

SUMMIT ASSISTANCE DOGS

Is An Assistance Dog My Best Option?

Introduction

Many today are talking about the amazing benefits that assistance dogs bring to their partners, but there are many others who don't really understand the realities of living and working with these amazing dogs. This can lead to disappointment and unfair expectations for all involved.

This pre-application booklet is designed to teach you about the realities of living with an assistance dog and help you evaluate if a dog is the best option for you. You will learn about Summit's specific program requirements. You will also learn about some of the pros and cons of sharing your life with an assistance dog. And, you will read about the industry standards that we as an organization, and you as a client, must adhere to with Assistance Dogs International, the organization that accredits our program.

Summit Assistance Dogs is committed to carefully choosing both our clients and our dogs as we seek to change lives four paws at a time. Our application process is designed to bring clients into our program that we believe we can best help and who will best partner with us. We try to prevent those who are not able to fulfill our requirements from wasting their time applying. To this end, please consider the information in this booklet carefully before requesting an application packet. We are happy to answer any questions you may have after you have read it.

Summit's Program Requirements

Minimum Needs of our Clients

We do not require a minimum level of disability to consider someone as an applicant. We will consider anyone who believes an assistance dog will help with their primary physical needs and whose physician is in agreement. We do not train or place dogs with those whose primary need is emotional or psychiatric (exceptions may be made for professional therapy dogs and therapeutic home companions).

Time Requirements

Locating pups who are both calm and confident, bringing them up with careful training and exposure to their environment, and eventually teaching them the variety of tasks that will help our clients, is a slow process that requires great patience for all involved.

The wait time for an assistance dog can range from as few as 4 months to over 4 years, depending on the tasking required and the environments they need to work in. The greater the client's needs for tasking and public access are, the longer the wait time is likely to be.

Our matches are not made on a “first come, first served” basis, but by lining up the talents and needs of the dogs with the needs of our clients. We are dedicated to providing our clients with the best dogs and believe it is worth the wait.

Financial Requirements

Summit Assistance Dogs is a non-profit organization that depends solely on donations. We have been able to avoid charging our clients for their dogs due to the donations we receive, but we want to stress that our dogs (like all dogs) are definitely not “free.” Excellent care of dogs can be expensive, especially when factoring in routine and unexpected or emergency veterinary costs. In addition to vet care, once our dogs are placed, clients must also provide them with high quality food, treats and toys to keep them healthy both physically and mentally.

We require all of our graduates to carry pet health insurance and encourage them to become members of IAADP (International Association of Assistance Dog Partners) in order to assure that our dogs can receive needed medical care at the most affordable rates.

It is also imperative that we recoup the investments that we have made in our dogs in order to be able to continue our services into the future. We encourage our clients to donate to Summit as they are able and partner with us in fundraising however they can, so that we will be here to help them in the future. This can take many forms, including speaking at or hosting fundraising events, organizing a raffle, or writing letters to friends and family asking them to consider donating to Summit.

Please see more information about financial requirements in Appendix A.

Dog Care Requirements

Our dogs are spayed or neutered and up-to-date on vaccinations at time of placement. They have also been thoroughly evaluated by our veterinarian to assure they are healthy and able to work as an assistance dog. After placement, our clients are responsible for maintaining the best possible health of their dog through regular vet visits, flea and tick prevention, and keeping vaccinations current.

However, the care of an assistance dog goes far beyond these things. It includes feeding high quality food and providing them with healthy treats for continued training, all while maintaining their optimum weight. Allowing dogs to get too heavy has been proven to possibly lead to a shortened life span (by as much as two years) as well as cause a variety of joint issues and injuries.

Providing our dogs with emotional care and love as well as regular exercise and mental stimulation is also vital for keeping them happy and wanting to assist our clients. They are not robots, but living, sensitive creatures who have needs just like our clients, and they must be valued and loved.

Our dogs are young at the time of placement (usually 2 years or younger) and still have lots of energy that must be burned off if they are to settle and focus on helping their partner.

Without regular exercise and walks for toileting (even in inclement weather), it is just as unfair to expect them to be able to focus on their tasks as it would be for a young student to concentrate without recess! Our clients must work with their trainer to design an appropriate exercise program for their dog and commit to carrying it out on a regular basis.

Travel Requirements

Because we serve clients in such a large region and have few staff members, we require our assessments, training and follow-up visits to take place in or close to our facility. Clients are responsible for all travel costs, including any necessary overnight lodging and meals.

