

Prevention Concepts & Solutions Inc.

K-9 Concepts Program – Training Standards & Schedule

K-9 Concepts MINIMUM Competencies for all graduating service dogs and veterans.

1. The service dog, guided by his/her veteran partner, must demonstrate basic obedience skills on command (i.e., sit, stay, lie down, controlled walk near veteran, and come when called.); because these team competencies must be applicable to ALL environments and situations, these skills must also be demonstrated in a variety public places (e.g., shopping mall, public transportation, restaurants, parks, etc.) and the home environment.
2. The service dog must be trained to perform—at minimum—3 *service tasks* that mitigate symptoms related to the veteran's disability.
3. The veteran must be provided with enough instruction and education to demonstrate:
 - Knowledge of acceptable training techniques.
 - An understanding of Animal Welfare Rights.
 - An understanding of canine care and health.
 - An ability to maintain training, problem solve, and continue to train/add new skills (as required) with their service dog.
 - Knowledge of local and regional access laws and appropriate public behavior.

K-9 Concepts' commitment to service-dog teams and families

1. The k-9 Concepts program will provide the training, education, and guidance necessary to ensure the safety and wellbeing of service dogs, veterans, and their families.
2. The K-9 Concepts transition team will work, in-home, with the service dog, veteran and his/her family for 3 days following graduation—to ensure a smooth transition.
3. The K-9 Concepts staff will document monthly follow ups with veterans for the first 6 months following placement and yearly follow ups for the life of the partnership.
4. The K-9 Concepts staff will ensure, prior to placement, every service dog will have current vaccination certificates as determined by their veterinarian and applicable laws.
5. The K-9 Concepts program will provide all service-dog-related equipment and identification required for public access.
6. The K-9 Concepts program will operate a 24/7 hotline in which veterans and/or family members can call for emergencies related to service dog behaviors.

Characterology of Canines: A look at personalities, temperaments, and lineages

Prevention Concepts & Solutions, K-9 Concepts program, is committed to providing the highest quality, congruous to service work, canines for veterans and military families.

We take great care in selecting dog breeds that have the right temperament and drive for such an important career. After 30-plus years of rearing, raising, training, and showing/competing dogs, we have a unique understanding of how our canine's personalities and abilities translate into effective and efficient service dogs. Our breeds which, as of now, consist of Rottweilers, German Shepherds and Golden Retrievers—have long and distinguished lineages that include multi-world champions and best-in-breed winners. These are just some of the characteristics that make our Rotties, GSDs and Goldens exceptional for service work:

- ✓ Obedient
- ✓ Fearless
- ✓ Devoted
- ✓ Courageous
- ✓ Self-Assured
- ✓ Intelligent
- ✓ Great with children
- ✓ Calm
- ✓ Confident
- ✓ Alert
- ✓ Steady
- ✓ Good Natured.

In addition to our well-established, breeds, we also have many connections with highly-reputable, breeders in the U.S. and Germany. Through these connections, we are fortunate to have puppies donated to our organization. In the near future, we are planning on expanding our service-dog breeds—to include Labrador Retrievers; we are currently in discussions with several reputable breeders to acquire our first Lab. Lastly, although we do not, currently, train rescue dogs, we are exploring any, and all, possibilities when it comes to providing these much-needed services to veterans and military families.

A journey from birth, to puppyhood, to fully-trained, service dog

Under the watchful eye of staff and volunteers, our puppies are born into a loving, caring, and nurturing environment. During the first, 4 weeks of life, our puppies are closely monitored as they spend that time in the loving paws of their mother; our whelping rooms are safe, secure, quiet and clean—to ensure the best possible environment for our puppies' development.

At 4 weeks, our puppies are taken, as group, to briefly experiences new environments and returned to litter.

at 6 weeks, as a group, we begin to test our puppies for strength of nerve; we do this by observing reactions to noises, such as dropping a bell or by introducing, high-pitched, squeaky toys. How the puppies react (e.g., come explore or shy away) will provide, a preliminary assessment, concerning their aptitude for service work.

At 8 weeks, we will start basic imprinting, through positive reinforcement, of obedience commands: sit/stay; down/stay; heel and come when called; these four obedience commands will be the foundation for all future training; our puppies are also introduced to public places and situations and begin their crate training, while the imprinting continues.

