue.
- ❖ Acceptable – Upon the verbal cue, the dog goes to a designated bed or mat and lies down on the bed. Dog may change positions or leave the bed within a short period of time.
- ❖ Not Ready for Recall – Lack of any response upon hearing the verbal cue. Dog requires extra direction from handler to go to the designated bed. Once on the bed the dog does not remain on the bed.

“Let’s Go” / Leash Walking Behavior



- ❖ Ideal – Upon the verbal cue, dog walks willingly with handler on a slack leash on flat collar equipment. Dog understands how to move in the direction of collar cues from handler. The dog observes the environment while in motion and its position next to the handler’s left leg may range between the area of the dog’s nose and shoulder. Dog is relaxed, notices the environment when moving, and remains aware of handler cues.
 - ❖ Acceptable – Upon the verbal cue, dog walks willingly with handler and understands how to move in the direction of collar cues from handler. Position may be slightly forward or backward of ideal and/or dog may create minor tension on leash. Dog may display some interest in environment but responds well to handler cues. Dog may require a headcollar for ideal leash walking behavior in distracting situations.
 - ❖ Not Ready for Recall – Dog has little response to verbal cue. Dog pulls firmly forward or lags behind the handler. Dog creates notable tension on leash and lacks response to handler cues. Dog requires a headcollar for controlled leash walking behavior regardless of environment.
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“Okay” (cue that releases the dog from a previously cued behavior)



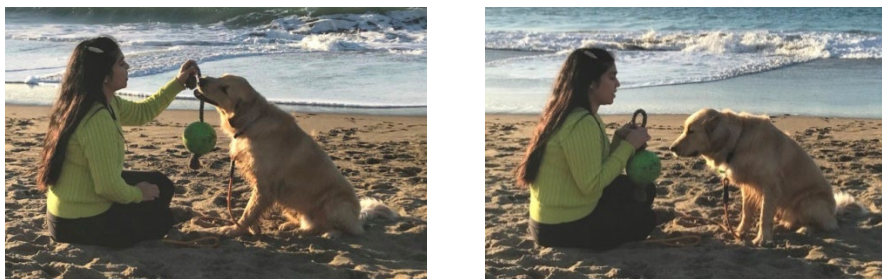
- ❖ Ideal – Upon the verbal cue, dog is allowed to end a current behavior it was cued to perform (e.g. a “wait”). Response to “okay” is a composed yet cheerful interaction with handler.
- ❖ Acceptable – Dog demonstrates energetic movement upon the verbal cue “okay” but remains manageable and responsive. Response to “okay” may be an interaction with dogs, people, or environment.
- ❖ Not Ready for Recall – Dog does not respond to “okay” cue to end its current behavior, due to uncertainty. Upon cue, dog engages in undesirable behaviors (e.g. jumping up, mouthing, lunging, bolting.)

“Kennel” – Crate Behavior



- ❖ Ideal – Dog responds to verbal cue by promptly entering a confined space (e.g. dog crate, vehicle, kennel run). Once in space the dog displays calm, quiet, and non-destructive behavior. Dog does not require toys or food rewards to maintain desired behavior even in novel environments.
- ❖ Acceptable – Dog responds to verbal cue but may require repeated cues to enter the confined space. Dog remains relaxed but may occasionally whine or need toys to maintain calm behavior. Is comfortable in any location although might take five minutes or less to relax in a novel environment.
- ❖ Not Ready for Recall – Dog does not respond to verbal cue and requires luring or physical manipulation to enter confined space. Dog does not relax or become inactive. Undesirable behaviors include: vocalizing, increased panting, frequent turning around/ activity, noticeable change in behavior when in unfamiliar home setting.

“That’s Enough” (cue to stop allowable behavior)



- ❖ Ideal – Dog will immediately stop a current activity upon the verbal cue. Includes but is not limited to playing tug-of-war, interacting with a toy, and energetic running in an enclosed area.
- ❖ Acceptable – Dog will lessen or gradually cease activity upon the verbal cue. May require repetition or additional guidance from handler.
- ❖ Not Ready for Recall – Dog does not respond to verbal cue or repetitions of cue. Handler has to physically intervene to stop dog’s behavior.

Life Management Skills

A guide dog puppy must be adaptable in many kinds of situations and should grow up being comfortable and easy to manage at home, work, school and in public.