Dog Handling Requirements

Most of our clients are not dog trainers, but in order to graduate from Team Training and have an assistance dog placed with you, you will need to learn to be an excellent dog handler. You must understand dog training, reward them for what you want them to do and anticipate what they are feeling about their environment, so you can set them up for success. You will learn how to train a new task and you will learn to “talk dog.” Summit clients must pass several written and handling exams before they can take the dog home. The clients are responsible for keeping up with and reviewing the dog’s training and skills, and are required to manage them in a consistent, caring and professional manner. This is especially important when the dog is wearing their Summit jacket out in public, as they are acting as an ambassador for our program.

Follow-Up Requirements

Summit staff and volunteers have worked very hard to locate and train only the best dogs for our clients. We care about our dogs and want the very best for them throughout their lives. To that end, we stay involved with our teams to assure the whole dog continues to be cared for with excellence. We hope it never happens, but we maintain the right to take any dog back who is not being cared for appropriately, or whose skills are not being maintained or used. This is vital in our commitment to protect and provide a wonderful life for our dogs. We are looking for clients who appreciate that type of commitment and support, not for those simply looking for a free dog.

Following team training, we require four follow-up visits the first year and annual follow-up visits afterwards (if all is going well, with additional visits as needed) continuing for the working life of the dog. Some visits take place in the client’s home and others may be arranged at a more convenient location, however clients should plan on these visits occurring at Summit’s facility.

Successor Dog Requirements

Our clients in good standing are encouraged to come back to Summit for their next dog, when their current dog is nearing retirement. Clients who have not stayed up-to-date with their follow-up schedules and public access testing (for Service Dogs) or who have not demonstrated the excellent care and follow-through with training we require will not be eligible for successor dogs.

Decision Time... Is An Assistance Dog Your Best Option?

In deciding if an assistance dog is right for you, please read the Appendices, which include more important information for you to consider. Then please answer the following:

- 1- Do you have reliable resources available to provide for an assistance dog, including the necessary finances for routine and emergency dog care, energy to exercise the dog, and space for housing?
- 2- Do you enjoy feeding, walking, grooming, training, petting and interacting with dogs each and every day of your life, even if they weren't able to serve you?
- 3- Do you relish the idea of becoming an excellent dog handler, learning to manage both the dog and its environment, through study and hard work?
- 4- Are you looking for a supportive organization to closely partner with for the working life of an assistance dog?

If the answer to any of these questions is **"I'm not sure"** or **"No,"** we would strongly encourage you to spend more time researching assistance dogs or spend some time with someone who has one. If you do not enjoy the work that is required to make a successful partnership with an Assistance Dog (including practicing training or exercising the dog even on days that you don't feel good or the weather isn't stellar), then perhaps an Assistance Dog is not the best option for you.

There are lots of other options that can increase your independence, that a therapist can guide you in obtaining and using. In many situations, this is a much simpler solution than living with an Assistance Dog. They are not right for everyone, and for someone to determine that they don't have the energy or resources or deep enough desire for one is a noble thing. We applaud those who are honest enough with themselves to reach the decision that is right for themselves and for the dogs too.

If, however, you answer an enthusiastic **"Yes"** to all of these questions, believe you meet all of our program requirements and would like to apply for a Summit Assistance Dog, please continue on to our **"Apply"** page for more information.

Thank you for carefully considering life with an Assistance Dog.

Appendix A:

The Cost of Dog Ownership- Can You Afford a Dog?

<http://dogs.about.com/od/becomingadogowner/a/costofdogs.htm>

By Jenna Stregowski, RVT

The cost of owning a dog is about more than just the expense of food. Unfortunately, many people do not take the time to budget for a dog before getting one, leading to trouble down the road. Can you afford a dog? Learn your limits before you get a dog to help you make the right decisions. Financially providing for your dogs is a big part of being a responsible dog owner.

The cost of owning a dog can be estimated at \$700-\$3000 per year (see the chart at the end of this article). There are ways to save money depending on the choices you make. Contributing factors include your dog's size and age, the region in which you live, your own lifestyle, and your dog's individual needs.

Food and Treats:

It is important to feed your dog a high-quality dog food and healthy dog treats. This will likely cost anywhere from \$20-\$60 per month (\$250-\$700 per year). Food expenses vary based on the size and energy level of your dog as well as the quality of the food.

