



Dear Potential Applicant,

Thank you for your interest in Prison Pet Partnership (PPP) and considering obtaining an assistance dog from us. Originally founded in 1981, PPP is an independent, non-profit, Assistance Dogs International Accredited organization located on the grounds of the Washington Corrections Center for Women that provides vocational education for incarcerated women. We rescue homeless and shelter dogs and place them in the care of women inmates who train them to be service dogs, therapy dogs or companion pets. Additionally, PPP operates a boarding and grooming facility within the prison facility.

Before deciding whether a trained assistance dog from us is the best choice for you, we ask you take a few minutes and read the following information. If, after reading this, you would like to submit an application for an assistance dog, please return the request form on the last page to our office.

At this time, PPP trains and places the following types of Assistance Dogs:

Mobility Service Dogs

A Mobility Service Dog is a highly trained working partner for individuals with physical disabilities. These dogs are solid, calm and dependable companions that can assist their partner with mobility, turning on or off lights, retrieving items or pulling a wheelchair among many other tasks. Service dogs have full access rights and are offered protections under the Americans with Disabilities Act as well as the Fair Housing Agreement.

Seizure Response Dogs

Service Dogs with Public Access Rights that assist those who experience limited mobility during, or as a result of, seizures. They are trained to perform skills and tasks to assist an individual in recovering from a seizure. Once the client has recovered sufficiently to offer the dog instructions, the dog can be directed to push an alert button or go find and get help from someone. They also have full access rights and are offered protections under the Americans with Disabilities Act as well as the Fair Housing Agreement.

Therapy Dogs

Therapy Dogs are skilled companion dogs without Public Access Rights that are trained to provide assistance or companionship in a variety of situations. These placements may include:

Home Helpmates

Highly trained dogs with service dog skills that work in the home. These dogs are often capable of many of the same skills as a service dog but for one reason or another cannot

be given full access rights in public. They may be too shy or may have some medical reason that makes life as a full-fledged service dog not possible. These dogs *do not* have access rights. They may only accompany their recipient to places pet dogs are allowed.

Visiting Therapy Dogs

Dogs that live with their handler who visits care facilities on a regular basis as a volunteer. The dog is trained to accompany them, providing regular companionship and comfort to residents at nursing homes, hospitals or other care facilities.

Home Companion

Home companions are placed in a home environment and provide skilled companionship to a family member with special needs. They may be placed with children on the autism spectrum or with adults or children with mental or developmental disabilities.

Facility Dogs

Facility dogs are dogs that work extensively in a care facility, providing regular, daily companionship to the residents. Some facility dogs live with a handler and accompany them to work during the normal work week. Some facility dogs live full time within the facility.

What types of dogs does PPP not place?

At this time, PPP does not train or place the following types of assistance dogs:

- Seizure detection or alert dogs
- Diabetic alert dogs
- Medical detection dogs
- Hearing dogs
- Guide dogs
- Autism service dogs with full public access rights

THINGS TO CONSIDER: IS A SERVICE DOG FROM PRISON PET PARTNERSHIP RIGHT FOR YOU?

Recipient Criteria

At this time we do not place dogs with children *under* 12 years of age. Service dogs require a great deal of time and responsibility and it is important to ensure a certain level of maturity in our service dog partners. All applicants are expected to have the maturity to train with and handle a dog correctly. If we receive an application for a child who is under 12 years of age, the application will be placed in inactive status, and will not be considered until the child turns 12 years old. We recommend waiting until the child is 12 years or older before submitting an application.

Our dogs are trained to assist people who have mobility impairments (CP, MS, MD, spinal cord injuries, balance disorders, arthritis, etc.) and seizure disorders. We do not train dogs to assist people with visual or hearing impairment or emotional disorders. While we will place a dog

with someone who has one of the above, the applicant's primary disability must be in the form of a mobility impairment or seizure disorder. In addition, the applicant should be able to see well enough to adequately observe the dog and must be independent in their orientation and mobility skills as it pertains to sight. We will not place dogs intended to perform guide work to any degree. The dogs we place are active, involved workers. While we aim to match the dog and client's personality types, applicants should be active enough to utilize a dog and keep it sufficiently stimulated.