Public Settling Behavior (community environments - on leash)



- ❖ Ideal – Dog remains in relaxed down position with minimal shifting, non-vocal, will often sleep after a reasonable amount of time, and is not reliant on continuous food rewards or toys to remain in position. Is easily cued to get up and move or reposition. Able to settle with an unfamiliar handler and in novel environments.
- ❖ Acceptable – Dog remains in one place (lying down, sitting or standing) with minimal input from handler. May occasionally whine but ceases with minor handler input, may sporadically need a food reward to remain settled. Is easily cued to get up and move or reposition. Ideal settling behavior might be dependent on familiarity to handler and environments.
- ❖ Not Ready for Recall – Dog changes position and gets up frequently with temporary response to handler direction. Undesirable behaviors include: moving about, creeping along floor looking for food or other distractions, vocalization, solicitation towards handler or others, resists handler cues to move.

Tether Behavior



- ❖ Ideal – Dog accepts tethering in a variety of locations, remaining at the tether in a relaxed position. The dog is quiet, inactive with occasional shifts for comfort, does not require toys to stay occupied.
- ❖ Acceptable – Dog accepts tethering in a variety of locations, remaining at the tether. The dog remains relaxed but may occasionally shift positions, whine or need toys to maintain calm behavior. Comfortable in any location although might take five minutes or less to relax in a novel environment.
- ❖ Not Ready for Recall – Dog does not relax and remains active. Undesirable behaviors include: pulling on the tether, chewing at the tether, barking or whining, increased panting, frequent movement, destruction to environment, noticeable behavior change in unfamiliar areas.

Vehicle Riding



- ❖ Ideal – Dog promptly and willingly enters any type of vehicle or crate inside the vehicle. Dog is relaxed and well-mannered riding on the vehicle’s floor (loose or leashed) or crated in multiple types of vehicles. Dog waits for cue to enter or exit vehicles and does so in a calm manner.
- ❖ Acceptable – Dog requires encouragement to enter or exit vehicles. Dog may take a minute to settle in the vehicle or whine occasionally. May need reminder “wait” cues when entering/exiting vehicles.
- ❖ Not Ready for Recall – Dog avoids entering vehicle and requires physical aid from handler. While riding in vehicles, dog demonstrates undesirable behaviors either from fear or excitement (e.g. carsickness, panting, drooling, vocalizing, pacing, jumping on seats, destructive, bolting into and/or out of vehicles).

Relieving – “Do Your Business” (Adult dog – maximum 5 to 7 relieving opportunities per day)



- ❖ Ideal – Dog readily leash-relieves on cue on cement and other hard surfaces when offered regularly scheduled opportunities. Dog is comfortable with handler physically close during relieving. Dog does not relieve in the house, demonstrating self-control over urinating or defecating (waits for offered relieving). Dog is able to walk briskly for 1 mile without relieving or indicating a need to relieve.
- ❖ Acceptable – Dog leash-relieves on cue on cement and other surfaces but may need extra time to complete the process. In the house, waiting for offered relieving is ideal, but indicating a necessity to relieve is acceptable. Dog indicates a need to relieve in a recognizable manner (e.g. standing at door or minor vocalizing). Dog is able to walk briskly for 1 mile without relieving or indicating a need to relieve.
- ❖ Not Ready for Recall – Dog favors specific surfaces and/or requires additional procedures to prevent relieving accidents in the home or on walks. Dog is reluctant to relieve on-leash or in new environments. Dog relieves during walks, indiscriminately in the house or requires confinement to prevent relieving accidents.

Equipment Acceptance



- ❖ Ideal – Dog readily and willingly accepts the handler putting any equipment on its body and is comfortable wearing equipment (e.g. collar, headcollar, puppy jacket) for extended periods of time.
- ❖ Acceptable – Dog readily accepts the handler putting any equipment on their body and accepts wearing equipment (e.g. collar, headcollar, puppy jacket) for extended periods of time. Dog may demonstrate minor dislike of equipment but tolerates wearing it without evasion (e.g. occasional scratching or rubbing).
- ❖ Not Ready for Recall – Dog avoids having equipment put on and/or demonstrates discomfort while wearing it. Undesirable behaviors include: evading handler applying equipment; attempts to get equipment off; refusal to move with handler when wearing equipment; mouthing or pawing at equipment.



Husbandry – Grooming/Care/Body Handling

Guide dogs are given daily care by their visually impaired or blind handlers. A guide dog puppy must be easy for a blind handler to care for by having developed compliant husbandry behaviors.

