



## **FSDS CODE OF CONDUCT**

The FSDS has established minimum standards for service dog teams, and the team is expected to live up to these standards at all times. This includes behaviors observed during testing, and extends to conduct in public during the team's entire working life. Note that the focus here is on the behavior of the team, not merely the dog. These standards include the following:

### **HEALTH, WELLNESS AND SAFETY**

#### **The handler shall provide:**

1. Monthly heartworm treatments.
2. Monthly flea and tick treatments if recommended by a veterinarian.
3. All required vaccinations.
4. Baths, brushing and grooming to keep dog clean and free of any offensive odors.
5. Proper oral care.
6. Regular nail trimming.
7. Current County license tags that are prominently displayed on the collar.
8. A name tag with a current phone number displayed on the collar.
9. A clean program vest in good repair with ID badge and emergency contact card displayed in the pocket to be worn at all times while in public.
10. Thermal working booties to protect against injury from excessively temperatures or sharp objects.
11. Working equipment that is properly fitted and in good repair, including a collar, a leash that is no longer than 6 feet in length (retractable leashes are not permitted) and a harness (if applicable); backpacks are not permitted on the dog.
12. Adequate food and hydration; must carry a portable water bowl when working.

### **TRAINING**

#### **The dog shall be trained to:**

1. Perform at least three service related tasks to mitigate the disability of the handler.
2. Obey commands on first attempt at least 90% of the time, except in cases of intelligent disobedience.
3. Maintain a good heel on leash, harness, Halti or Gentle Leader.
4. Lie quietly besides the handler or under a seat without creating an obstacle to others.
5. Urinate or defecate only in appropriate designated places.

**The trainer shall:**

1. Ensure that the selected service tasks are appropriate for the dog.
2. Use only positive reinforcement techniques that have been approved by the FSDS for service dog training.
3. Be consistent in enforcing commands.
4. Ensure that the dog is within two feet of them at all times except when a task requires a greater distance.
5. Ensure that the dog has adequate space in order to avoid injury to the dog or others in public.
6. Provide regularly scheduled rest breaks for the dog.

**PUBLIC BEHAVIOR**

**The dog shall:**

1. Not solicit attention from strangers;
2. Be able to work quietly in public without barking, whining or otherwise creating a distraction.
3. Not growl, snarl or demonstrate any aggression towards people or other dogs.
4. Not solicit or steal food items from the general public.
5. Urinate or defecate only in appropriate designated places.

**The handler shall:**

1. Set and enforce consistent boundaries and shall prevent members of the public from petting or greeting the dog while it is working.
2. Respond politely and appropriately to public inquiries and challenges at all times.
3. Maintain control over their dog at all times.
4. Remain alert for signs of danger and shall remove the dog from dangerous situations when necessary.
5. Provide the dog with adequate food and hydration, but shall not feed the dog in designated public dining areas.
6. Provide regularly scheduled rest breaks for the dog.

***Note: At all times, the final responsibility for all aspects of care, training and public behavior rests with the handler.***