At 12 weeks, our puppies are introduced to environmental stimulations, such as stairs, slick floor, puddles, loud sounds (e.g., doors slamming & washing machines); they will also take weekly car rides to check for car sickness.

At 6 months, as our puppies enter adolescence, our trainers and evaluators will determine what is best for the dog – i.e. what type of service dog will best suit the dog's skills and temperament.

At 9 months, depending on the evaluation, our dog will begin formal training (see training schedule below). This phase of development and training, generally, evolves over a 9-month period, until the dog is 18 months of age.

At 18 months, the veteran, service-dog partnership is established, and these teams will work and train together, under the instruction of one of our trainers, for 90 days (see training schedule below for detailed information)

K-9 Concepts—13-Day Transition—Handler Training Schedule

****This schedule is only a training framework; each veteran will have a personalized, strengths-based, training schedule designed to encourage personal, professional, and therapeutic growth. As mentioned, the dog or veteran handler will never be overworked, so much of the designated, hour-long training times, will consist of 15-minute intervals (15 on - 15 off).***

****This schedule is intended for veterans and service dogs who are not in our 90-day program (i.e., the dogs have already been fully trained and are being donated to them); the 90-day program training schedule is illustrated below the 10-day***

It is important to note that under all conditions, described above, the welfare of our dogs is our highest priority; our dogs will be monitored closely and will never be overworked, traumatized, or placed in dangerous situations.

Day 1	8:00-9:00am	Orientation – going over rules & expectations
	9:00-10:00am	Introduction to dog & bonding time (take a walk)
	10:00am-12:00pm	Introduction to Kennel maintenance
	12:00-1:00pm	Lunch
	1:00-2:00pm	Trainer demonstrates commands the dog knows
	2:00-3:00pm	Basic canine care & health class - part 1
	3:00-5:00pm	Introduction to public places (with trainer)
	5:00-6:00pm	Daily review of training log & Q & A
Day 2	8:00-9:00am	Daily Kennel maintenance
	9:00-10:00am	Bonding Time & Morning Exercise
	10:00am-12:00pm	Daily Kennel maintenance
	12:00-1:00pm	Lunch
	1:00-2:00pm	Basic commands & positive reinforcement
	2:00-3:00pm	Basic Canine Care & Health Class- Part 2
	3:00-5:00pm	Introduction to public places (with trainer)
	5:00-6:00pm	Daily review of training log & Q & A
Day 3 <i>*Start of Formal Training</i>	8:00-9:00am	Daily Kennel maintenance
	9:00-10:00am	Bonding Time & Morning Exercise
	10:00am-12:00pm	Daily Kennel maintenance
	12:00-1:00pm	Lunch
	1:00-2:00pm	Group Obedience class
	2:00-3:00pm	Animal Welfare Rights Class
	3:00-5:00pm	Working in public places (without trainer)
	5:00-6:00pm	Daily review of training log & Q & A
	7:00-8:00pm	Navigating hotel, hotel etiquette & sleeping arrangements
Veteran Handler & dog Stay together at hotel/lodging from 3rd night to end of training		
Day 4	8:00-9:00am	Daily Kennel maintenance
	9:00-10:00am	Bonding Time & Morning Exercise
	10:00am-12:00pm	Daily Kennel maintenance
	12:00-1:00pm	Lunch
	1:00-2:00pm	Service-task overview & training
	2:00-3:00pm	ADA access & identification laws class
	3:00-5:00pm	Group Obedience class
	5:00-6:00pm	Daily review of training log & Q & A
Day 5	8:00-9:00am	Daily Kennel maintenance
	9:00-10:00am	Bonding Time & Morning Exercise
	10:00am-12:00pm	Daily Kennel maintenance
	12:00-1:00pm	Lunch
	1:00-2:00pm	Travel & car safety training
	2:00-3:00pm	Canine Good Citizen Class – Part 1
	5:00-6:00pm	Daily review of training log & Q & A