Grooming / Examination



- ❖ Ideal – Dog readily allows all body parts to be examined and cleaned, with a variety of utensils meant for grooming, while remaining calm and relaxed.
 - ❖ Acceptable – Dog accepts all body to be examined and cleaned, with a variety of utensils meant for grooming. Dog may move around a bit without making it difficult for the handler to groom.
 - ❖ Not Ready for Recall – Dog avoids grooming and/or handling of body. Undesirable behaviors include: pulling away from the handler, ducking head, tucking tail, mouthing hands or equipment during grooming.
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Nail Clipping / Ear Cleaning / Eye Cleaning / Teeth Cleaning / Pilling



- ❖ Ideal – Dog readily allows all body parts to be handled while remaining calm and relaxed. The care process is easily done by a single handler.
 - ❖ Acceptable – Dog allows all body parts to be handled. Dog may move around slightly and/or make mild attempts to avoid a procedure but can be cared for by a single handler.
 - ❖ Not Ready for Recall – Dog avoids handling of body parts prior to or during the care process. Undesirable behaviors include: active avoidance; pulling away body part; ducking head; tucking tail; mouthing hands or equipment prior to or during the care process.
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Bathing



- ❖ Ideal – Dog is easily moved towards bath and is easily shampooed and rinsed by a single handler. Dog remains calm and relaxed during the bathing process and while being towed dry.
- ❖ Acceptable – Dog is easily moved towards bath and is easily shampooed and rinsed by a single handler. Dog may be somewhat active, show excitement and/or playfulness over the bathing process. Dog may require the use of a tether to enable a single handler to complete the bathing and drying process.
- ❖ Not Ready for Recall – Dog actively avoids the bathing process, requiring extra effort or assistance to complete the procedure. Undesirable behaviors include: active avoidance of the wash area/bathtub; active pulling away; ducking head; tucking tail; mouthing hands or equipment prior to or during the bathing process.

Body Handling/Layover



- ❖ Ideal – The dog calmly accepts being placed into various positions and readily allows manipulation of its body parts. When placed in the layover position the dog is relaxed and stays still with minimum input from the handler.
- ❖ Acceptable – The dog can be placed into various positions and allows manipulation of its body parts. Verbal reminders and gentle physical prompts may be necessary to remind the dog to stay still and allow handling. Any initial tenseness quickly gives way to relaxation.
- ❖ Not Ready for Recall – The dog resists being placed into position and/or pulls away from the handler. May resist being placed in a layover and/or remain tense when placed. Other unacceptable behaviors are flailing, rolling, mouthing, vocalizing.

Environmental Skills



It is crucial for guide dog puppies to grow up with extensive socialization in a variety of real-world environments. Puppies must develop confidence to move within society and accept all types of encounters common to our culture. Without effective socialization to the world a guide dog will work in, there is little chance for a puppy to become a working guide dog.

Distractions (e.g. dogs, people, food)



- ❖ **Ideal** – Dog notices and demonstrates confidence over the presence of the distraction without notable emotional change and disregards the distraction quickly. Dog remains aware of handler cues, maintaining its current location, if stationary, or continuing past distraction when in motion.
- ❖ **Acceptable** – Dog moves slightly towards distraction but is easily redirected verbally to remain with handler or continue on travel path past the distraction. Disregards the distraction after passing or after it has left.
- ❖ **Not Ready for Recall** – Dog spontaneously moves towards distraction demonstrating undesirable behaviors (e.g. pulling on leash, scavenging, jumping up, vocalizing). Dog continues to remain focused towards the distraction after handler input and perhaps even after distraction has left.

Traffic



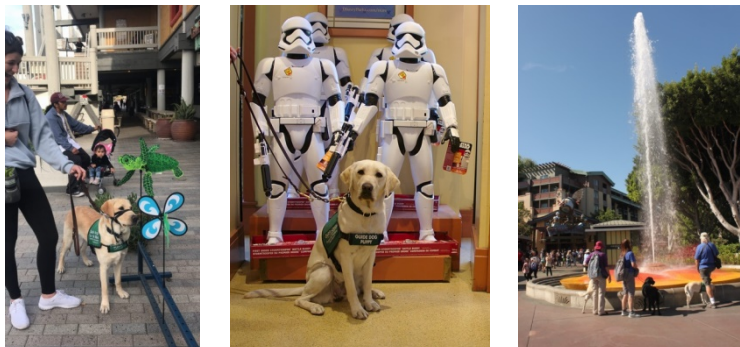
- ❖ Ideal – Dog shows confident behavior with all varieties of traffic both coming towards and from behind. Confident with traffic passing close to sidewalk and during both daylight and after dark walks.
 - ❖ Acceptable – Dog may occasionally startle or demonstrate apprehension for short periods in response to heavy or close traffic, quickly resuming a confident posture and stride.
 - ❖ Not Ready for Recall – Dog frequently demonstrates apprehension towards traffic (e.g. avoids approaching, bolts away from, lowers body as vehicles pass).
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Noise



