



# **Great Dane Heroes Service Dog Program**

## **Comprehensive Service Dog Training Task Reference Guide**

This guide provides an extensive list of service dog training categories and specific tasks that Great Dane Heroes Service Dogs may be trained to perform. Each category addresses the medical, mobility, psychiatric, sensory, and protective needs of U.S. military veterans and individuals requiring assistance for physical or emotional disabilities.

### **■ Medical Alert & Response Dogs**

- Detect and alert to blood sugar changes (Diabetes Alert).
- Respond to seizures (positioning, protection, fetching medication).
- Alert to heart rate or blood-pressure changes.
- Detect allergens such as peanuts, shellfish, or gluten.
- Alert handler to fainting or syncopal episodes (POTS).
- Retrieve medication, juice, or emergency devices.
- Activate medical alert systems or fetch help.

### **■ Mobility Assistance Dogs**

- Provide counterbalance for walking or standing.
- Assist rising from seated or fallen positions.
- Retrieve dropped items, open doors, carry items.
- Assist with wheelchair mobility and access buttons.
- Turn lights on/off, hold or close doors.
- Support physical transfers between bed, chair, or vehicle.

### **■ Psychiatric & Emotional Support Dogs**

- Interrupt panic or anxiety attacks with deep pressure therapy.
- Wake handler from nightmares or flashbacks.
- Create physical buffer in crowds ('block' and 'cover' tasks).

- Lead handler to exits during panic attacks.
- Retrieve medication or phone during distress.
- Detect early signs of anxiety through scent or heart rate changes.
- Encourage grounding through tactile contact or nudging.

## ■■■■ Sensory Assistance Dogs

- Guide visually impaired handlers around obstacles or stairs.
- Stop at curbs and crosswalks; signal when safe to proceed.
- Locate specific rooms or objects.
- Alert to important sounds (alarms, doorbells, crying babies).
- Wake handler to smoke or emergency alarms.

## ■■ Environmental & Safety Response Dogs

- Alert to oncoming vehicles, obstacles, or hazards.
- Maintain personal space boundaries in crowds.
- Warn of smoke, gas, or carbon monoxide alarms.
- Retrieve emergency medication (e.g., EpiPen).
- Activate emergency call systems.
- Stay with handler until help arrives.

## ■ Cognitive & Reminder Assistance Dogs

- Remind handler to take medications or perform daily tasks.
- Retrieve medication bottles or water at scheduled times.
- Alert to alarms, timers, or unsafe household conditions.
- Interrupt repetitive or unsafe behaviors.
- Notify caregiver or family during disorientation.

## ■ Specialized Veteran-Focused Tasks

- Wake from night terrors and provide grounding touch.
- Perform deep pressure therapy for stress and hypervigilance.
- Create physical barrier to reduce social anxiety.
- Assist with reintegration into public settings.
- Provide companionship and calm during therapy sessions.
- Engage with community outreach and veteran support events.