The dogs we train and place are rescued and homeless dogs that come to us by way of local humane societies and rescue groups. While it is possible we may come across a poodle or poodle cross or another dog considered to be low-allergen, this is an infrequent occurrence. Individuals with significant enough allergies to affect their ability to work with or handle the dog should bear in mind that we may not be able to find and place a dog that is both suitably trained and with a low-allergen type coat. In addition, we do not train applicants own, personal dogs.

No applicant to the Prison Pet Partnership shall be required to assist in fundraising for the program nor participate in public relations activities. Any involvement in such activities is entirely voluntary and independent of the application process.

Facility & Training Location

Prison Pet Partnership is located within a secured adult women's correctional facility and portions of our client training placement and our graduation ceremony take place within our facility. Applicants who may not be comfortable with, or who may not be able to gain clearance to come into the prison should contact our office to discuss whether a dog from our program would meet your needs.

Time and Financial Commitments

Our dogs are highly trained animals, trained to perform a variety of physical tasks. While PPP provides trained assistance dogs free of charge, there are financial considerations associated with acquiring and caring for a dog that must be taken into account. Because of the high level of training and expectation we put in the dogs, there are significant financial and time obligations for the upkeep, health and well-being of the Service Dog.

Application Process & Wait Time

There is a \$50.00 application fee for every application. This fee is due when the preapplication letter and request for an application packet are submitted. Once the preapplication letter and \$50.00 application fee are received by the PPP office, a full application packet will be sent by the preferred method. On average, it takes about eighteen months to two years to process and review an application though, especially for applicants who live at a distance from the facility, this process may take a little longer.

We strive to match clients with the dog that best meets their specific needs as well as best matches them in terms of personality. For this reason, dogs are not placed solely on a "first come, first serve" basis. For this reason, it is impossible to predict how long of a wait it will be

before we have a dog available for an individual client. The average waiting time for one of our service dogs is between five and seven years. Our primary goal is to get clients matched with a service dog as quickly as possible therefore we encourage our applicants to apply to as many service dog programs as possible. You can find other organizations online at www.assistancedogsinternational.org.

Training & Follow-up

Service dogs are versatile, reliable assistants for people with physical disabilities, yet they are still dogs. Service dogs are not machines, and even more so than a pet dog, rely on a fair and consistent leader. This takes a great deal of patience and training.

Potential assistance dog recipients *must* be able to attend a Team Training session at our facility when being partnered with a dog. The length of the team training varies based on the type of dog you're being partnered with. While PPP does not charge for the Team Training sessions, recipients are responsible for making their own arrangements for lodging, daily transportation and any incidental costs for the duration of Team Training. See below for the typical training requirements based on type of assistance dog:

- *Mobility Service Dogs & Seizure Response Dogs* – 60 hours of training
- *Home Helpmate* – 30 hours of training
- *Personal Therapy Dogs and Facility Dogs* – 20 hours of training

The personal dedication required for having a service dog is significant. A service dog partner must be willing to work on their own with their service dog on a daily basis, as well as participate in on-going training, (i.e. periodic training classes requiring you and your dog to come back to the prison to work with the trainers for brush-up and problem solving), home visits and initial monthly written reports.

Feeding & Veterinary Care

The average Service Dog weighs approximately 60-90 lbs. and eats 2-4+ cups of dog food per day, which equals almost 20 pounds of food per week. In addition, all dogs require yearly vaccinations against canine diseases, as well as regular check-ups and preventive health care. In addition, all dogs placed as service dogs, therapy dogs or paroled pets will be spayed or neutered prior to placement. Average annual costs for feeding and caring for a medium to large sized dogs can range from \$750 - \$1,500, based on the dog's individual needs. In addition, the client should plan and prepare for veterinary emergencies.

Dog Care Supply and Gear

Upon placement, PPP will provide the dog and handler team with a leash, collar and a harness or vest best suited to their individual needs. Replacement gear will be the responsibility of the client.

International Association of Assistance Dog Partners Membership

PPP requires Mobility Service Dog and Seizure Response Dog recipients to maintain an active membership with the IAADP. The annual membership fee was \$40 a year or \$80 for three years in 2012. Membership provides a variety of advantages to Assistance Dog Partners including access to help with emergency veterinary expenses.

Grooming

Grooming is also necessary on a regular basis. Service dogs *must* be clean and parasite free, and their nails should be kept short at all times since they spend time in public. The Prison Pet Partnership will groom service dogs from our program free of charge.

