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Disability and Assistance Dog Implicit Association Test: A novel IAT.
Guerrieri et al.

Abstract
Objective: Individuals with disabilities often face stigma and negative social interactions. Human-animal interaction literature suggests that an individual paired with an animal will be perceived differently than an individual alone. Although people with disabilities report increases in social interactions when with assistance dogs, the reasons for this remain unclear. One possibility is that attitudes toward people with disabilities are altered by the presence of assistance dogs, thus affecting the social behavior of the perceiver. This study examines whether implicit attitudes toward individuals with disabilities differ in the presence of an assistance dog. Method: College students (N = 244) completed the Attitudes of Adults to Dogs scale, an item assessing dog ownership, and the Disabilities and Assistance Dogs Implicit Association Test (IAT). Results: A 1-sample t-test demonstrated a significant IAT effect, (t(96) = 3.62, p < .05), with a positive implicit bias observed toward an individual with a disability when paired with an assistance dog over the individual alone. While individuals were more flash than flash individuals to hold positive implicit attitudes toward an assistance dog.

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