



Pawsitive Action Service Dog Program - Client Steps

This program is open to our American Heroes—veterans, first responders, healthcare workers, educators, and exceptional children in need of support. Each application is thoughtfully considered and reviewed by our Advisory Board.

Program Requirements

- **Disability Requirement:** You must be clinically diagnosed with a disability unless you're training a dog for at-home emotional support.
- **Work or School Requirement:** If you are employed or attending school, your service dog must accompany you *at least 80% of the time*. A letter from your employer or school principal is required.
- **Location Limitations:** You must live within *1.5 hours' driving distance* from our training facility in Rock Hill, SC.
- **Locate a Suitable Dog** - Use the dog you currently have, locate a **rescued dog** or obtain a **dog from a quality breeder or service dog program**. No matter which dog you choose, a representative from Pawsitive Action will evaluate and approve the dog to become a "Service Dog In Training".
- **Program Duration:** The entire process may take *up to 6 months or longer*. New classes are scheduled quarterly, but private lessons are available while waiting.

Pawsitive Action Service Dog Program Options - ALL TRAINING IS FREE TO OUR PARTICIPANTS

Option 1: Owner-Trained Program

For individuals who already have a healthy dog with a friendly personality. Your dog should not be afraid of noises or be shy in public places. Your dog does not need prior training or perfect behavior, but it should be comfortable around people, other pets and loud noises. DOGS CANNOT be animal aggressive. We provide **100% free training, testing and certification** for qualified applicants.

Option 2: Rescue a Dog

If you don't have a dog but are interested in adopting one from a rescue or private rehome, Pawsitive Action will help you find and evaluate a dog that's suitable for service dog training.

The dog does not need prior training or perfect behavior, but it should be comfortable around people, other pets and loud noises. DOGS CANNOT be animal aggressive.

We provide **100% free training, testing and certification** for qualified applicants.

Option 3: Purchase a Dog from a Breeder

For those who prefer to get a dog from a local breeder, we will help you evaluate the dog for service dog potential. The **adoption/purchase fee assistance** is up to **\$800** for a dog from breeders with limited health clearances. We provide **100% free training, testing and certification** for qualified applicants.

Option 4: Service Dog Heritage Pup

For those seeking a dog with a strong background for service dog training, Pawsitive Action assists in locating breeders who specialize in breeding dogs with service dog lineage and full health clearances. Adoption fee assistance is up to **\$1,800**. We provide **100% free training, testing and certification** for qualified applicants.

Training Details

After you select and acquire a dog, they will go directly to your home. You will begin training classes ASAP. We will ALWAYS help you with your dog's behavior, however if you wish our professional trainers to train your dog for you, to an AKC Canine Good Citizen Certification Advanced level, there will be an additional fee.

Private training sessions are available

How to Get Started

1. **Complete the Application:** Fill out and submit the online application at www.pawsitiveaction.org.
2. **Talk to a Pawsitive Action Volunteer:** A trained volunteer will contact you to discuss your needs, answer questions, and help guide you through the process.
3. **Dog Evaluation:** If you already have a dog, we will schedule an evaluation to determine if they're a good candidate for service dog training.
4. **Healthcare Provider Letter:** Submit a letter from a licensed healthcare provider (e.g., a physical therapist, mental health professional, or doctor) stating that a service dog would benefit you.

Important Note: Dogs with a history of aggression or trauma may not be suited for service dog training. Rescued dogs with high anxiety may also struggle with public access.

Pairing with Your Dog (for those who do not have their own dog)

Once your application is approved, Pawsitive Action's director and staff will begin the pairing process. If we do not have a suitable dog immediately, we may need to search for another dog that better matches your needs. We will assist you with this process. You'll interact with several dogs to determine which one is the best fit. **You will receive a dog**, but the pairing process may take time based on availability and your specific needs. **You will be required** to sign a Pawsitive Action program participation agreement. The agreement is available for you to review before signing.

Training and Evaluation Process - PASD Pawsitive Action Service Dog

1. **Basic Training (6 lessons):** Includes basic obedience classes and BEGINNER public access training.
 2. **Public Outings:** You'll go on public outings with a PASD instructor to practice skills in real-world settings.
 3. **Basic Access Evaluation:** After completing basic training, your dog will be evaluated in public settings. Passing this evaluation allows you to train your dog in public with a service dog "in training" vest.
 4. **Canine Good Citizenship (CGC):** Once you pass your Basic Access Evaluation, you'll work toward the CGC certification. This takes **12 weeks** of additional classroom training.
 5. **Advanced Training:** After the CGC, you can move on to more advanced training, including the **Advanced CGC, AKC Urban Dog Certification and Service Dog Skills with retrieving and nose work.**
 6. **ADI recommended Full Access Evaluation - You may try to complete this test at anytime during the training process.**
 7. **Annual Evaluations required to remain in Pawsitive Actions registry. Annual IDs are presented**
 8. **Additional classes are constantly being added for fun! We currently offer Nose Work instruction.**
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Preparing for the Canine Good Citizenship (CGC)

