

STATION #4 - WHEELCHAIR & PAWS UP

WHEELCHAIR

Let your dog smell the stationary wheelchair while giving treats

When they appear comfortable, sit in the wheelchair and move it. If they appear nervous, stop moving the wheelchair.

Person in wheelchair can pet, encourage and give treats to your dog

Once your dog is comfortable, "Place" your dog next to the stationary wheelchair. (This command would require them to sit or stand, but not lay down)

VISITS WITH PERSON IN WHEELCHAIR

- I - Introduce** yourself and your dog from a 2 or 3 foot distance from the person. State your purpose for being there.
- A - Ask** if they would like a visit. If they answer "Yes", ask if they prefer one side or the other.
- B -** Once they respond, check if their wheelchair has **brakes**. If so, ask that they set the brake.
- L -** Move to the **location** they specified. If your dog is larger, position them closely to the person's side. If your dog is smaller, it would be best to pick up your dog and hold them close to the person or place the dog in their lap if they agree.
- E - Engage** in conversation (Most visits are only about 10 minutes long)

WRAPPING UP

- C - Cards** and stickers - Give them if you have them
- A - AND...**
- P - Purel.** Hand sanitizer should be offered BEFORE and AFTER each visit. Keep your dog healthy too.
- E - Excuse** - yourself and **End** the visit.

PAWS UP

Place a treat on platform allowing your dog to get familiar with the platform. Give treats as needed to give a positive reaction.

Move to the side of the platform, encourage, or entice your dog with treats, to step up onto the platform with their front legs only. Offer treats the whole time. Sometimes light tension on the leash will help, but do not pull your dog onto the platform. Once front paws are on, praise and treat.

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KEY POINTS

*Always introduce new things to your dog slowly. Pushing them can create a negative reaction/memory.

*Paws Up can be very useful for visits with patients who are bed bound. Practice paws up on a chair, couch, or bed at home.

*Visits like these are usually 10 minutes maximum. Have a few conversation starters ready. (Tell them about your dog, ask if they have any pets, etc.)

ROLE OF PERSON IN WHEELCHAIR

Roll the wheelchair around a little bit while the team approaches you.

Don't lock the wheels until the handler tells you to. If they forget, move the wheelchair around in the middle of things, to remind them.

If the handler forgets to introduce themselves, early on, interrupt them and ask, "Are you from the lab? I was told they are going to come get some tests."