

The behaviors in this list are purposely not arranged by disability, symptom, or condition. Every person's situation presents differently and what mitigates one individual's disability may not mitigate the same limitation for another person. Similarly, a specific behavior has the potential to mitigate a wide variety of disabilities.

Remember, in order for a dog to be considered a Service Dog under the ADA, the tasks that they perform must be *directly related to and mitigate* their disabled handler's disabilities. The dog must have two clearly defined tasks.

**Quite a few of these tasks involve an Alert. An Alert can be many different behaviors and it is important to consider that not all alert behaviors are appropriate for all situations (ex. barking in a library). When choosing an Alert behavior you should carefully think of all the places your Alert could occur and choose accordingly. Some possible alerts are: Nose Bumping Hands, Nose Bumping a Knee, Licking Hands, pawing a Knee, Bowing, Spinning in Place, Resting Chin on a Knee, Retrieving a Bringsel, and many more...*

Task List

Mental Health Related Tasks

1. Alert Family Member
2. Alert for Help
3. Alert Handler to Another Person or Child Crying/Calling/Yelling
4. Alert to Alarm
5. Alert to Approaching Car
6. Alert to Car Horn
7. Alert to Doorbell/Knocking
8. Alert to Handler's Name
9. Alert to Intruder
10. Alert to Person Coming Up Behind
11. Alert to Phone
12. Alert to Siren
13. Alert to Sounds
14. Alert to Unheard Dropped Item
15. Cover
16. Crying Interruption/Response
17. DPT (Deep Pressure Therapy)
18. Find Handler - Can be both medical and mental related
19. Flashback Interruption
20. Interrupt Dissociation
21. Interrupt Freezing Behavior
22. Interrupt Harmful Behaviors
23. Interrupt Panic/Anxiety Attack
24. Interrupt Repetitive Behaviors

25. Interrupt Scratching/Skin Picking
26. Lick Face/Hands - Can be both medical and mental related
27. Nightmare Interruption
28. Panic/Anxiety Alert
29. Provide Distraction
30. Provide Excuse to Leave Uncomfortable Situation
31. Refuse to Move Forward if Not Safe - Can be both medical and mental related
32. Respond to Anxious Behaviors
33. Tactile Stimulation - Can be both medical and mental related
34. Watch My "6"

Medical Related Tasks

1. Alert Family Member
2. Alert for Help
3. Alert Handler to Another Person or Child Crying/Calling/Yelling
4. Alert to Alarm
5. Alert to Approaching Car
6. Alert to Car Horn
7. Alert to Doorbell/Knocking
8. Alert to Handler's Name
9. Alert to Intruder
10. Alert to Person Coming Up Behind
11. Alert to Phone
12. Alert to Siren
13. Alert to Sounds
14. Alert to Unheard Dropped Item
15. Alert to Allergen in Food
16. Alert to Allergen in the Area
17. Alert to Dangerous Medical Levels in the Body (Blood Pressure, Cortisol, etc) *It has not been scientifically proven that these can be trained.
18. Alert to Seizure *It has not been scientifically proven that this can be trained.
19. Answer the Door
20. Assist with Grounding
21. Assist with Position Changes (Sitting to Standing, Laying to Sitting, etc)
22. Assist with Transfers
23. Block
24. Block from Moving Towards Danger (busy road, away from home, etc)
25. Call 911 on a Dog-Friendly Phone
26. Call Pre-Programmed Number on a Dog-Friendly Phone
27. Call Suicide Hotline on a Dog-Friendly Phone
28. Carry Grocery Bags
29. Carry Items Up or Down Stairs
30. Clean Up Items on the Floor (put in basket)
31. Clean Up Trash on the Floor (put in wastebasket)
32. Close Bathroom Stall Door

33. Close Washer/Dryer (with paw or nose)
34. Closing Doors (pulling closed with tug)
35. Closing Doors (pushing closed with nose or paws)
36. Counter-Balance
37. Deliver Credit Card or Money to a Cashier
38. Deliver Item to Person
39. Deliver Items from Cashier to Handler
40. Drag Heavy Items to Specific Location
41. Drag Laundry Basket
42. Find a Bathroom
43. Find a Specific Person
44. Find Assigned Seat (at school, work, etc)
45. Find Disabled Handler (runners, wanderers, lost handler)
46. Find Elevator/Stairs/Escalator
47. Find Empty Seat
48. Find Handler - Can be both medical and mental related
49. Find the Car
50. Follow Designated Person
51. Forward Momentum (in a wheelchair)
52. Forward Momentum (when walking)
53. Go Find Help
54. Guide Home
55. Guide to a Safe Place
56. Guide to an Exit
57. Guide to Specific Item
58. Guide to Specific Location
59. Guide to Specific Person
60. Help Sit Up if Slumped Over
61. Help with Turning Over
62. High Blood Sugar Alert
63. Indicate Barrier (while guiding)
64. Indicate Curbs (while guiding)
65. Indicate Drop-Offs (while guiding)
66. Indicate Stairs/Steps (while guiding)
67. Lead Around Ground Hazards (while guiding)
68. Lead Around Low Hanging Items (while guiding)
69. Lead Around Stationary Items (while guiding)
70. Lick Face/Hands - Can be both medical and mental related
71. Low Blood Sugar Alert
72. Medication Reminders
73. Open Doors (handicapped button)
74. Open Doors (pulling open using a tug)
75. Open Doors (pushing open with nose or paws)
76. Open Sliding Door
77. Open/Close Bathroom Door

78. Open/Close Cabinet/Drawer
79. Open/Close Dishwasher
80. Open/Close Refrigerator
81. Paws Up to Help with Putting on Dog Gear
82. Provide Momentum Up Inclines
83. Provide Momentum Up Stairs
84. Provide Pressure on Chest to Produce Cough
85. Pull and Hold Heavy Door
86. Pull Blankets Off/On
87. Pull Blinds/Curtains Closed/Open
88. Pull Handler with Strap (to change positions)
89. Push Floor Button to Turn on Lamp
90. Push Paralyzed Limb Back into Place
91. Refuse to Move Forward if Not Safe - Can be both medical and mental related
92. Remove Socks or Other Clothing
93. Respond to Anxious Behaviors
94. Retrieve Clothing Items (teach your dog to retrieve)
95. Retrieve Dog Bowls
96. Retrieve Dropped Items
97. Retrieve Emergency Medication
98. Retrieve Item from Store Shelf
99. Retrieve Items When Pointed To
100. Retrieve Juice/Gatorade/Etc
101. Retrieve Mail or Newspaper
102. Retrieve Mobility Aid (Wheelchair, Cane, Walker, etc)
103. Retrieve Named Items
104. Retrieve Phone
105. Retrieve Purse/Wallet
106. Retrieve Shoes
107. Retrieve Tissue (when crying, sneezing, coughing)
108. Retrieve Towel (after shower, bath)
109. Retrieve TV Remote
110. Retrieve Vest/Harness/Leash/Gear
111. Retrieve Water to Take Medication
112. Roll Handler onto Their Side (by nudging, pulling clothing)
113. Routine Reminders (feed dog, eat meals, go to sleep, etc)
114. Tactile Stimulation - Can be both medical and mental related
115. Throw Away Trash
116. Turn off Lights (with paw, nose or teeth)
117. Turn on Lights (with paw, nose or teeth)
118. Unload Grocery Items
119. Unload Items from the Washer or Dryer
120. Wake Handler
121. Wheelchair Pulling