- **Training Time:** After Basic Obedience, with your dog, you'll begin working toward the CGC certification, which **takes about 8-12 weeks of additional training.**
 - **CGC Evaluation:** This test is held in public settings with distractions to evaluate your dog's behavior in real-world scenarios.
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Advanced Training & Certifications

- **CGC Advanced (CGCA):** After earning the CGC, you can pursue the CGCA certification in **6 weeks.**
 - **AKC Urban Dog Certification:** After completing CGCA, your dog will undergo training for **3-6 weeks** in urban settings.
 - **PASD Full Access Certification:** This final certification allows your dog to accompany you in all public spaces. We will help you train until your dog is 12 months old and ready for this certification.
 - **Skills Evaluation:** You'll train your dog to perform **at least 3 specific tasks** that help with your disability. **This is required for the Full Access Certification.**
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Certification Maintenance & Responsibilities

- **Annual Recertification:** Your dog's Pawsitive Action certifications (CGC, Full Access) must be renewed annually.
 - **Veterinary Care:** You must provide **annual veterinary proof and obtain health insurance** for your dog.
 - **Dog's Behavior:** You are 100% responsible for your dog's behavior, and your dog must accompany you in public areas 75% of the time.
 - **Service Dog Vest:** Your dog must wear an approved vest and be under control in all public places.
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Important Notes

- **Lost or Missing Dog:** Notify PASD **within 4 hours** if your dog is lost.
 - **No Breeding:** **Dogs are not to be bred** and must be spayed/neutered by 18 months unless specific arrangements are made.
 - **Rehoming:** If you can no longer care for your dog, **it must be returned to PASD.**
 - **Social Media:** Please don't post negative content about the program. Direct any concerns to PASD staff.
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By participating in this program, you'll not only train a service dog but also become part of a supportive community of volunteers and donors who believe in the mission to help our heroes.

If you have any questions or concerns along the way, please reach out. We're here to ensure your success!

LEARN YOUR RIGHTS AS A PERSON WITH A DISABILITY WHO HAS A TRAINED DOG!

If you agree and understand all of the above information

By signing this document you agree to the above terms and conditions.

Date _____ Signature _____

A PASD representative should make a copy/photo and keep for PASD records

You also agree to be photographed or videoed for PASDs website or Facebook publishing

Date _____ Signature _____

We NEVER charge our program participants

Keeping it 100% FREE for all qualified participants...we need your help



SEEKING SPONSORSHIPS FOR PAWSITIVE ACTION

Option#1 Owner Trained

Sponsorships of \$785 per participant are sought to cover the training costs.

Option #2 Rescued Dog

We assist with the **adoption fee (up to \$350)** and provide training at no cost to the participant.

The total sponsorship required is \$1,135, which covers the dog's evaluation, training, and testing.

Option #3 Purchase a Dog from a Breeder

For those who prefer to get a dog from a local breeder, we will help you evaluate the dog for service dog potential. The **adoption/purchase fee assistance** is up to **\$800** for a dog from breeders with limited health clearances. Training and testing sponsorship is **\$785**.

Total sponsorship required is \$1,585.

Option 4: Service Dog Heritage Pup

For those seeking a dog with a strong background for service dog training, Pawsitive Action assists in locating breeders who specialize in breeding dogs with service dog lineage and full health clearances. Adoption fee assistance is up to **\$1,800**, with training sponsorship at **\$785**,

Total Sponsorship required is \$2,585.

All participants receive a welcome package including the following items...

- An appropriate sized kennel
- Leash and Training Collar
- Microchip and registration
- In-Training Service Dog Vest
- 20 lbs of Dog Food
- 1 month of prescription HeartWorm Prevention and 1 month Flea/Tick control
- Access to our service dog training video library
- Emergency care and boarding
- We are available 24/7 to pick up a member's dog and keep them in a loving environment until they can be reunited.

Advanced Training Sponsorships - Training provided by professional dog trainers

Some people may be in need of a dog who has a VERY good training foundation or Advanced Training BEFORE they take their dog home. The reason can be a physical or emotional challenge and getting a dog "ready to go" may be a necessity. Training can be done with any "approved for service" dog between the ages of 4 months and 3 years old.

Sponsorships needed...

2 months of training to receive a Canine Good Citizen Certificate \$2,000.00.

4 months of training to receive a Canine Good Citizen Advanced/Community Canine Certificate 4,000.00.

6 months of training for a AKC Urban/Full Access Service Dog Certification \$6,000.00

FULL ACCESS - Heritage Pup and 6 months of PROFESSIONAL TRAINING \$7,800.00

All administrative/office persons, instructors, evaluators, fundraisers and advisory committee members are 100% volunteers. Pawsitive Action is not funded by any government agency. We rely on local community participation and kindness.

Contact www.pawsitiveaction.org or email: pawsitiveaction@gmail.com