Veterinary Emergency Financial Assistance

PPP maintains a scholarship fund that may be able to provide financial assistance to cover unexpected emergency veterinary expenses to clients with limited resources. Current membership in the International Association of Assistance Dog Partners (IAADP) and veterinary medical insurance are requirements of financial assistance. PPP provides initial membership with IAADP but it is the Client's responsibility to maintain membership renewal at their own expense, and a current veterinary medical insurance policy, to be eligible for financial aid. Clients should consult their veterinarian for policy and insurance company recommendations.

Retirement of Dog

When a working dog reaches an age that inhibits its ability to properly perform the job for which it was intended without undue pain or difficulty, it is time to retire the dog. When and how a dog is retired is a very personal decision and must take into account both the client's and the dog's best interest and is often a joint decision made by the dog's recipient, the dog's veterinarian and PPP.

Once the decision has been made to retire a dog, the recipient may seek approval from training staff to retain the dog after retirement. The recipient may choose to have the dog rehomed with a suitable family member or friend, though PPP reserves the right to evaluate and approve the retirement placement for safety and appropriateness. If the recipient does not have a suitable placement for the dog, the dog may be returned to PPP for adoption and retirement placement.

The Decision

Having an assistance dog can help many people overcome many of the limitations of their disabilities and the barriers in their environments, yet assistance dogs are *not* a universal cure for every negative aspect of a disability. An assistance dog can be a great choice for independent living, however, before applying to our program please make sure it's the right choice for you.

Overview of Application Process

- ☐ **Request An Application Packet** - If after reviewing this information, you decide that you would like to proceed with applying for a service dog from us, please return the form on the last page with a check or money order for \$50.00 to request an application packet. An application packet will be returned to you via the requested method as soon as possible.
- ☐ **Complete and Return Application** – Once all components of the application have been completed, they should be returned to the Prison Pet Partnership Program. All components of the application must be completed before the application will be considered for review. If any components are missing, the office will notify you and allow you to submit the missing sections to complete the application.
- ☐ **Notification of Review Status Sent** – Once we've received the completed application, we will review your application and notify you of the status of your application.
- ☐ **Phone Interview** – To help best match a dog to your needs, we will conduct a series of interviews to help us to get to know you better and to allow you an opportunity to ask any questions about the process or experience of having a service dog.
- ☐ **In-Person Interview** – If after the phone interview, we still believe one of our service dogs could be an asset to you, we will schedule a time to come to your home to conduct a home inspection and a follow up interview. All family members are expected to be present for this interview.
- ☐ **Notification of Status Sent / Added to Waiting List** – Once the review and interview process is complete, you will be notified of the status of your application. If approved, your completed application will be placed on the waiting list for a service dog.

If, after reviewing the previous information, you have any questions regarding the application process, screening, selection or training, don't hesitate to contact us.

Thank you, sincerely, for your interest.

Grace Van Dyke
Service Dog Program Manager

Prison Pet Partnership Program
9601 Bujacich Rd NW
Gig Harbor, WA 98332
www.prisonpetpartnership.org
Email: info@prisonpetpartnership.org



PRISON PET PARTNERSHIP

9601 Bujacich Road NW
Gig Harbor, WA 98332

(253) 858-4240

(253) 858-4202 (FAX)

www.prisonpetpartnership.org

Date: _____

Contact Information

Full Name _____

☐ M ☐ F

Date of Birth ____/____/____

Address _____

Home Phone _____

Cell Phone _____

Fax _____

Email Address: _____

Application Type

Type of Application Requested:

- ☐ Mobility Service Dog
- ☐ Seizure Response Dog
- ☐ Home Helpmate
- ☐ Personal Therapy Dog
- ☐ Facility Dog

Primary Disability: _____

Secondary Disability: _____

Note: A \$50.00 application fee must be submitted with this form to receive a complete application packet. Please indicate whether the application fee is being submitted by check or money order.

☐ **Check**

☐ **Money Order**

Preferred Method to Receive Application

☐ **Email**

☐ **Fax**

☐ **Mail**

How Did You Hear About Us

☐ Media (TV, Paper)

☐ PPP Representative

☐ Internet Search

☐ Public Event (Dogathon, Woofstock, Puyallup Fair, etc.)

☐ ADI Website