



Temperament and Obedience Skills Checklist

In order to begin working with Atlas, your dog must have a good foundation in obedience, as well as no behavioral issues. Here is a list of what Atlas will be looking for upon first evaluation to determine if you and your dog are ready to begin working towards Atlas certification, or if you might need more training and support before you begin. We are not looking for absolute perfection on all items, though we do expect a solid foundation as more extensive public access and disability training will be hard to achieve without your dog's ability to reliably demonstrate these skills.

Basic Obedience in Non-Distracting Environments

In the home or other quiet indoor area, except for the walking portions which should be in quiet outdoor settings.

- » Dog responds to their name.
- » Dog responds to sit cue on flat, dry surface.
- » Dog will stay in sit for at least 30 seconds.
- » Dog responds to down cue on dry, flat surface.
- » Dog responds to stand cue from either a sit or a down.
- » Dog responds to cue to come from 15 feet away. Auto-sit is preferred but may be cued.
- » Dog responds to leave it to a food tossed directly in their reach.
- » Dog responds to leave it to an item they are interested in when client is 15 feet from dog.
- » Dog responds to a place cue on a mat and stays for at least one minute as handler moves away.
- » Dog responds to wait cue and does not cross a boundary for at least 30 seconds as handler moves 15 feet away and returns.
- » Dog can walk on a formal heel or side with only a flat collar or harness with minimal verbal assistance from client for at least two minutes.
- » Dog auto-stops next to client when walking on heel or side.

Basic Obedience in Distracting Environment

Dog friendly stores, pedestrian shopping malls etc.

- » Dog responds to their name.
- » Dog responds to sit cue on flat, dry surface.
- » Dog will stay in a sit on flat, dry surface. Stay may be cued.
- » Dog responds to sit on various and less comfortable surfaces (grass, rocky, slippery, irregular, etc.).
- » Dog responds to down cue on a non-slippery, dry, flat surface.
- » Dog will stay in a down on a non-slippery, dry, flat surface for at least one minute as handler moves 15 feet away and returns. Stay may be cued or implied.
- » Dog responds to down on various and less comfortable surfaces (grass, rocky, slippery, irregular, etc.).
- » Dog responds to cue to come to the client from 15 feet away. It is preferred that the dog sit automatically in front of the client, but sit may be cued.



- » Dog responds to cue to come to the client and redirects off what they are focused on when they are moving away from the client and interested in another item, animal, or person.
- » Dog responds to leave it to a food item tossed directly in their reach with the client next to them.
- » Dog is able to walk on a formal heel or side with only a flat collar or harness with minimal verbal assistance from client for at least two minutes. Leash should remain loose and client should not be using it to keep the dog in position.

Temperament and Manners

- » Dog does not have a fearful or aggressive response to other animals, adults, or children who are interacting with them appropriately.
- » Dog may express casual interest to oncoming dog or person but should be able to be readily managed verbally by client and should not pull significantly toward or away from them.
- » Dog does not have adverse reactions to body handling, human interaction, or eye contact.
- » Dog does not react strongly and recovers quickly when exposed to unusual or loud noises, objects, or experiences.
- » Dog does not resource guard people, food, or objects:
 - Dog allows handler to pet and interact with other dogs and people
 - Dog allows food to be taken away from them
 - Dog allows toy to be taken away from them
- » Dog does not jump on people or working settings.
- » Dog does not counter surf, get into trash cans, destroy household items.
- » Dog does not mouth people.
- » Dog does not beg for food, and takes treats and food gently when offered.
- » Dog does not have separation anxiety or distress issues when client leaves them alone for a reasonable period of time.