Four-Question Animal Support Worksheet

A structured preliminary review of animal-related support

Client name | **Date**

Condition / disability under consideration

Animal support being considered

- ☐ Service dog
- ☐ Psychiatric service dog
- ☐ Guide dog
- ☐ Hearing dog
- ☐ Mobility assistance dog
- ☐ Medical alert / response dog
- ☐ Emotional support animal
- ☐ Therapy animal
- ☐ Companion animal
- ☐ Facility animal

01 Who is the animal primarily helping?

- ☐ Individual with documented disability
- ☐ School, workplace, or program
- ☐ Family member or caregiver
- ☐ General household
- ☐ Treatment provider or facility
- ☐ Multiple individuals

02 What is the animal trained to do?

Describe who the animal is expected to help, why help is needed, and what the help would be:

Who is being helped?	Why is help needed?	What will the help be?

Specific trained task or behavior

What triggers the task?

- ☐ Verbal command
- ☐ Sound
- ☐ Hand signal
- ☐ Mobility need
- ☐ Environmental cue
- ☐ Safety risk
- ☐ Medical or psychiatric symptom
- ☐ Other: _____

Training status

- ☐ Already trained
- ☐ Training in progress but not completed
- ☐ Currently in training
- ☐ No specific task training identified
- ☐ Unknown

Who provided or will provide the training?

The behavior is more accurately described as

- ☐ A trained disability-related task
- ☐ Companionship
- ☐ Unclear
- ☐ General obedience
- ☐ Therapeutic presence
- ☐ Other: _____
- ☐ Emotional comfort
- ☐ Facility-based interaction

Use with professional judgment and supporting documentation.

Developed and distributed by

T. SCOTT SMITH CONSULTING

Mailing Address: 2851 Johnston Street, Suite 527 Lafayette, LA 70503

T. Scott Smith, PhD
Phone: (337) 501-2104
scott@tscottsmithconsulting.com

Physical Address: 600 Jefferson Street, Suite 1201 Lafayette, LA 70503

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03 Where is the animal expected to work?

- ☐ Home
- ☐ School
- ☐ Public settings
- ☐ Residential program
- ☐ Community
- ☐ Workplace
- ☐ Treatment facility
- ☐ Other: _____
- ☐ Medical appointments
- ☐ Transportation
- ☐ Court or legal setting

Describe the setting-specific need

Setting considerations

- ☐ Client can safely handle the animal in this setting
- ☐ Setting has specific rules or access requirements
- ☐ Caregiver support is available if needed
- ☐ Environmental barriers may affect feasibility
- ☐ Animal behavior is appropriate for the setting
- ☐ Additional review is needed

04 How does the trained behavior mitigate the documented limitation?

Documented limitation or safety risk

Trained task connected to that limitation

Expected functional benefit

- ☐ Improved safety
- ☐ Improved psychiatric stability
- ☐ Increased independence
- ☐ Improved communication / alerting
- ☐ Improved mobility
- ☐ Reduced caregiver burden
- ☐ Improved medical response
- ☐ Improved participation in daily activities

Explain the connection between the limitation and the task

Alternative supports considered

- ☐ Assistive technology
- ☐ Personal care assistance
- ☐ Environmental modification
- ☐ Durable medical equipment
- ☐ Therapy / counseling
- ☐ Transportation support
- ☐ Home modification
- ☐ Medication / medical management
- ☐ Caregiver support
- ☐ Other: _____

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Preliminary classification & recommendation

Based on the review, animal support is best characterized as

- ☐ Service dog
- ☐ Psychiatric service dog
- ☐ Guide dog
- ☐ Hearing dog
- ☐ Mobility assistance dog
- ☐ Medical alert / response dog
- ☐ Emotional support animal
- ☐ Therapy animal
- ☐ Companion animal
- ☐ Facility animal
- ☐ Insufficient information to classify
- ☐ Other: _____

At this stage, the recommendation appears to be

- ☐ Supported as a disability-related service dog recommendation
- ☐ Potentially supportable, but additional documentation is needed
- ☐ More accurately described as emotional support or companionship
- ☐ More accurately described as therapy-animal or facility-animal involvement
- ☐ Not sufficiently supported for inclusion as a life care planning item
- ☐ Outside the current referral question

Additional information needed before a final recommendation

Suggested recommendation language

If supported

A trained (Service Animal Classification) may be considered to assist (Client Name) by performing the specific task(s) of (Tasks to be Performed) in the setting(s) of (Where / when the tasks will be performed). This recommendation is based on the documented limitation of (Specific disability or need) and should be considered in relation to handler suitability, caregiver support, training requirements, safety, sustainability, and reasonable alternatives.

If not yet supported

At this time, the available information does not clearly establish the proposed animal support performs a trained disability-related task that mitigates a documented functional limitation. Additional information is needed regarding the client's specific limitation, the animal's trained task, the expected setting of use, handler suitability, and the relationship between the task and the client's functional needs.

Professional summary / individualized recommendation (optional)

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Lafayette, LA 70503