



Temperament and Obedience Skills Checklist

In order to begin working with Atlas, your dog must have a good foundation in obedience, as well as the correct temperament for service work. 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 Moderately Distracting Environments

In moderately distracting environments, such as dog friendly stores or pedestrian shopping malls.

- Dog responds to their name, which includes re-directing to the handler with the handler five feet away
- Dog responds to sit cue on flat, dry surface.
- Dog will stay in a sit on flat, dry surface for at least 30 seconds while handler walks to the end of the leash and returns.
- Dog responds to sit cue on various less comfortable surfaces (grass, slippery, irregular surfaces).
- Dog responds to down cue on dry, flat surface.
- Dog remains in a down for 30 seconds while the handler walks to the end of the leash and returns.
- Dog responds to cue to come when the dog is at the end of the leash. It is preferred that the dog sits in front of the handler but the handler may cue sit. Dog responds to leave it to a food tossed directly in their reach. Dog should not need to be told to leave it repeatedly or remain fixated on the food.
- 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. Treats may be used intermittently but should not be needed to keep the dog in position.
- Dog auto-stops next to client when walking on heel or side.
- Dog responds to a touch cue (or other target) on an object or part of the handler's body.



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 can walk past another dog while on leash without growling, barking, whining, lunging or excessively pulling, when not able to interact with them.
- Dog can interact with another dog appropriately while on leash AND off leash when permitted to interact.
- 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, people 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.