

## Criteria for Application

Thank you for your interest in Saving Grace Service Dogs. Please read the following criteria carefully, and initial/sign where indicated.

In evaluating whether an applicant may successfully participate in our program, we consider the following criteria: Some criteria items will ask you to initial the item to acknowledge you read and understood the criteria.

Please initial: \_\_\_\_\_

I will provide two character reference letters and a recommendation letter from your veterinarian (if you have one).

### **Canine:**

A trainer and client will carefully select a dog with a gentle temperament without displayed anxiety, fear, or aggressiveness. The dog is trained to pass the Canine Good Citizens test, Public Access test, and a minimum of 3 specific tasks to mitigate the owner's disability. Sometimes a dog will not show its true temperament until after training begins. The dog must be spayed/neutered prior to training.

If the client already owns a well-mannered, obedient dog, that dog can be assessed in order to determine its eligibility as a service dog. If the client does not own a dog, we ask that you wait before adopting/purchasing a dog until it can be assessed. The client's responsibility would be to find potential dogs/puppies, and Saving Grace Service Dogs' responsibility would be to assess said dogs/puppies.

There are no guarantees when selecting a dog for its potential to complete service dog training. If for some reason, the dog is unable to successfully complete the service dog program, the following options are available: Training can continue to provide you with a highly effective service dog in training until it graduates, or another dog can be selected to begin the training again. All dogs, regardless of completion, are the owner's responsibility. Saving Grace Service Dogs is NOT responsible for re-homing any dog in the program.

Please initial: \_\_\_\_\_

The service dog will reside with the client throughout the entire training period.

Please initial: \_\_\_\_\_

The client must be able to reasonably meet the emotional, physical, and financial obligations of the service dog. This includes offering a stable home environment, providing adequate exercise, and grooming of the dog. Family members and/or aides are expected to assist where necessary.

Please initial: \_\_\_\_\_

The client must not adopt another dog during the training process.

**Financial Obligations:**

- Dog food: Approximately \$50-\$100 per month. We will recommend suitable, premium dog food using human grade ingredients that provide optimal nutrition for a working dog.
- Initial adoption fees: Shelters and rescue adoption fees vary from \$50 - \$350. Breeders can charge \$2,000 - \$5,000 for a pure-bred.
- Regular Vet care: Monthly heartworm, tick and flea preventatives, bordetella vaccine twice a year and yearly immunizations. An OFA hip XRay will ensure the quality of the dog's hips and if they will support service work.
- Training equipment: Kennel, leashes, collars, bowls, service dog vests, treats, toys.

**Cognitive Function:**

All clients must possess the maturity and cognitive functioning to learn the skills required for training. S/He must also be capable of managing the dog once they are living together.

**Living Accomodations/Conditions**

The client must provide a safe, fenced enclosure adjacent to the home for toileting and exercise. Apartment dwellers will be required to make alternative arrangements in advance. If you rent an apartment or home, a letter of approval from the landlord stating a service dog is permitted in the apartment or rental home must be submitted with the application.

Our preference for a home environment is one in which the service dog is the only dog living in the home. However, exceptions will be made on a case-by-case basis. The service dog must be able to peacefully coexist with any other animals in the home. If an additional dog in the home is approved, that dog must also be trained.

**Fees:**

Initially, all clients will participate in a two month trial training program. Service dog training takes at least one year to complete. This requires commitment and patience. This training period allows clients and trainers to determine whether they will make a good team, and if the dog has the potential to graduate as a service dog. The fee for the two month program is \$800. The actual service dog program's fee is \$7,000.00 for individual sessions, to be paid at the beginning of service dog training.

**What is the next step?**

- Mail application, reference letters, veterinarian letter, and any other supporting documents to:  
Greg Sporer  
PO Box 1002 LRAFB  
Jacksonville, AR 72078