



## O.D.O.R. Scent-Based Medical Alert Test Overview

### Purpose

The medical alert service dog must be able to demonstrate the ability to discriminate the target odor in a variety of scenarios a handler may encounter as a team. This is an overview of the O.D.O.R. Service Dogs Inc. Scent Based Medical Alert Test. Handlers should work with an O.D.O.R. Service Dogs Inc. Evaluator to make sure they understand the specific details of each part of the test.

The O.D.O.R. Scent Based Medical Alert Test is designed to evaluate dog- handler teams where the dog is trained to alert to and/or perform a task to mitigate a handler's disability. Some examples include:

- Blood Sugar High
- Blood Sugar Low
- Migraine
- Seizure
- Stress Event
- Asthma
- Other

Four scent samples will be used for the test, and each will be placed in a separate plastic tube with lid. Tests will be performed over several days and in a variety of locations. Each day the person will place one of the scent samples on their person, under clothing or in a pocket, the scent tube must be invisible to the dog.

During parts of the test performed at the handler's home, the dog may be loose and perform normal behaviors during the testing period. When testing in a public area, the dog should remain on-leash, per local leash laws, unless actively performing a task. Testing will begin when the dog is not focused on the handler. The handler will discreetly open the scent tube and timing will begin. For each test scenario, the dog has a specified amount of time in which to alert to the odor and perform any subsequent trained tasks.

Dogs passing the O.D.O.R. Scent Based Medical Alert Test will be able to perform a trained indication behavior to the odor, and perform any subsequent trained tasks, in the specified time period per scenario. Testing will occur in each of the following settings:

- a common area of the home;
- a resting place such as a bedroom;



- a bathroom;
- outside the home;
- in a public setting.

Testing will include the following, in addition to the target odor:

- A blank gauze or non-sterile dental cotton without added scent in the scent tube to ensure that the dog is responding to the trained scent and is not simply responding to a testing or training aid. During this part of the test, the dog must not perform their described alert behavior and trained tasks, unless evidence suggests that the handler has experienced a medical event during this test. In that event, the test will be repeated on a different day.
- A non-event scent sample odor from a healthy individual (not the handler) in the scent tube. For the dog to pass this test, it must not perform their described alert behavior and trained tasks, unless evidence suggests that the handler has experienced a medical event during this test. In that event, the test will be repeated on a different day.
- To ensure the dog is responding only to an abnormal reading or medical event, and not to the handler's healthy scent, the handler will place a normal reading/non-event scent sample from the handler in the scent tube. During this part of the test the dog must not perform their described alert behavior and trained tasks, unless evidence suggests that the handler has experienced a medical event during this test. In that event, the test will be repeated on a different day.

## Prerequisites

As the team will be performing one testing scenario in a common public area, which may be in an area that is not pet friendly or service dog in training friendly, they will need to submit the following prior to being eligible for testing:

- Health Certificate provided by a veterinarian, including proof of vaccination or titers required in the handler's local area.
- Proof of training that the dog is suitable to work in the public. One of the following will be accepted:
  - O.D.O.R. PAT (Public Access Test, or similar)
  - UKC Socialized Pet Obedience Test (SPOT)
  - PDA Level 2 (Pet Dog Ambassador, available through Pet Professional Guild, must be current)
  - AKC CGC (Canine Good Citizen)
  - If the team has passed a similar manners test not listed, it is up to the discretion of the Evaluator to accept.

- If the person is in need of public access testing, they can email the O.D.O.R. Program Director and be paired with one of our Evaluators for the O.D.O.R. PAT.

### **Timing and Filming**

All tests will be filmed. In the event that the Evaluator cannot be physically present, the team being tested may submit a video of each of the elements.

Both the dog and handler must be completely visible in the frame at all times, and must be able to be heard. Should any questions arise about the scoring and performance of the team, the Evaluator may review the recorded test.

A test may be stopped at the discretion of the O.D.O.R. Evaluator if at any time the Evaluator deems the dog or handler to be under distress, or if the handler has a medical crisis.

### **Scent Based Medical Alert Test Summary**

- The test has 5 required scenarios, and 8 required tests.
- Timing begins 1 minute after dog settles/falls asleep in the test scenario.
- The dog must perform their trained indication behavior in the presence of the target odor.
- The dog must not perform their trained indication behavior without the presence of the target odor.