

BOARD OF GUIDE DOGS FOR THE BLIND

Proposed Language

(1) Amend Section 2260 of Division 22 of Title 16 of the California Code of Regulations to read as follows:

§ 2260. Completion of Requirements for License as Instructor.

(a) If ~~Aan~~ applicant for an instructor's license must have had three years of full time experience, including verifies training at least of 22 person-dog units guide dog teams that have successfully completed instruction. ~~but cannot show the required three years' experience, additional experience in kennel work or dog training only may be credited, provided it is as an apprentice in a guide dog school under a qualified instructor meeting standards equivalent to schools and instructors licensed by the board.~~

(b) ~~If license as an instructor is issued under the "equivalent" provision of Section 7209, the licensee will be required to make up the lacking experience factor within one year, and thus meet the specified requirement for both years of experience and handling person/dog units. Otherwise, the license will be revoked.~~ The experience shall be obtained while under the supervision of an instructor that meets standards equivalent to those licensed by the Board, as determined by the Board.

c) The experience shall include training dogs in all aspects required by Sections 2266 and 2282.

d) "Full time" means an average of 32 hours per week.

e) The applicant must submit verification to the Board that his experience meets the requirements of this section. The verification must come from an individual in a supervisory position from the guide dog school where the experience was obtained. The verification must state that the applicant has met the requirements as specified in subsection (a).

NOTE: Authority cited: Sections 7208 and 7209, Business and Professions Code.
Reference: Section 7209, Business and Professions Code

(2) Amend Section 2266 of Division 22 of Title 16 of the California Code of Regulations to read as follows:

§ 2266. Apprentice Standards; Minimum Instruction.

(a) A school shall not employ or retain in its employ an apprentice who: ~~(1) is~~ not suited temperamentally and otherwise to work with blind persons in the use of guide dogs.

~~(2) Has not had at least one year's actual experience in working with the training of dogs.~~

(b) Each guide dog school licensed by the board shall require every apprentice to undergo a systematic organized program of instruction which has been approved by the board. Such organized program of instruction shall be under a licensed instructor and shall include the following subjects:

- (1) Care and selection of dogs;
- (2) Obedience training of dogs;
- (3) Training of dogs preparatory to becoming guides for blind people;
- (4) Required reading on blindness and its effects;
- (5) Course of instruction in the California Guide Dogs for the Blind Act and the regulations of the board;
- (6) Basic principles of travel and mobility training for blind people.

(c) No apprentice shall be permitted to ~~train~~ instruct any guide dog team except under the direct and immediate supervision of a licensed instructor, and until he has completed not less than twenty hours of such instruction, ~~a week for a period of not less than one year.~~

NOTE: Authority cited: Section 7208, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Section 7208 Business and Professions Code.

(3) Renumber Section 2282 to Section 2282.1 and amend Section 2282.1 of Division 22 of Title 16 of the California Code of Regulations to read as follows:

§ 2282.1 Preliminary Training Assignment of Dogs.

Before a dog may be assigned to a client within the prior 60 day period, an instructor shall have verified that the dog meets the requirements as set forth by section 2282. Within the six months immediately preceding the assignment of a guide dog to a blind person the dog shall have received a minimum of ninety (90) days of preliminary training satisfactory to the Board.

NOTE: Authority cited: Section 7208, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Section 7208, Business and Professions Code.

(4) Renumber Section 2282.1 to Section 2282 and amend Section 2282 of Division 22 of Title 16 of the California Code of Regulations to read as follows:

§ 2282.4 Required Training.

(a) Guide dogs shall be trained and tested to:

(a1) Stop at the end of each block. Acknowledge the beginning and end of a block, regardless of curb type.

(b2) Stop at curbs, doors, stairs, sharp descents or rises, or other obstacles. Stop or pause at notable changes of elevation in walking surfaces.

(c3) Obey commands. Respond appropriately to basic directional guide work and obedience commands.

(d4) Cross streets or alleys straight to the other side. Work sidewalkless and rounded corner areas and appropriately acknowledge intersecting streets.

(e5) Clear all obstacles and persons. Move the handler away from obstacles or stop when there is insufficient room for clearance.

(f6) Stop for approaching vehicles. Maintain a safe distance or buffer from potentially threatening vehicles. Target the appropriate upcurb location.

(g7) Pass other dogs, cats, or birds without undue distraction, and not be unduly distracted by noises. Refocus when directed on its working task when distracted by certain stimulants such as persons, animals, or food.

(h8) Guide a person to a bus or streetcar and ride with the person. Under direction of a handler, negotiate public transportation and ride appropriately.

(9) Work at a consistent steady pace, providing safe, effective and fluid movement appropriate to its handler and travel conditions.

(10) Behave appropriately in all locations both in and out of harness.

(11) Effectively work in buildings, find doors on command, and negotiate stairs, ramps, and elevators as needed.

(12) Display suitable house manners: free of destructive habits, excessive barking and indiscriminate relieving; be handled easily by client for general care and management; demonstrate the ability to behave properly when left alone for a reasonable period of time.

(b) Guide dogs shall be tested by a qualified handler under blindfold. A verification of successful completion of the required training and testing shall be retained by the school in its records.

NOTE: Authority cited: Section 7208, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Section 7208, Business and Professions Code.