9-3-2012

Effects of Service Dogs Partnered with People with Mobility Challenges

Terry K. Crowe
Suzanne Perea-Burns
Jessica Salazar Sedillo
Ingrid C. Hendrix
Melissa Winkle

See next page for additional authors

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalrepository.unm.edu/hslic-posters-presentations

Recommended Citation

This Presentation is brought to you for free and open access by the Research and Scholarship at UNM Digital Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in Posters and Presentations by an authorized administrator of UNM Digital Repository. For more information, please contact disc@unm.edu.
Authors
Terry K. Crowe, Suzanne Perea-Burns, Jessica Salazar Sedillo, Ingrid C. Hendrix, Melissa Winkle, and Jean Deitz
**Effects of Service Dogs Partnered with People with Mobility Challenges**

Terry K. Crowe, Ph.D., OTR/L, FAOTA, Suzanne Perea-Burns, MOTR/L, Jessica Salazar Sedillo, MOTS, Ingrid C. Hendrix, MILS, AHIP, Melissa Winkle, OTR/L, & Jean Deitz, Ph.D., OTR/L, FAOTA

University of New Mexico, School of Medicine, Occupational Therapy Graduate Program

---

**Background Information**

- The use of service dogs in therapeutic interventions is a growing trend in healthcare (Barker, Pandurangi, & Best, 2003; Copses, Cottos, & Miller, 2008)

- Research has shown that more social greetings and approaches were made to individuals with service dogs (Valentine, Kiddoo, & LaFleur, 1993; Hart, Hart, & Bergin, 1987)

- Service dogs have been found to assist individuals with disabilities with functional performance tasks such as opening doors, retrieving items, and assisting in home and community mobility (Fairman & Huebner, 2000; Lane, McNicholas, & Collins, 1998; Rintala, Matamoros, & Seitz, 2008)

- Research Questions: (1) What are the effects of service dogs on functional performance for people with mobility challenges? (2) What are the effects of service dogs on social interaction in the community for people with mobility challenges?

---

**Methods**

Participants:
- Three adult women
- Have a physical disability that requires use of power mobility
- Have a service dog trained by Assistance Dogs of the West (ADW)

Research Design:
- Single Subject Design (Alternating Treatment)

Procedure:
- Study was approved by the University of New Mexico HRPO
- Percentage of agreement (90% or more) was established by each of the 5 data collectors and the PI (Dr. Crowe) prior to data collection and on the 1st, 6th, and 12th sessions
- 12 data collection sessions (6 with dog, 6 without dog)

- Functional performance was measured in the participant’s home or office and social interaction was measured in local grocery stores
- The Functional Performance Form was used to measure the amount of time and perceived level of effort for each participant to complete two tasks
- Two functional tasks were pre-determined by the participants that could be done with or without the assistance of their service dog
- The Social Interaction Form was used to assess each participant’s number of interactions with others at a grocery store as well as level of satisfaction

---

**Results**

**Functional Performance**

- Participant 1
  - Time: Picking Up Keys
  - Effort: Picking Up Keys
- Participant 2
  - Time: Picking Up Fanny Pack
  - Effort: Picking Up Fanny Pack
- Participant 3
  - Time: Picking Pen Off Floor
  - Effort: Picking Pen Off Floor

**Social Interaction**

- Participant 1
  - Social Interaction
- Participant 2
  - Social Interaction
- Participant 3
  - Social Interaction

**Satisfaction**

Perceived satisfaction of social interactions were rated on a subjective, Likert-scale (1 being very unsatisfied and 10 being very satisfied)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Average Satisfaction with Service Dog</th>
<th>Average Satisfaction without Service Dog</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participant 1</td>
<td>6.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participant 2</td>
<td>9.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participant 3</td>
<td>5.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**Conclusions**

Functional Performance:
- The results indicate that having a service dog decreases the amount of effort needed for some daily activities for people with disabilities. Participants reported that it took less effort to complete 5 of the 6 tasks when their service dogs assisted.
- Service dogs decreased performance time in four of the six functional performance tasks. Two participants spent an average of 1.5 to 2.0 times longer completing tasks alone in comparison than with the dog’s assistance.

Social Interaction:
- All three participants reported having a higher level of satisfaction with social interactions at the stores when they had their service dog with them.
- Two of the 3 participants had more interactions with others in a grocery store when the service dog was present.

---

**Implications**

People with disabilities need better access to service dogs since research has shown service dog partnerships support community integration, social interaction, and energy conservation, as well as, assist in activities of daily living and other meaningful occupations.

Professionals working with people with disabilities should be aware of the benefits of service dogs and how to obtain them in order to support these partnerships.

Occupational therapy roles include evaluating the abilities and needs of the person, assessing the meaningful occupations the person would like the service dog to assist with, and integrating the service dog into the person’s daily life.

---

**Acknowledgements**

We would like to thank ADW for assisting in the recruitment of the participants. We would like to extend a thank you to: each of our participants and their service dogs who dedicated their time and energy; Joan Turietta-Alarcon MOTR/L, Marianna McFadden MOTR/L, and Christina Czemske MOTR/L for their contributions with gathering data; and Sarah Scott, MOTR/L and Kara Tainter MOTR/L in their development of the measurement tools.

---

**Contact Information**

Terry K. Crowe, Ph.D., OTR/L, FAOTA
Occupational Therapy Graduate Program
1 University of New Mexico
MSC09 5240
Albuquerque, NM 87131-0001
Office: (505) 272-1753
Fax: (505) 272-3583
tcrowe@salud.unm.edu