



**RECOVERY**  
**Public Access Test for**  
**RECOVERY Assistance Dogs**

\* RECOVERY is a charity for Wellbeing that spreads the word about how people can recover from Mental Health needs with the healing of memories through Creative Therapies.

\* RECOVERY Assistance Dogs for Mental Health are trained in three levels to assist Survivors to recover from their symptoms and find wellbeing.

\* We campaign against compulsion and for freedom of choice.

Registered Charity Number 1125395

**Name and address of Survivor** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Name of RECOVERY Assistance Dog** \_\_\_\_\_

**RECOVERY Public Access Test for RECOVERY Assistance Dogs**

Your Assistance dog will be able to accompany you into any publicly accessible area, including restaurants, museums, airports and airplanes, theatres, shops, shopping malls and parks, etc. If not already trained, you can train your own RECOVERY Dog with the help of your dog support worker to meet the specific needs of your disability.

**RECOVERY** recognizes that you may train your own dog and will supply you with identification after 6 months and a successful assessment to allow your dog to accompany you anywhere you want or need to go. The dog needs to be 6 months old atleast when it starts its training.

It's important that your dog is adequately trained to qualify as a RECOVERY Dog for Mental Health. Please review the statements below. When your dog meets these criteria, simply ask your Dog Support Worker to sign under the test. To register your dog/s for an Assessment simply send the completed form to RECOVERY.

**RECOVERY Public Access Test**

**Purpose:** The purpose of the RECOVERY Public Access Test is to ensure that dogs registered with RECOVERY are stable, well-behaved, and unobtrusive to the public; that you have control over the dog and that, as a team, you do not pose a public hazard.

**Dismissal:** Any dog that displays aggressive behaviour (growling, biting, raising hackles, showing teeth, etc.) or exhibits otherwise unmanageable behaviour will not qualify as an Assistance Dog.

**Bottom Line:** Your dog demonstrates that he/she is safe to be in public, and you demonstrate that you have control of your dog at all times.

**Note:** We acknowledge that some Assistance Dogs are not "on-the-lead" and are either carried or walk free.

**Commands:** Commands may be given to the animal verbally, via hand signals, or a combination of both.

1. **CONTROLLED UNLOAD OUT OF A VEHICLE:** The RECOVERY dog must wait until released before coming out of the vehicle. Once outside, it must wait quietly unless otherwise instructed by the Individual. The RECOVERY dog may not run around, be off lead, or ignore commands. Essentially, the animal should be unobtrusive and unloaded in the safest manner possible.

Date                      witnessed by Dog Support Worker                      (Signature)

2. **APPROACHING A BUILDING:** After unloading, the RECOVERY dog should stay in a relative heel position and not forge ahead or lag behind. The RECOVERY dog should not display a fear of cars or traffic noises and must display a relaxed attitude. When you stop for any reason, the support dog should also stop.

Date                      witnessed by Dog Support Worker.                      (Signature)

3. **CONTROLLED ENTRY THROUGH A DOORWAY:** Upon entering a building, the dog should not wander off or seek attention from the public. The dog should wait quietly until you are fully inside, then should calmly walk beside you. The dog must not pull or strain against the lead or try to push its way past the individual but should wait patiently while entry is completed.

Date                      witnessed by Dog Support Worker                      (Signature)

4. **HEELING THROUGH A BUILDING:** Once inside a building, you and your RECOVERY dog should be able to walk through the area in a controlled manner. The support dog should always be within touching distance where applicable or no greater than a foot away from you. The dog should not seek public attention except when you allow the dog to be petted for social inclusion or strain against the lead (except in cases where the support dog may be pulling your wheelchair, if applicable). The dog worker should readily adjust to speed changes, turn corners promptly, and travel through a crowded area without interacting with the public. In tight quarters, such as store aisles, the dog must be able to get out of the way of obstacles and not destroy merchandise by knocking it over or by playing with it.

Date                      witnessed by Dog Support Worker                      (Signature)

5. **SIX FOOT RECALL:** You should be able to sit your dog, leave it, travel six feet, then turn and call the dog to you. The service animal should respond promptly and not stop to solicit attention from the public or ignore the command. The dog should come close enough to you to be readily touched. The recall should be smooth and deliberate without your animal trudging to you or taking any detours along the way.

