



Glossary of Service Dog Tasks

Below are some typical tasks that an FSD service dog can be trained to perform for you. Our dogs can also learn a number of specialized tasks depending on the unique needs of each client.

Mobility tasks

- Assist client with sitting up in bed
- Bring phone I think we can take out “landline” as we do work with cell phones too
- Counter exchange (dog uses mouth to deliver credit card from handler to cashier, then returns card to handler)
- Undress (dog helps tug off coat, pull off pants, pull off socks etc.) Just want to be clear on expectations as it is extremely difficult for a dog to put clothing ON a person, typically the task is to help take it OFF
- Find person (dog goes to find a specific person or any available person)
- Open/close doors (house/refrigerator/dresser)
- Pull up bedding
- Pull wheelchair short distances such as over a door jam
- Push doorbell
- Push elevator button
- Push handicap button
- Push Lifeline button/pull emergency cord
- Remove laundry from washer/dryer (front loading only)
- Pull laundry basket
- Reposition handler’s legs/ /arms in bed or wheelchair
- Retrieve item from floor/container/refrigerator and place in hand or lap
- Turn lights on or off

Neurocognitive tasks

- Bark to alert (dog barks to alert people that the handler has fallen, or to draw attention when the dog cannot find a person)
- Behind (dog stands closely behind handler to create a buffer in public places)
- Check out room (dog enters room ahead of handler, walks around the perimeter, and then returns to handler)
- Cover (dog places entire body over handler’s body and remains there to provide weighted pressure)
- Front (dog stands closely in front of handler to create a buffer in public places)
- Between (dog sits or stands between handler’s legs providing close interaction)
- About (dog sits facing behind handler, wagging tail alerts handler to a person approaching from behind)
- Kisses (dog licks handler’s/child’s hands or face)
- Lap (dog places front paws or legs across handler’s/child’s lap)
- Lean (dog leans into handler’s body to provide comfort)
- Nudge (dog nudges handler with nose to interrupt flashback or stimming behavior)
- Ping (dog jumps up on handler to interrupt flashback when nudging is not successful)
- Toes (dog places paws or body on handler’s feet to ground them)
- Sleep with handler/child
- Snuggle (dog cuddles close to handler/child)