



Australian Government

**Assessment Requirements for
ACMADT402 Instruct handlers with
disability to train assistance dogs**

Release: 1

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Modification History

Release	Comments
Release 1	This version released with ACM Animal Care and Management Training Package Version 6.0.

Performance Evidence

An individual demonstrating competency must satisfy all of the elements and performance criteria in this unit.

There must be evidence that the individual has:

- instructed two different handler and prospective assistance dog teams during two sessions:
 - in each session, provided instruction in suitable methodologies, practices and responses to human verbal or visual cues in order to respond to specific human disabilities
- researched and maintained resources relating to training assistance dogs for four specific disability traits.

Knowledge Evidence

An individual must be able to demonstrate the knowledge required to perform the tasks outlined in the elements and performance criteria of this unit. This includes knowledge of:

- dog breeds or breed types, and associated characteristics and temperaments that make them desirable as assistance dogs
- legislation, regulations, codes of practice and welfare requirements that apply to dog welfare
- regulation that applies to public access
- animal welfare practices that are conducive to enriching assistance dogs' lifestyle and happiness, and preventing sensory overload
- appropriate assistance dog behaviours and assistance dogs' alerting behaviours, including:
 - climbing onto the handler
 - interrupting the handler
 - licking hands, face or other places they detect the need to
- workplace policies, procedures and guidelines related to assistance dogs and appropriate training methods, including:
 - instruction plans appropriate for dog handlers

- recording and reporting requirements
- appropriate people to whom to report dog progress
- training considerations for dogs and handlers:
 - tasking requirements
 - safety areas
 - pain levels
 - fatigue for mobility handlers
 - dog focus levels
- awareness of human disability or disorders that may benefit from dog assistive intervention, including:
 - physical
 - sensory
 - mental health
 - neurological, including neurodegenerative
 - developmental
- key handler traits that denote difficulty in function and may benefit from dog assistive intervention
- capabilities and limitations of assistance dogs
- relevant dog physiology, including:
 - olfactory perception
 - eyesight
 - physical dexterity
- theoretical principles of dog training, including:
 - conditioning principles and appropriate methods of rewarding dogs for exhibiting required behaviour
 - ethical and positive training methods that reinforce behaviour and maintain the working skills, happiness and psychological welfare of the dog
 - responses that dogs should give to verbal or visual cues
- dog training and learning styles, including:
 - non-associative learning, associative learning, operant and classical dog conditioning techniques
 - impact of stress and arousal
 - negative punishment
 - the importance of reinforcement
 - overcoming communication difficulties
 - appealing to dogs' olfactory perception
 - training for specific reactions to specified situations
 - reinforcers
 - handling techniques
 - emergency response procedures

- how an assistance dog can be trained to assist with handlers' specific daily needs by providing disability mitigation
- capabilities and health limitations of the handlers
- environments that assistance dogs are likely to work in, and emergencies that could arise within those environments
- reading dog body language and emotions, understanding a dog's individuality and associated behaviour
- understanding how to respond appropriately to dogs' arousal levels, anxiety and overall state
- animal welfare practices as conceptualised in the five domains:
 - nutrition
 - environment
 - health
 - behaviour
 - mental state
- awareness of how to enrich the assistance dog's physical, emotional and mental health and lifestyle needs
- management of training aids
- equipment that may be used in assistance dog training, including:
 - collars, head halters and martingales
 - leads and leashes
 - balance harnesses
 - working jackets, coats and identification vests
 - modified grooming equipment
 - toys
 - treat pouches
 - markers and clickers
 - wheelchairs
 - walking sticks
 - personal protective equipment (PPE) for handler if required
- workplace health and safety procedures and principles, including:
 - manual handling of dogs
 - using training equipment safely
 - risk and control strategies
 - location of emergency equipment during training.

Assessment Conditions

Assessment of the skills in this unit of competency must take place under the following conditions:

- physical conditions:

- skills must be demonstrated in an environment that accurately represents assistance dog training workplace conditions
- resources, equipment and materials:
 - equipment used in assistance dog training as required for Performance Evidence
 - training resources
- specifications:
 - workplace policies and procedures
- relationships:
 - dog handlers
 - assistance dogs.

Assessors of this unit must satisfy the requirements for assessors in applicable vocational education and training legislation, frameworks and/or standards.

Links

Companion Volumes, including Implementation Guides, are available at VETNet: - <https://vetnet.gov.au/Pages/TrainingDocs.aspx?q=b75f4b23-54c9-4cc9-a5db-d3502d154103>