



ANTICIPATION

When your dog uses his initiative and performs a task without being given a command to do so, he is anticipating. Anticipation is acceptable, providing it is under control; if unchecked, anticipation results in the dog dictating to you and taking shortcuts that can be an inconvenience at the least and a serious hazard at worst. Discretion is required in your assessment of just how far from “the book” you should allow your dog to go. Dogs vary in their degree of initiative and, while some seldom use it, others most certainly will.

Experience has shown that the most efficient and problem-free guide dog teams are those that adhere absolutely to the instruction given and the principles laid down while training at Pilot Dogs. In view of this, you are advised to continue to work strictly in “straight lines,” executing proper turns at junctions, and generally preventing your dog from taking action before or without being given a command.

Anticipation may be permitted when your dog’s help is needed in order for you to find a particular place – for example, an entrance to a shop. This advice applies equally to new guide dog owners and replacements as, in both cases, the dogs are new and need the security of formal work until they are established and confident. In this way, you remain in control and won’t experience the frequent battles of will which occur all too often between owners and dogs.