

Dog Guide / O&M Fact Sheet



The purpose of this Fact Sheet is to provide clarity to Orientation and Mobility Specialists (O&M) and Guide Dog Mobility Instructors (GDMI) on the scope of practice when working as an O&M with a dog guide handler.

O&Ms can provide three types of client / traveller goals when it comes to dog guides:

- 1) Prerequisite skills for a prospective dog guide user. This should be done in conjunction with a GDMI to have specific details on what / where the individual needs to build skills in order to successfully train with and work with a future dog guide.
- 2) Concept and Route development.
 - To provide orientation for the traveller on a specific route.
 - To provide concept development for the traveller.
 - If the O&M identifies an issue from the dog guide or the team:
 - Raise the observation with the handler,
 - With the client's permission, notify the GDMI,
 - If the client does not want a specific GDMI contacted, the O&M should recommend the client contact their GDMI of choice and be there to support the conversation, if necessary.

“Where the behaviour of the dog guide is considered inappropriate or is negatively impacting the mobility of the dog user, the client should be encouraged to seek support from their dog guide service provider.” International Guide Dog Federation representative, Paul Adrian.

- 3) Electronic Travel Aids. Where a client requests training in a secondary mobility aid, this can be provided by an O&M, regardless of their choice in primary mobility aid.

Resources

- International Guide Dog Federation – email correspondence with Paul Adrian, IGDF representative, on 17 August 2022.
- *Foundations of Orientation and Mobility*, Volume II: Instructional Strategies and Practical Applications, 3rd edition, Chapter 19