

Bond-Based Alliance

Accreditation, Evaluations, and Certifications

Educational Accreditation is offered for individuals and organizations involved in the education and placement of assistance dogs.

All Educational Accreditation Applicants Must Provide:

Written Statement of Ethics
Proof of Liability Insurance
Written Privacy Statement
Written Nondiscrimination Statement
Release Forms for Use of Image
Waiver of Liability Forms
Written Description of Services Offered to Clients
Written Pricing Including Refund Policy if applicable
Written Policy Regarding Client Eligibility and Selection
Written Application Form Requesting Services
Written Medical Confirmation of Need when applicable
Written Process for Application Processing including approximate timing
Written Policy for Providing Ongoing Support for all Dogs Accredited/Placed
Written Information Regarding Dogs and the Appropriate Care Thereof for Clients
Completed Written Examination Indicating Staff and Client Knowledge
Completed, Videotaped Practical Examination Indicating Staff and Client Skill
Photographic Identification Badge for All Dogs and Handlers
Wearable ID Vests (or similar) for Dogs in School and Graduate Dogs
Contract for Clients Detailing the Responsibilities of Involved Parties
Written Protocol for Maintaining Contact with Clients
Written Guidelines for Selection of Candidate Dogs
Written Guidelines for Graduation Readiness Evaluation
Written Guidelines for the Placement of Dogs in Private Homes if applicable
Written Socialization and Habituation Guidelines for Dogs
Written Educational Standards for Dogs

All Applicants Must Maintain:

Comprehensive Veterinary Records for Each Dog
Written Educational Record for Each Dog and Client
Written Volunteer Manual if applicable

For Organizations and Businesses:

Names and Contact Information for Officers and Managing Staff (please include titles)
Names and Contact Information for Board Members and/or Trustees
Articles of Incorporation Papers / Statutes

Bylaws / Regulations
Written Mission Statement
Description of Organizational Structure including Written Job Descriptions for Each Employee/Volunteer Position
Employee Handbook
Annual Audited Financial Statement for nonprofits
Written Statement on Financial Policies Regarding Transparency (for Nonprofits)

For Applicants Operating Facilities Please Add:

Proof of Public and Employer Liability Insurance
Proof of Vehicle Insurance
Property Insurance
Written Facility Disaster Plan
Certificate of Occupancy
Written Incident Policy
First Aid Kits
First Aid Training for Staff-First Responder on Staff
Hazardous Materials Plan
Medical Waste Plan
Accessible Entrance
Accessible Parking
Accessible Restrooms
Appropriate Communication Equipment for Clients Served
Climate Controlled Areas for Kenneling
Kenneling of Appropriate Size
Adequate Outdoor Play Areas for Dogs
Appropriate Waste Management Strategies
Schedule Which Allows for the Highest Standard of Cleanliness Possible for All Areas
Written Guidelines for Management of Dogs in Custodial Care

For Prison Programs (in addition to previously listed Standards):

Written Agreement with Prison Facility and Governing Entity Thereof
Written Code of Conduct for Inmate Handlers
Written Code of Conduct for Participating Staff Members including Designated Liaison
Written Job Descriptions for Staff and Inmates
Written Plan for Lockdown
Written Plan for Emergency Veterinary Care
Written Plan for Grooming

Assistance Dog Evaluations are for offered on a pass/fail basis for candidate dogs.

Evaluation-Assistance and Community Service Dogs

1. Dog demonstration of secure attachment by showing:
 - a. Human partner is secure base such that dog feels comfortable exploring a new area/object in human partner's presence.
 - b. Human partner provides safe haven when dog is concerned. This can be demonstrated by dog 'checking' human partner response when entering scary area such as a room with fan blowing streamers.
 - c. Dog shows evidence of separation distress when human partner leaves room. Dog greets human partner enthusiastically upon his/her return.
 - d. Dog seeks to maintain proximity to human partner when off-leash.
2. Dog settles (adopts a calm demeanor) and relaxes (displays extended settle-usually while lying down) within one minute being asked to do so by human partner in a quiet environment and within three minutes in a distracting environment.
3. Dog shows physical evidence of relaxation within two minutes of entering a chaotic public environment without handler prompt as determined by handler and independent trained observer.
4. Dog shows physical evidence of relaxation within one minute of meeting a new dog (with both dogs on-leash) as determined by human partner and independent trained observer.
5. Dog responds to human partner's recall with little or no delay from a distance of 100ft. in a distracting environment.
6. Dog accepts greeting from adults and children happily but calmly.
7. Dog will refrain from interacting with object or individual when asked politely by human partner to do so.
8. Dog seeks eye contact without prompting a minimum of twice per minute when moving with partner in public.

Certifications of Knowledge and Proficiency are offered to those who educate or partner with assistance dogs. Those applying for certification must pass (with 90% or better) written, oral, and practical examinations to assess knowledge, aptitude, and attitude.

Written examinations will include:

- General Anatomy
- Brain and Senses
- Cognition
- Emotionality
- Temperament/Personality
- Body Language
- Behavioral Norms
- Recognition and Mitigation of Distress/Anxiety
- Learning Theories
- Educational Standards
- Care, Custody, and Control Concerns
- Laws Pertaining to Assistance Dogs

Oral examinations will include:

- Explanation of the Bond-Based Approach
- Ethical Considerations
- Standards of Behavior and Conduct
- Interactions with Public
- Troubleshooting

Practical examinations will include:

Demonstration of Teaching and Utilization of:

- Synchronization of Demeanor
- Imitation of Physical Actions
- Inhibition Behaviors including Patience, Gentle, ICK, Freeze
- Productive and Receptive Communication including gaze alteration, answering binary questions, and socio-environmental cues
- Narrowing Attentional Focus including use of We Leash and Food-Sharing

Demonstration of Management Skill:

- Taking dog through 50' maze of treats and toys on a velcro leash without leash pulling apart or dog touching food or toys.

Taking dog through same maze with no leash.

Getting dog in and out of car safely.

Introducing dog to adult(s).

Introducing dog to child(ren) under 6 years of age.

Introducing dog to other animals including dogs and cats.

Taking dog on public transportation (subway when available).

Taking dog through crowded mall or similar indoor venue.

Walking dog through park or similar outdoor venue.

Getting dog on/off elevators.

Eating a meal in restaurant with dog.

Navigating public restroom with dog.