- ❖ Ideal – Dog disregards or acknowledges loud, unusual or sudden noises with no negative reaction.
- ❖ Acceptable – Dog may momentarily startle to loud, unusual or sudden noises but immediately recovers and disregards. Dog may become animated upon loud sudden noise but is easily and quickly redirected by handler.
- ❖ Not Ready for Recall – Dog demonstrates fear behaviors in response to real-world noise (e.g. attempts to flee or hides, trembles, pants, paces). Dog becomes aroused and excited by real-world noise.

Objects



- ❖ Ideal – Dog disregards, or notices with little reaction, odd or unusual objects including, but not limited to, statues, mannequins, fountains, umbrellas, bags, flags, etc.
 - ❖ Acceptable – Dog shows curiosity and desire to investigate new objects while remaining easily controlled. Dog promptly dismisses object after investigation. Dog may show minor concern over novel objects but recovers quickly.
 - ❖ Not Ready for Recall – Dog shows fearful behavior towards real-world objects (e.g. avoidance, attempt to flee, hackles, vocalizations). Dog is unwilling to investigate object or continues to demonstrate fear after several minutes of exploration.
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Surfaces (i.e. slick floors, stairs, elevators, metal grates, ramps, etc.)



- ❖ Ideal – Dog readily and confidently walks over or onto a variety of real world surfaces, remaining with handler, matching handler's speed.
- ❖ Acceptable – Dog shows slight hesitation on some surfaces but does not avoid negotiating the surface.
- ❖ Not Ready for Recall – Dog demonstrates avoidance behaviors on surfaces (e.g. reluctance to negotiate, energetic avoidance, freezes on surface, rushes to get off surface, vocalizes).

People



- ❖ Ideal – Dog disregards, or notices with little reaction, unusual looking people (e.g. children, firemen, people wearing unusual clothing or costumes, people in wheelchairs, odd gaits, people on crutches, tall, large, intimidating people). Any emotional inclination is sociable.
- ❖ Acceptable – Dog shows initial curiosity with the desire to investigate an unusual person. Dog is easily controlled and immediately relaxes after investigating or interacting with the person. Dog may show mild concern but recovers quickly, disregarding the person as a threat. Most emotional inclinations are sociable
- ❖ Not Ready for Recall – Dog shows fear behaviors (e.g. avoidance, cowering, hackles, vocalizes, bolting away, unable to approach). Dog forcefully pulls handler towards the person and is non-responsive to verbal cues.

People – Greetings When Allowed



- ❖ Ideal – Dog demonstrates confidence to be near strangers (adults and children). Dog demonstrates low interest in strangers and maintains location until given the release to greet. Any emotional inclination is to be friendly towards strangers. Upon release, greets with low energy while keeping four feet on the floor. Settles very quickly after greeting.
 - ❖ Acceptable – Dog maintains location until given the release to greet. May demonstrate excitement over meeting strangers. Upon release, greets enthusiastically while keeping four feet on the floor. May remain animated after greeting but will settle via handler direction.
 - ❖ Not Ready for Recall – Upon seeing person, dog actively moves towards person, soliciting attention or avoids and demonstrates fearful behavior. Additional undesirable behaviors are: keying, vocalizing, jumping up, retreating.
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Dogs



- ❖ Ideal – Dog disregards other dogs or acknowledges their presence and quickly refocuses without handler input. Curiosity is brief and low energy.
- ❖ Acceptable – Dog displays mild interest in other dogs but is easily redirected via cues. Abandons interest once dog has gone by and does not look back.
- ❖ Not Ready for Recall – Dog demonstrates prolonged excitement or concern over other dogs. Undesirable behaviors include: keying, lunging, pulling towards, avoidance, hackling, vocalizing.

