



APPROVED MINUTES

Practice Task Force
Monday, August 31, 2009
350 Los Ranchitos Road
San Rafael, CA 94903
(866) 452-5962 Toll Free Call in #
Conference Code – 05011#

13445 Glenoaks Boulevard
Sylmar, CA 91342
(818) 833-6453

60740 Dillon Road
Whitewater, CA 92282
(760) 329-1282

School Representatives

Chuck Jordan (GDA) - Absent
Kathy Kelly (GDB)
Bob Wendler (GDD)

Guests

Ken Metz (California Council of the Blind (CCB) & Guide Dog Users of California)
Sheila Styron (Guide Dog Users Inc.)
David Ponce (Guide Dogs of America)
Frank Welte (CCB)
Kamilla Ryer (CCB)
Debra Gershin

Executive Officer

Antonette Sorrick

Legal Counsel

Albert Balingit
Doreathea Johnson

Board Staff

Susan Cox

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Roll Call - (A. Sorrick)

Executive Officer Sorrick welcomed all participants to the conference and began the meeting at 11:10 AM. Roll was taken and Task Force Member Jordan was reflected as absent.

2. Task Force Leadership Election – (A. Balingit)

Due to two out of three Task Force Members present, the Members decided to put leadership election off until the next meeting.

3. Approval of Task Force Minutes January 27, 2009

The motion to approve the Task Force Minutes of January 27, 2009 was made by Task Force Member Kelly. Task Force Member Wendler seconded the motion.

Vote: motion passed.

4. Approval of Task Force Minutes March 25, 2009

The motion to approve the Task Force Minutes of March 25, 2009 was made by Task Force Member Kelly. Task Force Member Wendler seconded the motion.

Vote: motion passed.

5. Regulatory Discussion - Section 2276 (Instruction)

a. Amendment decreasing the number of hours required for first time and repeat guide dog students

Executive Officer Sorrick updated the Task Force regarding the submission of new recommended language for Section 2276. A regulatory package will be submitted to Office of Administrative Law (OAL) for review. A hearing date will be reported soon.

b. Amendment to address minimum theoretical instruction - 2282.1 (Required Training for Guide Dogs) - (All)

Executive Officer Sorrick read the current language of Section 2282.1. This section currently states:

Guide dogs shall be trained to:

(a) Stop at the end of each block.

(b) Stop at curbs, doors, stairs, sharp descents or rises, or other obstacles.

(c) Obey commands.

(d) Cross streets or alleys straight to the other side.

(e) Clear all obstacles and persons.

(f) Stop for approaching vehicles.

(g) Pass other dogs, cats, or birds without undue distraction, and not be unduly distracted by noises.

(h) Guide do person to a bus or streetcar and ride with the person.

c. Review Side-by-Side Comparison with International Federation of Guide Dog Schools (IGDF) standards

Executive Officer Sorrick read through line-by-line, each of the competencies as set forth by the IGDF versus the Board's Section 2282.1. The Task Force either

decided that the IGDF was already covered by 2282.1, or they recommended adding additional language. The comparison discussion was as follows:

IGDF: Conscientious obeying of obedience commands

- **Commands such as sit, heel, sit, down, stay, etc.**
- **The dog must demonstrate its competency in recognizing and responding to specific search and find commands.**

Board: (c) Obey commands.

Task Force Member Kelly motioned to change 2282.1 to read "Obey commonly used obedience commands." Task Force Member Wendler seconded the motion. Task Force Member Kelly withdrew her motion and motioned to change 2282.1 to read,

Obey obedience commands including but not limited to sit, heel, down, stay, and come.

Task Force Member Wendler seconded the motion.

Vote: motion passes.

IGDF: Recall

- **The dog must return immediately and make physical contact with its handler in response to hearing its name together with the command "come"**

Board: (c) Obey commands.

No recommendation was made on this section.

IGDF: Tension/Speed Control

- **A guide dog in harness must be relaxed at walk without excessive pulling, bending its back, or crabbing. It must concentrate naturally on the route ahead.**
- **The dog must work at a consistent steady pace, providing safe, effective and fluent movement appropriate to its handler and travel conditions.**
- **Prior to allocation a Senior Guide Dog Instructor must test each dog's work.**
- **Each dog must be worked during its last six weeks of training with the handler blindfolded.**

Board: No equivalent section.

Task Force Member Kelly recommending adding the following language to Section 2282.1:

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

A guide dog in harness must be relaxed without excessive pulling, bending its back, or crabbing. It must concentrate naturally on the route ahead.

Prior to allocation a licensed guide dog instructor must test each dog's work.

IGDF: Obstacles

- **These must be avoided in such a way that there is sufficient clearance for a handler to continue on his/her way safely.**
- **If an obstacle obstructs the whole pavement, the dog must avoid the obstruction and at the same time indicate the need for the handler to return onto the pavement at the first opportunity. The dog must also avoid higher-level obstacles that jeopardize the handler's head or upper body.**

Board: (b) Stop at curbs, doors, stairs, sharp descents or rises, or other obstacles. (e) Clear all obstacles and persons.

No recommendation was made on this section.

