



Advanced Task Training ~2nd Year~

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Supplemental Trainer – Task Training

Choosing a supplemental trainer for task training is a tricky, but an important step in your service dogs continued success. A.T.C. has a variety of classes, and online training and support available, if you are not able to find an approved trainer in your area!

1. Look for a trainer or organization that have a proven track record training service dog. Don't be afraid to ask for client references. Ask how many service dogs they have successfully gotten to the C.G.C.A, and C.G.C.U. level.
2. Look for a trainer or organization that follow A.K.C. guidelines and are current and in good standing with their evaluator status. (These titles are not required by the A.D.A., but are the acceptable industry standard, and a requirement of A.T.C.
3. Avoid the big box, or pet store trainers, as they are not required to abide by current standards, and do not have experience with service dogs.
4. Ask for a free consultation, most companies will allow you to meet with them, tour the facility, or audit the class. If auditing or observing a class, always maintain a safe distance and do not interrupt or distract.
5. Look for a "Balanced Trainer" Avoid harsh training methods like, isolation, food deprivation, or shock collar training. You never want to force your service dog to work, but rather have a willing, thinking service dog that can adapt and react to the changing needs of the client.
6. Avoid a positive only trainer that uses only soft training methods and flat collars. These methods will not work on stubborn Nordic breeds and will be seen as weakness to your service dog. A firm but patient hand is the best approach to this breed.
7. Look for a trainer that asks questions about your service dogs foundation, beware of the "hero trainer" that discredits any other trainers, or previous training of your service dog. They should want to get to know our program, and build on the foundation the dog already has, rather than attempting to start from scratch and retrain the dog in their

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vision. This approach can not only be confusing and detrimental to the dog, as well as becoming very expensive in the long run.

8. Look for trainers that are a member of I.A.C.P. or other service dog organizations. If the trainer has a host of titles and competes in competition, they may be more focused on achieving fame and notoriety than helping you train your service dog.
9. If you can locate a trainer that has their own service dog, it will greatly benefit your training. This type of trainer is likely to be more understanding of your disability and may provide the opportunity to tandem train with the trainer and their service dog.
10. Avoid any trainer that has a bad opinion, or history with Siberian's. The Nordic breeds have long been discredited and discriminated against. Finding someone that is familiar with the breed and has a history of successfully working with Nordic type breeds.
11. Absolutely no board and train programs will be approved by A.T.C. The methods used in this type of training almost always use detrimental training techniques including shock collars to get quicker results. Your dog will be behaving out of fear when they are returned to you and may have permanent damage that will cause them to wash from service dog work.
12. Your service dog should not be separated from their handler for training and should be always handled by you. Beware of any trainer that attempts to separate you from your dog which is your lifeline.
13. Find a trainer that is proficient in multiple areas of task training, including psychiatric tasks such as compulsive/self-harm interruption, Deep Pressure Therapy, waking you from a nightmare etc. Stability/Mobility tasks like counterbalance, retrieving and holding items, or pulling you from sitting to standing.

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