Date.                      witnessed by Dog Support Worker                      (Signature)

6. **SITS ON COMMAND:** Your RECOVERY dog must respond promptly each time you give it a sit command, with no more than two commands with no extraordinary gestures.

Date                      witnessed by Dog Support Worker                      (Signature)

7. **DOWNES ON COMMAND:** After your dog follows the down command, food should be dropped on the floor. Your dog should not break the down to go for the food or sniff at the food. You may give verbal and physical corrections to maintain the down, but without any extraordinary gestures. The second down will be executed, and then an adult should approach your dog. The dog should maintain the down and not solicit attention. If someone pets the animal, the dog must behave appropriately and not break the stay. The individual may give verbal and physical corrections if the dog begins to break the stay.

Date                      witnessed by Dog Support Worker                      (Signature)

8. **NOISE DISTRACTION:** Your dog may acknowledge nearby noises, but may not in any way show aggression or fear. A normal startle reaction is fine (the RECOVERY dog may jump and or turn), but the dog should quickly recover and continue along on the heel. The dog should not become aggressive, begin shaking, etc.

Date                      witnessed by Dog Support Worker                      (Signature)

9. **RESTAURANT:** While seated at a dining table (restaurant or other suitably alternative location), your dog should go under the table or, if size prevents that, stay close by the individual. If the dog is a very small breed and is placed on the seat beside you, it must lie down. The RECOVERY dog must sit or lie down and may move a bit for comfort during the meal, but should not be up and down a lot or need a lot of correction or reminding. The dog should not be fed in the restaurant but can have water or its own dog food.

Date                      witnessed by Dog Support Worker                      (Signature)

10. **OFF LEAD:** While your RECOVERY dog is on the leash, drop the leash while moving so it is apparent to the animal. You should be able to maintain control of the dog and the dog should follow you when you keep walking. Then you can get the leash back in its appropriate position. This

exercise will vary greatly depending on your disability. The main concern is that the dog be aware that the leash is dropped and that the person is able to maintain control of the dog and get the leash back into proper position.

Date                      witnessed by Dog Support Worker                      (Signature)

11. **CONTROLLED UNIT:** When you leave a building with your RECOVERY dog on leash, the animal should be in appropriate heel position and not display any fear of vehicle or traffic sounds.

Date                      witnessed by Dog Support Worker                      (Signature)

12. The dog needs to learn to be patted and fussed by passing members of the public. The survivor should recognise that having a RECOVERY dog means they will attract attention and people will want to know what it is all about. They should be able to talk about RECOVERY and its mission. This information is on the back of the Registered Dog Card and can be learned,

Date                      witnessed by Dog Support Worker                      (Signature)

13. The survivor should be able to respond politely and appropriately if an owner of a shop or an establishment confronts them asking them to leave because they do not allow dogs in. If after pointing out that the dog is an Emotional Assistance dog they insist that you leave then you should be able to do so without further argument. We have to recognise that RECOVERY Assistance Dogs for Mental Health are new to England although they have been in existence for some years in USA and Australia. Most places will be interested, keen and supportive of the RAD Programme. Eventually RECOVERY dogs will be accepted equally as well as Guide dogs are in UK.

Date                      witnessed by Dog Support Worker                      (signature)

14. When the survivor is emotionally upset, when they cry or raise their voice in an excited way the dog should be trained to come to the owner and offer their support and love. This can be in a variety of ways particular to each dog. This may include: the animal putting their nose under your hand and lifting up their head; jumping on to your lap (if they are small enough); or just coming close and making eye contact. The dog should not become excited or bark but should remain calm and in control of itself.

Date                      witnessed by Dog Support Worker                      (Signature)

15. The dog should be kept clean and tidy. If possible the dog should be brushed and bathed occasionally. We recommend dog wipes used sometimes so the dog smells clean. The dog must be house trained before it can be registered as a RECOVERY dog.

Date                      Witnessed by Dog Support Worker                      (Signature)

16. The Dog should be trained not to approach people until allowed to do so by the handler.

Date                      Witnessed by Dog Support Worker                      (Signature)

SEND OFF THIS DOCUMENT WHEN SIGNED TO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT YOUR DOG IS READY TO BE ASSESSED TO REGISTER YOUR RECOVERY ASSISTANCE DOG.