Day 6	8:00-9:00am	Daily Kennel maintenance
	9:00-10:00am	Bonding Time & Morning Exercise
	10:00am-12:00pm	Daily Kennel maintenance
	12:00-1:00pm	Lunch
	1:00-2:00pm	Service-task training
	2:00-3:00pm	Canine Good Citizen Class - Part 2
	3:00-5:00pm	Working obstacle/agility course as a team
	5:00-6:00pm	Daily review of training log & Q & A
Day 7	8:00-9:00am	Daily Kennel maintenance
	9:00-10:00am	Bonding Time & Morning Exercise
	10:00am-12:00pm	Daily Kennel maintenance
	12:00-1:00pm	Lunch
	1:00-2:00pm	Service-task training (e.g., turn on lights, wake, etc.)
	2:00-3:00pm	Personalities, temperaments & behaviors class
	3:00-5:00pm	Group training with local canine club
	5:00-6:00pm	Daily review of training log & Q & A
If applicable, the family of veteran will Join him/her at this point in the training		
Day 8	8:00-9:00am	Orientation: Family Version
	9:00-10:00am	Bonding Time & Morning Exercise with Family
	10:00am-12:00pm	Daily Kennel maintenance
	12:00-1:00pm	Lunch
	1:00-2:00pm	Basic Canine Commands with significant other & older children
	2:00-3:00pm	Canine Care & Health Class – Family Version
	3:00-5:00pm	Working obstacle/agility course as a team
	5:00-6:00pm	Daily review of training log & Q & A
Day 9	8:00-9:00am	Daily Kennel maintenance
	9:00-10:00am	Bonding Time & Morning Exercise with Family
	10:00am-12:00pm	Daily Kennel maintenance
	12:00-1:00pm	Lunch
	1:00-2:00pm	Family time
	2:00-3:00pm	Basic Canine Commands with significant other & older children
	3:00-5:00pm	Introduction to public places with family
	5:00-6:00pm	Daily review of training log & Q & A
Day 10	8:00-9:00am	Daily Kennel maintenance
	9:00-10:00am	Bonding Time & Morning Exercise with Family
	10:00am-12:00pm	Final review (classroom) & Q & A
	12:00-1:00pm	Lunch
	1:00-3:00pm	Final review (fieldwork) & Q & A
	3:00-5:00pm	Field Test
	Graduation Ceremony! 	
<p>After the completion of Handler Training, service teams work together on a series of field tests, which are administered by the trainer. After graduation, the veteran and his/her dog will be certified as a working team. A certification card will be provided to the handler, as well as a service vest and identification tag for his/her dog.</p>		

Transition to Home

Even though veterans go through a screening process in which “an appropriate home environment” is mandatory for receiving a dog, our transition team provides that extra level of care & accountability by working with veterans & their families for 3 additional days after graduation

Day 1	9:00-11:00 am	Inspection of home environment
	11:00am-12:00pm	Walk neighborhood with team
	12:00-1:00pm	Lunch at local restaurant with team
	3:00-5:00pm	Reinforcement of environmental training: workplace & other frequented public places
	5:00-6:00pm	Dinner & Q & A with family
Day 2	9:00-11:00pm	Family discussion about responsibilities & appropriate behaviors with dog
	12:00-2:30pm	Lunch at local restaurant with team & family
	2:00-3:00pm	Reinforcement of training at local park
	3:00-5:00pm	Shopping at local grocery store with team
	6:00-7:00pm	Evening interaction & observing home environment
Day 3	9:00-10:00am	Morning exercise
	11:00-11:00am	Setting & tracking additional training goals
	1:00-2:00pm	Final Q & A with family

K-9 Concepts Program—90-Day—Handler Training Schedule

This schedule is only a training framework; each veteran will have a personalized, strengths-based, training schedule designed to encourage personal & professional growth. As mentioned, the dog or veteran handler will never be overworked, so much of the designated, hour-long training times, will consist of 15-minute intervals (15 on 15 off). – At the beginning of each week, the teams will set goals for the week, and depending on the handler’s level of confidence & competence – new skills will be added accordingly (see weekly schedule below for more details).