Toys:

Dog toys are an important part of your dog's mental stimulation and exercise. Though some of us may indulge, you can probably plan on spending \$25-\$150 per year. If you are like those of us who cannot resist a cute toy, this figure can become several hundred dollars higher. Another reason you may spend more on toys: a very destructive dog may go through toys faster, so if you have one of these dogs, invest in the toys designed for "tough chewers."

Beds:

Every dog deserves a cozy bed, and keeping one or two around the house will cost you \$50-\$200 a year. Prices go up in relation to size and quality. Getting durable, high-quality and easy-to-clean dog beds can extend the life of the beds and keep costs down in the long run.

Leashes and Collars:

Your dog must have *at least* one leash and one collar (with ID tags). Depending on size and quality, most dog owners spend \$20-\$50 per year on leashes and collars.

Grooming:

Your dog's grooming needs are largely based upon the type of hair coat he has. Smooth coated, short-haired dogs require little more than basic grooming, while dogs with constantly growing hair will need to visit the groomer on a routine basis. Between the cost

of grooming tools and visits to the groomer, you can plan on spending anywhere from \$30-\$500 a year.

Routine Veterinary Care:

Routine veterinary care is a huge part of keeping your dog healthy. Plan on going to the vet for wellness check-ups once or twice a year at a cost of at least \$100-\$300 yearly. Annual blood work can add about \$100-\$200. Dental cleanings are often recommended once a year and usually cost at least \$200. Of course, vet costs will be higher if your dog develops a health problem. This is especially the case as your dog grows older. Consider purchasing pet insurance for your dog, which will cover a percentage of vet expenses. Overall, you should budget about \$500-\$1000 per year for veterinary costs, and that does not include preventive medications or supplements.

Preventive Medications and Supplements:

All dogs need medications to prevent heartworms, fleas, ticks and other parasites. Your veterinarian will guide you towards the best products based on your climate and your dog's needs. Some dogs will also benefit from vitamins and supplements. In general, you will probably spend \$100-\$300 per year for these items depending on the size of your dog and his specific needs.

Pet Sitters or Boarding:

Most people will need to leave their dogs behind once or twice a year. Typically, this will cost about \$100-\$300 a year. However, if you travel frequently, expect to spend much more. Boarding tends to cost less than hiring a pet sitter, but many dog owners prefer the individual attention a pet sitter can offer and think it is worth the extra expense. Alternatively, if you decide to travel with your dog, you can expect your travel fees to increase.

Emergencies and Other Unexpected Expenses:

No one can predict the future; the unexpected occurs in life all the time. As a good dog owner, you should do your best to be ready for life's little surprises. Emergencies, chronic illnesses, disasters and other unplanned expenses can amount to hundreds or even thousands of dollars per year. The best way to stay prepared is to set aside extra money in savings, if possible. In a perfect world, dog owners would never have to make choices for their dogs based on money alone, Instead, it should be about what is best for their dogs. With proper planning (and a little luck) you can provide for your own dog and live a long and happy life together.

Basic Cost of Owning a Dog:

Yearly Expense		
Type of Expense	Food and Treats	\$250 - \$700
	Toys	\$25 - \$150
	Beds	\$50 - \$200
	Leashes and Collars	\$20 - \$50
	Grooming	\$30 - \$500
	Routine Veterinary Care	\$500 - \$1000
	Preventive Medications and Supplements	\$100 - \$300
	Training Classes or Resources	\$25 - \$300
	Petsitters or Boarding	\$100 - \$300
	Yearly Total	\$1100-\$3500
	Average Monthly Cost of Owning a Dog	\$90-\$290

Appendix B:

Pros & Cons of using a Service Dog to Mitigate One's Disability

Submitted by Riggan Shilstone

Note: This article summarizes the views expressed in the seminar, The Use of an Assistance Dog to Mitigate a Disability, led by Jeanne Hampl at the 2003 Assistance Dogs and Disability Awareness Fair at the University of Puget Sound)

Most people who consider getting an assistance dog have heard of the incredible services (sometimes life-saving) that these dogs perform. As one club member puts it, "I expected the dog to fix dinner for me and then clean up the dishes afterwards." Less frequently discussed are the downsides of working with an assistance animal. In order to make a truly informed decision, people must consider the bad along with the good. The goal of this presentation was to present both aspects of assistance dog partnership.

