Level of autonomy [1]	Dog type	Typical use cases	Human interaction expected?	Used by …	Key behaviours taught: do's	Key behaviours taught: don'ts	Dog-to-dog orchestration?	Operate unsupervised?	Who is accountable?	Legally required to be marked?
1. Assistant (lowest risk).	Mobility Assist Dog.	Executes discrete, tasks retrieve items, open doors, pull wheelchair under instruction.	Yes.	Individuals.	Stable harness work, targeted retrieves, safe pulling.	Jump on public, block aisles, brace without cue.	No.	No.	The handler.	No.
2. Collaborator (low risk).	Sheepdog Pair.	Move a flock as a pair under the farmer's control.	Yes.	Individuals / Organisations.	Complete the task with low command rate.	Enter the other dog's territory, apply pressure that splits flock unnecessarily.	Yes.	No.	The farmer.	No.
	Police patrol / Apprehension Dog.	Apprehend suspects and protect officers. Disciplined independence but governed by handler commands, policy and proportionality rules.	Yes.	Organisation.	Obedience, controlled bite / release on command.	Un-commanded biting, crowd intimidation use.	No.	No.	The law-enforcement agency.	Yes.
3. Consultant (medium risk).	Sled Dog Teams with a Lead Dog.	Pull sleds over distances with a lead dog who interprets the terrain and sets the micro-path, based on high-level commands from the human.	Yes.	Individuals / Organisations.	Dog leader selects safe micro-path; team synchronises pace / spacing; execute direction commands quickly.	Take risks (e.g. thin ice / obstacles), break formation, overrun stop cues.	Yes.	No.	Musher / expedition operator.	No.
	Explosives Detection Dog.	Screen people, bags, and venues for explosives. Autonomous passive indications with strict safety constraints; human controls clearance and action.	Yes.	Organisations.	Passive alert; ignore crowds / touching.	Do not disturb device, scratch / bark at source; bite.	No.	No.	The operating agency.	Yes.
4. Copilot (high risk).	Guide / Seeing-Eye Dog.	Lead a blind or low-vision handler safely. The dog interprets environment and may veto unsafe cues ('intelligent disobedience') while human sets route and goal.	Yes.	Individuals.	Maintain straight line, stop at curbs/obstacles, 'intelligent disobedience' (refuse unsafe commands).	Pull toward food/people, traffic-chase, break heel.	No.	No.	The handler.	No, but harness markings are common.
	Free-Running Anti-Poaching Hound Packs.	Track and pursue poachers independently as a coordinated group.	Yes.	Organisations.	Take initial heading, split / merge on scent branches, maintain group cohesion, recall on cue.	Engage suspects without authorisation, leave geo-fence, ignore recall.	Yes.	No (off-leash but actively monitored by air and GPS).	Conservation unit / park authority.	Yes.
5. Captain (highest).	Livestock Guardian Dogs.	Protect a herd 24/7 by repelling predators. Largely unsupervised within boundaries; dogs self-assign roles (sentinel / patrol) and escalate tasks among themselves.	No.	Organisations.	Self-assign sentinel vs. patrol, escalate bark > approach > intercept, remain with stock.	Chase beyond boundary, over-escalate without corroboration, leave stock unattended.	Yes.	Yes (within fenced / defined range).	The farmer.	No, but protective collars are common.

1.   **Levels of autonomy** – autonomy is a scale that should be calibrated for each use case. Learn more and download an Agentic Risk Appetite Statement here.