Week 1

Day 1	8:00-9:00am	Orientation - Rules, guidelines & expectations
	9:00-10:00am	Introduction to dog & bonding time (take a walk)
	10:00am-12:00pm	Introduction to Kennel maintenance
	12:00-1:00pm	Lunch
	1:00-2:00pm	Trainer demonstrates commands the dog knows
	2:00-3:00pm	Basic canine care & health class - part 1
	3:00-5:00pm	Introduction to public places (with trainer)
	5:00-6:00pm	Daily review of training log & Q & A
Day 2	8:00-9:00am	Daily kennel maintenance
	9:00-10:00am	Bonding time with dog (walk & play)
	10:00am-12:00pm	Daily kennel maintenance
	12:00-1:00pm	Lunch
	1:00-2:00pm	Basic command & cues training – sit/stay
	2:00-3:00pm	Basic canine care & health class- part 2
	3:00-5:00pm	Visiting public places (with trainer)
	5:00-6:00pm	Daily review of training log & Q & A
Day 3	8:00-9:00am	Daily kennel maintenance
	9:00-10:00am	Bonding & exercise with dog
	10:00am-12:00pm	Daily Kennel maintenance

	12:00-1:00pm	Lunch
	1:00-2:00pm	Behavior modification through positive reinforcement training
	2:00-3:00pm	Animal Welfare Rights class – Part 1
	3:00-5:00pm	Public-access training (with trainer)
	5:00-6:00pm	Daily review of training log & Q & A
Day 4	8:00-9:00am	Daily Kennel maintenance
	9:00-10:00am	Bonding time & exercise
	10:00am-12:00pm	Daily Kennel maintenance
	12:00-1:00pm	Lunch
	1:00-2:00pm	Basic commands & cues training
	2:00-3:00pm	Animal Welfare Rights class – Part 2
	3:00-5:00pm	Public access training (with trainer)
	5:00-6:00pm	Daily review of training log & Q & A
Day 5	8:00-9:00am	Daily Kennel maintenance
	9:00-10:00am	Bonding time & exercise
	10:00am-12:00pm	Daily Kennel maintenance
	12:00-1:00pm	Lunch
	1:00-2:00pm	Basic commands & cues training
	2:00-3:00pm	Kennel Management Class
	3:00-5:00pm	Behavior modification & positive reinforcement
	5:00-6:00pm	Daily review of training log & Q & A
Day 6	8:00-9:00am	Daily Kennel maintenance
	9:00-10:00am	Bonding & Exercise
	10:00am-12:00pm	Daily kennel maintenance
	12:00-1:00	Weekly Review & Next week's goals
	1:00-ON	Afternoon Off
Day 7	Day of Rest	

The 7-day schedule illustrated above will provide the basic, training framework for the entire 90 days; each week, training goals will be mutually agreed upon and, only, when the trainer & team mutually agree that the weekly goals have been met and, only, when teams feel confident and competent, will new skills and tasks be added. The remainder of this schedule will articulate typical skills and tasks to be added/achieved each week.

Week 2

- ✓ Veteran handler & dog stay together in room
- ✓ Kennel Management – Part 2

Week 3

- ✓ Public training begins (with approval by trainer)
- ✓ Group Obedience classes begin

Week 4

- ✓ Off-leash training

Week 5

- ✓ Disability-related service & task training (e.g., turning on lights)
- ✓ Veteran handlers take dogs to public places on their own

Week 6

- ✓ Obstacle & Agility course training starts

Week 7

- ✓ Veteran handlers exchange dogs periodically with other veteran handlers; this training activity ensures that both handlers & dogs are comfortable with working with other partners & personalities.

Week 8

- ✓ Emergency drop/down training
- ✓ Out-of-sight stays training

Week 9

- ✓ Vehicles & public transportation training

Week 10

- ✓ Public restroom training
- ✓ Elevator training

Week 11

- ✓ Advanced obstacle & agility training

Week 12

As mentioned, throughout the training process, service dog teams are monitored closely & evaluated regularly; this ensures the highest quality of training & the highest quality of experience – for both dogs & veteran handlers; however, before we can fully endorse service dog teams, they must pass final testing & evaluations:

- ✓ Public access & safety
- ✓ Obedience
- ✓ Disability-related tasks
- ✓ “Good Citizen”



. After passing the final testing & evaluation, the veteran handler and his/her dog will be certified as a working team. A certification card will be provided to the handler, as well as a service vest and identification tag for his/her dog, which labels him or her as a service animal.