PROS:

Disability Mitigation

Whether it is alerting to a sound, retrieving dropped keys, or alerting to an impending seizure, dogs can definitely help a person overcome some of the limitations of a disability.

Social Icebreaker

For many people, the dog provides a focus for social interaction, thus reducing the sense of isolation that many people with disabilities experience. "Instead of being the woman in a wheelchair, I'm the woman with the dog." Studies have also shown that people are much more likely to positively interact with someone with a disability if he/she is accompanied by a dog.

Easier to get assistance when needed in stores

Some people with invisible or less obvious disabilities commented that it can be embarrassing to ask for help with tasks that most other people take care of themselves. Clerks can react negatively, assuming that the customer is just lazy. When an assistance dog accompanies the person, clerks are much more likely to approach and ask if they need assistance.

Pain Management

Many people who suffer from chronic pain found that they could reduce the amount of pain medication they were taking once they got a dog. For some, this was due to the psychological benefits of dog ownership. Others train the dog to directly assist in pain management through tasks such as lying on top of cramping muscles. Still others believe that the dog reduces their stress levels, which in turn helps reduce their pain level.

Independence

One of the greatest perceived benefits of assistance dog ownership was the gain in independence. Many people feel belittled, embarrassed and frustrated when they always have to ask for help. If no one is available, then the person with a disability must just wait. An assistance dog can perform many of the trivial tasks needed without the partner having to rely on someone else. Some people were able to go out on their own for the first time in years. Others felt that they would not be able to continue working if it weren't for the help provided by their dogs.

CONS:

Unwanted attention in public-

While some social interactions are positive, they can also be negative. Denial of access due to an assistance dog is extremely stressful for many people. Encounters with animal rights activists or ignorant people can range from irritating to ugly. Even the positive attention can be overwhelming, especially for people with psychiatric disabilities. One person commented that she has to allow twice as long to do an errand when she is accompanied by her dog simply because so many people want to talk to her. Another comment that solicited many nods of agreement was that "it is impossible to be invisible when you have a dog with you!"

Dogs need care each and every day

Anyone who has ever had a pet dog knows that dogs require a lot of time and effort. They must be fed, exercised, brushed, toileted, and picked up after. The same is true of assistance dogs. If the dog is going to be working in public, then there is an even greater need for impeccable grooming. For someone with limited energy and functioning, this daily effort can be overwhelming. If the person is unable to take care of the dog personally, then someone else must be available to do the work.

It's a lot of work!

Having a dog out in public can be exhausting. The person must always be aware of the dog's comfort, needs and behavior. Simple outings can become major events when you include getting the dog groomed, dressed and toileted. One person made the comment that she feels like she is packing a baby bag each time she goes out - water bowl, poop bags, treats, towelettes, etc. When attending events, special seating arrangements might need to be made. Breaks in meetings can become rushed affairs of getting the dog somewhere suitable to relieve itself. Nighttime and mornings in hotels require extra effort to get the dog out. If the person already deals with low energy, the additional burden of a dog can offset the benefit provided by the dog.

Family Dynamics

The presence of an assistance dog can disrupt family dynamics that have been in place for many years. Family members often get used to a feeling of being needed. When the dog takes over many of these responsibilities, it can be emotionally challenging for all concerned. Greater independence for the person with a disability can be threatening to some family members. In many cases, the family can work through these issues. In some cases, particularly where children are involved, it is impossible. A case was cited where a 5-year-old child was jealous of the new assistance dog and kept letting it out of the yard. She had always done everything for her mother and felt the dog was taking her place. The dog was also receiving some of the attention and affection that used to be showered only on the child. For everyone's well-being, it was decided to remove the dog from the home and try again once the child was in school.

Financial

Dogs can be expensive! Food, grooming supplies and toys add up over the lifetime of the dog. Regular veterinary checkups and routine medical care must be taken into consideration. While we hope it is never needed, emergency medical care costs can be staggering. Harnesses, vests, backpacks and other assistance dog equipment can be expensive. Depending on the specific situation, training costs may also be involved. The initial cost of the dog is only a small part of the total financial picture. For someone who is on an extremely limited budget, the addition of a dog to the household might represent an extreme hardship. Is it reasonable for the person to go hungry so that the dog can eat?