Animals (other than dogs)



- ❖ Ideal – Dog disregards or calmly observes other animals. Curiosity towards new animal is brief and of low energy.
 - ❖ Acceptable – Dog shows curiosity and/or desire to investigate or mild concern towards animals but is easily redirected via cues for other behaviors. When allowed to meet or investigate new animals, dog quickly abandons interest.
 - ❖ Not Ready for Recall – Dog demonstrates prolonged excitement or concern over other animals. Undesirable behaviors include: strong lunging or pulling towards; avoidance; hackling; bolting away from.
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Odors



- ❖ Ideal – Dog disregards odors with confidence (e.g. food scents, diesel fumes, barbeque smoke)
- ❖ Acceptable – Dog is easily controlled and redirected via cues. Dog may demonstrate minor concern or curiosity, with a desire to investigate an odor. Upon investigation, dog quickly disregards odor.
- ❖ Unacceptable – Dog demonstrates extreme excitement (moving towards) or fearful behavior (retreating) over odors. Dog is not easily redirected and excitement or fear behaviors over the odor remain for several minutes.

Home Behavior/House Manners

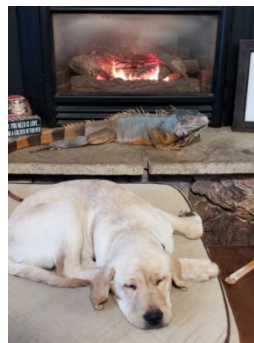
A guide dog must be an exceptionally well-behaved house dog; a pleasure to have in the home and reliable in all aspects.

Home Settling Behavior (home environment - off leash)



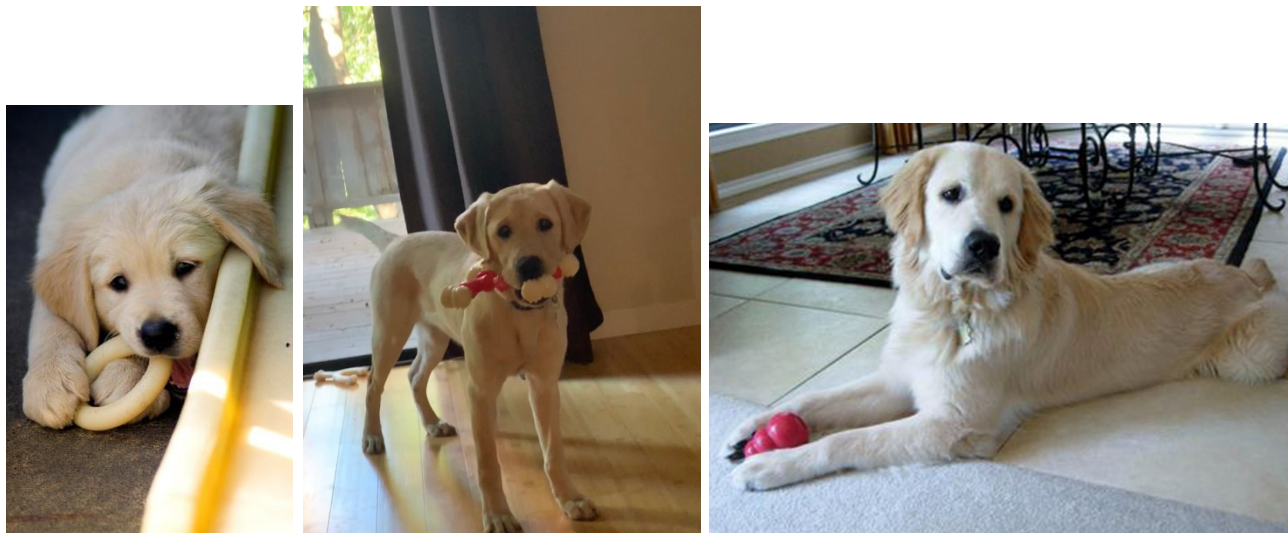
- ❖ Ideal- After brief roaming in familiar and calm environment, dog lies down, often sleeping, and remains inactive during regular household activities. Does not require toys to stay occupied, although may engage with available toys for brief periods.
 - ❖ Acceptable - Dog lies down after more than 5 minutes of exploring a familiar and calm environment, may remain awake but has minimal reaction to regular household activity (might get up to investigate but lies down shortly thereafter), may prefer to regularly interact with toys.
 - ❖ Not Ready for Recall - Dog constantly explores and moves about a familiar and calm environment. Undesirable behaviors include: pursues attention from others, vocalizes, seeks human items to chew, looks for garbage or food, toys are required to prevent destructive behavior.
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Off Leash Household Demeanor