IGDF: Pavement/Sidewalk

- **The dog must maintain a central position wherever possible and indicate the presence of the pavement/sidewalk. By sitting or standing as close to the edge as practicable, thereby assisting the handler to step down into or out of the road safely.**
- **The dog must also locate the correct places to cross the road.**

Board: (a) Stop at the end of each block. (b) Stop at curbs, doors, stairs, sharp descents or rises, or other obstacles. (c) Cross streets or alleys straight to the other side.

Task Force Member Wendler motioned to keep current section (b) as written.
Task Force Member Kelly seconded the motion.

Vote: Motion passed.

IGDF: Street Crossing

- **The dog must locate pedestrian traffic light controls, where available.**
- **Streets must be crossed, on command, in a straight line unless there is a danger for the handler, in which case the dog must wait.**

- **In the event that approaching traffic becomes a danger or where there is an obstacle on the opposite side of the street, the dog must act to ensure the safety of the handler.**

Board: (c) Obey commands. (d) Cross streets or alleys straight to the other side.
(f) Stop for approaching vehicles.

Task Force Member Kelly motioned to add:

In the event that approaching traffic becomes a danger or where there is an obstacle on the opposite side of the street, the dog must act to ensure the safety of the handler.

Task Force Member Kelly also wanted to amend section (f) to read:

Streets must be crossed, on command, in a straight line unless there is a danger for the handler, in which case the dog must wait.

Task Force Member Wendler seconded the motion.

Vote: Motion passed.

IGDF: Traffic Training

- **The guide dog handler must assume responsibility for his/her own safety prior to and while crossing roads.**
- **The dog must be capable of responding appropriately to traffic when guiding the handler across roads.**
- **The dog must be able to demonstrate that it can judge speed and distance by reacting to oncoming vehicles, at varying distances, appropriate to their speed.**

Board: (d) Cross streets or alleys straight to the other side.

Task Force Member Kelly motioned to add the following language to Section 2282.1:

The guide dog handler must assume responsibility for his/her own safety prior to and while crossing roads.

The dog must be capable of responding appropriately to traffic when guiding the handler across roads.

The dog must be able to demonstrate that it can judge speed and distance by reacting to oncoming vehicles, at varying distances, appropriate to their speed.

IGDF: Distractions

- **It is quite normal for a dog to be distracted by certain stimulants such as other animals or food; however it must readily return concentration to its working task when directed.**

Board: (g) Pass other dogs, cats, or birds without undue distraction, and not be unduly distracted by noises.

Legal Counsel Balingit recommended the following language amend section (g):

Refocus when directed on its working task when distracted by certain stimulants such as persons, animals or food.

Task Force Member Kelly motioned to approve the language as recommended by Legal Counsel Balingit. Task Force Member Wendler seconded the motion.

Vote: Motion passed.

IGDF: Public Places

- **The dog must be well behaved in all locations both on and off duty.**
- **The dog must remain close to his/her handler and stay where directed.**

Board: No equivalent section.

Task Force Member Kelly motioned to add the following to Section 2282.1:

Behave appropriately in all locations both in and out of harness.

Task Force Member Wendler seconded the motion.

Vote: Motion passed.

IGDF: Public Transport

- **The dog must show no distrust or concern at the approach of public transport.**
- **On command the dog must find the entrance of the vehicle, board in a calm manner, indicate an empty seat, if appropriate and remain where directed without hindrance to other passengers.**
- **When getting off, the dog must find the way out, wait at the first step, and then precede his/her handler (as appropriate), when directed, at a speed appropriate to the handler's needs and the environment.**

Board: (h) Guide a person to a bus or streetcar and ride with the person.

Task Force Member Kelly motioned to amend (h) to read as follows:

Guide a person to negotiate public transportation and ride with the person.

IGDF: Rural Walking Ability

- **The dog must be capable of working in a situation, where there are no defined footpaths, by the edge of a road.**
- **Dogs trained to work regularly in such areas must be capable of consistently maintaining distance, close to the verge, whilst working on the left or right side of the road.**

Board: No equivalent section.

Task Force Member Kelly motioned to add to Section 2282.1 the following:

Work in areas where are no sidewalks.

Task Force Member Wendler seconded the motion.

Vote: Motion passed.

IGDF: Doors

- **These must be found on command.**

Board: (c) Obey commands.

Task Force member Kelly motioned to add to Section 2282.1 the following:

Find doors on command.

6. Statutory Discussion - Business and Professions Code Section 7210.7 (In-Home Training)

a. Update on Status of Statutory Change

Executive Officer Sorrick notified the Task Force that a legislative proposal was submitted to amend B & P Code § 7210.7.

b. Additional Code Section Relating to Definition of Professional Competence, Negligence or Appropriate Professional Conduct

* Review sampling of other board's language

Board Counsels Balingit and Johnson reported that the Department of Consumer Affairs' Legal Office was working on standard language for boards to use and would make a recommendation for the Board at an upcoming meeting.

7. Agenda Items for the Next Meeting - (All)

The Task Force will continue its discussion on Section 2282.1. Additionally, the Task Force expressed an interest in discussing Section 2286 regarding examinations.

8. Public Comment on Items Not on the Agenda

Ken Metz commented that it was nice to have input from trainers and handlers alike in the competency standards for the guide dogs. He felt the group took in all comments with sincerity.

9. Adjournment

Task Force Member Wendler motioned to adjourn at 1:43 PM. Task Force Member Kelly seconded the motion.

Vote: Motion passed.