



## **PUPPY RAISER INFORMATION**

PawPADs is a 501(c)(3) organization located in Lakeville, MN that dual trains dogs for placement with people with physical disabilities or type 1 diabetes. We also place facility dogs in schools, assisted living facilities, with victim advocates, and more.

PawPADs' dual mission is to facilitate the power of the human-canine bond, and enhance the lives of others, through the PROCESS of training assistance dogs and the OUTCOME of placing them with people with disabilities.

We are currently looking for puppy raisers to help raise and train our dogs to be placed as service dogs. Please see below for more information about our dogs and some of the requirements of being a puppy raiser.

### **Do I need to have prior dog training experience to be a puppy raiser?**

No. PawPADs will provide all the training necessary to work with our dogs. Before you get a dog to puppy raise, you will be required to complete a "Jump Start" training (dates and times TBD based on availability) where you will learn the basics of handling, training, health, and safety of our dogs. PawPADs staff is easily accessible to puppy raisers for guidance and support throughout the training process.

### **What are the costs associated with being a puppy raiser?**

PawPADs covers all the dog's expenses during their time with you. We provide food, preventatives, veterinary care, a kennel, and all other supplies necessary. The only cost that is the responsibility of the puppy raiser is transportation cost to take the dog in public... and, of course, any extra toys or treats that you may want to spoil your PawPADs dog with!

### **What are the qualifications to be a puppy raiser?**

- Must be at least 18 years of age.
- Be able to, in general, take the dog out in public at least twice per week.
- Be able to take the dog with you most of the time -- the dog shouldn't be left home alone for more than three hours at a time.
- Must love dogs and provide a loving home for the dog to learn and grow in!

### **What are the weekly requirements of being a puppy raiser?**

- Meet with PawPADs staff once per week either in public or at the PawPADs training center in Lakeville (locations and times to be agreed upon by puppy raiser and PawPADs staff).
- Take the dog in public at least twice per week for training and socialization.
- Teach the dog basic cues and skills.
- Submit short weekly online reports on public access outings and general behavior and training progress.
- Ensure the overall care and well-being of the dog in your care. This includes feeding, watering, grooming, exercise, and enrichment.

### **Where in public can I take my dog?**

In general, your dog should be able to accompany you wherever you go. Where you are able to take your dog will depend on that specific dog's age and confidence level, which will be discussed with PawPADs staff. Most of our dogs can easily handle going to grocery stores, coffee shops, restaurants, movie theaters, etc. All puppy raisers will receive training from PawPADs on how to handle your dog in public, as well as the laws that allow a trainer to be accompanied by a service dog in training in public places.

### **How old are the dogs who are placed in puppy raiser homes?**

Our puppies are not placed in puppy raiser homes until they are at least four months old. In general, the dogs going to puppy raisers would be mostly potty and kennel trained and have an understanding of basic cues.

### **What breeds of dogs are in your program?**

We primarily have Labrador Retrievers and Labrador x Golden Retriever crosses in our program. We also occasionally work with rescue dogs of various breeds. Our dogs are usually medium to large sized dogs between 40-60 lbs.

### **How will it be decided which dog I get?**

PawPADs staff will determine which dog you will be training based on your lifestyle, home life, and personality. We might have you work with a few dogs before deciding which dog you will get so we can see who you work the best with.

### **How long will I get to keep the dog?**

Length of time for a dog to be with a puppy raiser might range from a few months to two years, depending on a variety of factors. It can be beneficial for the dogs to experience multiple different trainers and home lifestyles, so they are more flexible when it comes time for placement. In addition, some of our dogs might be participating in our programs, such as the Assistance Dog Education Program and Training (ADEPT), and therefore we will not have as many dogs available to go to puppy raisers during those times. Our dogs are usually placed when they are two to three years old.

**Do I need to have a fenced yard?**

Not necessarily. While a fenced yard is preferred for safety and exercise purposes of the service dog in training, it is not a requirement. However, if you do not have a fenced yard, the dog must be on leash any time it is outside.

**What training methods does PawPADs utilize?**

PawPADs is committed to using only positive reinforcement (reward-based) training. Using positive reinforcement encourages our dogs to want to learn and work, which allows them to become the best assistance dogs they can be.

**Who will take care of the dog if I need to go out of town?**

If you need someone to watch your dog while you are away, contact PawPADs' staff and we will take care of arranging a dog sitter. The dog may go to another PawPADs volunteer or come back to the training center if needed. Please give us adequate notice to find a dog sitter if you are planning to leave town and cannot take your dog with you.

**Will I get to meet the person who is placed with the dog(s) I trained?**

Yes. Volunteers are invited to attend our Partner Training Camp Graduation, which is a celebration for all the new client and dog partnerships.

Please reach out to us at [info@pawpads.org](mailto:info@pawpads.org) if you have any other questions about becoming a puppy raiser. If you are interested in applying to be a puppy raiser, please see the "Puppy Raiser Application" on our website.

**Thank you for your interest in becoming a puppy raiser with PawPADs.**

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Pawsitive Perspectives Assistance Dogs reserves the right to terminate, or exclude, participation as a puppy raiser if it can be determined that the puppy raiser's special circumstances or requirements could result in the unsafe handling of the dog or may cause undue hardship, personal injury to the handler, or endanger the safety of the public.

**ANTI-DISCRIMINATION CLAUSE**

It is the policy of Pawsitive Perspectives Assistance Dogs to extend equal consideration and treatment to all persons regardless of race, color, national origin, religion, creed, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, age, disability, or medical conditions.