



Dear Prospective Released Dog Adopter:

Not all dogs are cut out to be assistance dogs and, on occasion, PawPADs releases dogs from the program if necessary. We never know when that is going to happen and hope for very few releases. When PawPADs releases a dog, the first option is to determine if the dog is a good candidate for placement with another working dog group such as search and rescue or drug detection. If we don't "career change" a dog then the dog will be made available to the general public for adoption as a family pet. We always disclose the reason for the release to the adopting organization, person or family.

The reasons for releasing, or career-changing, a dog generally fall into two categories – medical and temperament/behavior.

- Medical reasons: anything from allergies to varying severities of dysplasia (hip and elbow).
- Behavioral reasons, for example: high activity level, incompatibility with cats or other dogs, fear/nervousness or lack of flexibility. Some of these dogs may not be suitable for homes with young children or other pets.

Release dogs do not have public access rights and therefore are not allowed in public places unless "pet" dogs are allowed. PawPADs is concerned about the welfare and best placement for all of our dogs, including those that are released. Should you receive a release dog from PawPADs, please be aware that we will be willing to help you work out any behavioral problems that may occur after placement *to the best of our ability and within our resources*. At any time during the lifetime of the dog, PawPADs will take the dog back and "re-home" it, should this become necessary.

All PawPADs released dogs are placed in homes on a one-month trial basis. This way if the dog does not fit your lifestyle or home environment, you can return the dog to PawPADs and receive a refund. No refund will be given after 30 days, however the dog will be accepted back and a new placement found. It is understood that said dog will live out its natural life as the companion of the adopter. If at any time the adopter can no longer keep said dog, PawPADs retains first right of refusal, meaning the dog is returned to PawPADs, not sold or given away to any other parties.

Pawsitive Perspectives Assistance Dogs is committed to providing the best homes we can find for our released/career changed dogs.

Please note:

- Our adoption region is within an approximately 200 mile radius of Minneapolis/St. Paul area so that we can follow-up as needed.
- We always require that these dogs live with their families and not be relegated to a back yard. We require that all applicants agree to keep the adopted dog inside the home at all times when the humans are away from home or sleeping. **Under no circumstances is the dog allowed to stay outdoors in a kennel or fenced yard or in a garage, for any period of time, if the humans are not home, no matter how nice the garage or kennel is.** PawPADs firmly

believes that our dogs are indoor animals and they have been raised as such. **They are expected to be treated as members of the family.**

- Obedience and agility competitors, search and rescue trainers, tracking enthusiasts and others in dog-related fields are encouraged to apply!
- If approved, the PawPADs staff will screen the applicant, conduct a home visit if appropriate, and provide a weekend with the dog before the release is finalized.
- PawPADs staff can decide for any reason not to place the dog with an applicant.
- All released dogs will be spayed or neutered prior to release placement.
- A Release Dog Agreement and Transfer of Ownership agreement will be signed by the new owner and PawPADs.
- None of these dogs may be used as working assistance dogs.

We are not getting “rid” of these dogs. They are valuable members of our organization and have been raised, trained and loved by everyone in the PawPADs program. They have had an incredible amount of time and energy put into them up to this point.

Training, socialization, house manners and house breaking are very valuable commodities. The cost of adopting one of our released/career changed dogs varies on the reason that it is being released. You can expect the donation/cost to be between \$500 - \$1,500. Although it may seem like a great deal of money to spend on a dog, consider this:

- If you buy a puppy: Prices anywhere from \$50 - \$3,000 (even rescue organizations routinely have adoption fees of \$300 to \$500)
- Series of vaccinations needed: \$300
- Spay or Neuter: \$250 - \$400
- Basic Obedience Training: \$65 - \$1,000
- Health Clearances: \$350.00
- Any other vet bills: 0 – \$5,000.00

When you get a released dog from us we have done all of that for you: the training, housebreaking, socialization, vaccinations, spays or neuters and many times other health clearances.

If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact us!

Sincerely,

Linda Ball  
Executive Director