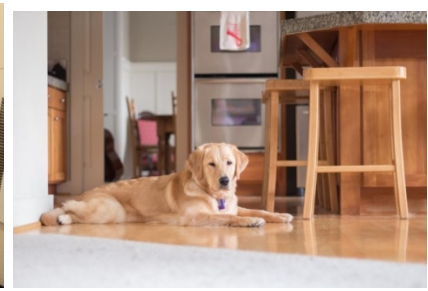
- ❖ Ideal – While free in house, dog keeps all feet on the floor, remains settled, non-vocal, and relaxed. Dog may occasionally wander around but settles again quickly.
 - ❖ Acceptable – On infrequent occasions dog shows higher energy in the house but responds to handler direction and settles quickly. May tend to be active but does not demonstrate undesirable behaviors.
 - ❖ Not Ready for Recall – Dog is very active in the house and rarely settles. In addition to high activity level, undesirable behaviors may be present (e.g. running, jumping on people or furniture, seeking food or garbage, rough play with other pets, attention-seeking to people, destructive to household items).
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In Home Play Behavior



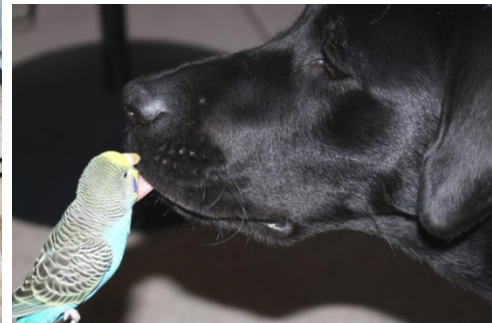
- ❖ Ideal – Dog only picks up, mouths or chews on intended dog toys, parades/presents toys to raiser, plays non-vocally (except for tug-of-war). Will play and interact with family members in a gentle manner.
- ❖ Acceptable – On rare occasions a dog picks up but does not destroy household items. Occasionally needs verbal reminder to lessen energy level.
- ❖ Not Ready for Recall – Destructive chewing of household items, scavenging, stealing, routinely carrying around household items, counter/table surfing, garbage raiding, barks when playing, attention-seeking, keep-away behaviors when handler tries to touch dog.

Unsupervised Behavior at Home



- ❖ Ideal – Dog keeps all four feet on the floor, ignores household items, is non-vocal and can remain for several hours unsupervised loose in the whole home.
 - ❖ Acceptable – Dog keeps all four feet on the floor, ignores household items and is non-vocal for at least 30 minutes unsupervised loose in one room in which temptations are removed.
 - ❖ Not Ready for Recall – Dog is not able to be left home alone due to undesirable behaviors (e.g. destructive, vocalizing, relieving, anxiety).
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Other Pets in the Home



- ❖ Ideal – Is disinterested or displays only mild curiosity toward other pets and quickly settles in their presence. “Hangs out” with other pets without being overly focused on the dog/cat/etc. Is comfortable and relaxed in the presence of all household pets.
- ❖ Acceptable – Initially seeks interaction with the other pet but redirects easily either due to disinterest by the other animal or mild redirection from raiser. May need occasional verbal reminders to keep interactions calm and appropriate. May take a few minutes to be comfortable when introduced to new individual animals.
- ❖ Not Ready for Recall – Constantly seeks engagement with other pets despite lack of reciprocation from the other pets. Interactions escalate quickly to rough play or chasing. More focus on other animals in the household than on human interactions. Is fearful/suspicious of new animals.

Resource Sharing



- ❖ Ideal – Dog happily shares toys and other valued objects with humans and other pets. Dog is relaxed when people or pets are near its food dish at meal time.
 - ❖ Acceptable – Dog disengages from other pets over toys or other valued resources. May demonstrate minor apprehension over resources in the presence of other pets and/or people (e.g. eating food faster, removing a toy from the area).
 - ❖ Not Ready for Recall – Dog demonstrates resource guarding behaviors (e.g. defends or guards objects or people, growls, hackles or shows other defensive/aggressive behavior towards people or pets around food or other resources).
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Home Greeting Behaviors



- ❖ Ideal – Dog maintains location until given the release to greet. Upon release, greets with reasonable energy while keeping four feet on the floor. Settles very quickly after greeting.
- ❖ Acceptable – Dog maintains location until given the release to greet. Upon release, greets enthusiastically while keeping four feet on the floor. May remain animated after greeting but will settle via handler direction.
- ❖ Not Ready for Recall – Upon seeing desired target, dog actively moves towards it, soliciting attention. Additional undesirable behaviors: vocalizing, paws on person, body slam into person. Continues solicitation behavior after initial greeting.