September 23, 2013

Re: Parker Angeli

 I was asked to evaluate Parker, a 2 1/2 year old neutered male Labradoodle following an incident at school where he was working as an allergen alert dog for Grace a 10 year old girl.

 I am a Certified Professional Dog Trainer with 22 years’ experience of hands on training dogs using positive reinforcement techniques.

 Upon meeting Parker he jumped on me. I observed him pulling on leash when they arrived for evaluation. He did a nice sit on command but lost attention quickly. It appeared that he did not have a solid obedience background. I also noticed that he has issues with impulse control. When let out in my yard with my dog he chased my dog down and grabbed his hind leg. I did not feel this was simply playing, it was a control issue. He does not have the obedience commands or control that I would expect to see in a service dog. He was attentive to Grace to the point of being slightly obsessive. I feel that he is a very needy dog, he needs to be touching his person at all times and when Grace left the area, he became stressed. Grace did a good job with handling skills. He listened to her and followed her commands. I feel that she did an exceptional job with him and is mature for her age.

 I did not check for scent detection as they were diligently training in that regard.

 When I heard the story of what happened at school where Parker lunged and bit another child during an assembly, I feel that he felt cornered and needed to escape. This is not indicative of a dog that has the skills or temperament associated with being in the general public at all times. It is not safe for the child handling him.

 It is my professional opinion that Parker should not have been in a program for service dogs. I do not believe he would even pass a basic Canine Good Citizen test given by an AKC evaluator. Parker did not show any form of aggression with my handling him, checking his body over, meeting my dog face to face or while playing. Nor did he when I met the family and even when I hugged Grace. I think Parker would benefit with more basic obedience training but only to be a family dog.

Gail Martin, CPDT-KA

Certified Professional Dog Trainer

Certified through CCPDT – Certification Council of Professional Dog Trainers

Certified through NADOI – National Association of Dog Obedience Instructors

Professional Member – Association of Professional Dog Trainers

Canine Good Citizen Evaluator for AKC

Former Volunteer Instructor for Guiding Eyes for the Blind Puppy Raisers

Former CGC Evaluator for NH Working Dogs Foundation (NH Police Dogs)

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