Retirement/Death

It is an unavoidable fact of life that a dog's lifespan is much shorter than our own. We cannot even assume that a dog will safely reach a typical retirement age. Unexpected health or behavior problems may precipitate early retirement. Accidents and disease can lead to death, often with very little warning. Planning for a dog's eventual retirement or death should begin before even getting an assistance dog. The tools and support structures that were used prior to getting an assistance dog should be maintained and periodically practiced. There is also a powerful emotional reaction upon the death or retirement of an assistance dog. The bond between dog and handler can be extremely strong. The loss of that relationship can be emotionally devastating. Not everyone is willing to expose himself to the grief that will inevitably result when the dog dies. Some people commented that the loss of their assistance dog made them feel the pain of being disabled even more strongly than when they first developed the disability. The dog had freed them from many of the constraints imposed by the disability. Suddenly, the disability was once again an inescapable reality. This compounded the grief and depression they were already experiencing due to the loss of the dog.

Limitation of activities

While assistance dogs can go places that most other dogs can't, there are still places off limits to them. For instance, many amusement park rides, zoos and nature preserves don't allow assistance dogs because of the potential hazard that would be imposed on others or on the wildlife. Other places such as rock concerts and hockey games might allow assistance dogs, but the handler determines that it is not in the dog's best interest to be exposed to the loud noise and raucous behavior. In these situations, the person must make a choice between leaving the dog at home or skipping the event. If the dog has not been taught to handle separation from their human partner, this can be a very difficult decision to make.

Training requirements

Dogs are not push-button, mechanical beings. They cannot be programmed once and then expected to perform for life. Training must continue throughout the life of the dog. If skills are not regularly practiced and reinforced, they will get rusty or disappear. Also, the needs of the disabled partner might change over time, requiring training for new tasks. Some people have the skills needed to train their own dog while others enlist the help of a trainer (either paid or volunteer). Some people have also had to invest significant effort in re-training a dog who has been through a traumatic experience. In these cases, it comes down to either spend the time to retrain or retire the dog. Anyone who is not willing to spend time training a dog should find a different assistive device.

Assistance dogs can be a wonderful source of help, support and love for someone with a disability. They can also be a tremendous burden. If only the positive, heart-string tugging aspect of assistance dogs is publicized, some people will start down this path only to experience shock, anger, frustration and guilt when the realities of assistance dog use are encountered. This is a disservice to both the dogs and the people. Anyone considering an assistance dog should be aware of both the pros and cons of assistance dogs. It then becomes an educated choice: do the benefits received from an assistance dog out-weigh the costs? For some people, an assistance dog will make an already difficult life unbearable. For others, proper planning can mitigate some of the negative aspects and tip the scales in favor of assistance dog use. For many of the people in the seminar, their assistance dogs provide so much positive to their lives that they no longer even notice the costs. Assistance dog care has become a way of life for them, accepted without thought.

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Appendix C:

Assistance Dogs International Standards and Ethics



Standards for Assistance Dogs Partners

The assistance dog partners will agree to the following partner responsibilities:

1. Treat the dog with appreciation and respect.
2. Practice obedience regularly.
3. Practice the dog's skills regularly.
4. Maintain the dog's proper behavior in public and at home.
5. Carry proper identification and be aware of all applicable laws pertaining to assistance dogs.
6. Keep the dog well groomed and well cared for.
7. Practice preventive health care for the dog.
8. Obtain annual health checks and vaccinations for the dog.
9. Abide by all leash and license laws.
10. Follow the training program's requirements for progress reports and medical evaluations.
11. Arrange for the prompt clean up of dog's waste.

Standards for Programs

Member organizations of ADI believe that the following tenets are necessary to ensure that the member organizations will continue to produce a quality

product and to protect applicants, students and graduates from feeling exploited or demeaned.

1. Any individual staff member or program volunteer working with dogs and/or clients that requires specialized people/canine skills must have:

- An affinity for people and excellent communication skills.
- Canine knowledge and training experience that ensure established training and client standards can be met by the member organization.

2. Policies and procedures are followed to ensure that the member organization will be able to maintain established standards of service to people with disabilities through their application/student/graduate selection, training and team matching methods.

3. All Board members of ADI member organizations must receive orientation and be provided with appropriate educational materials about their respective programs. The materials should include but not be limited to the following:

- History of Assistance Dogs and the history of their respective programs.
- ADI's established Standards and Ethics.
- Board of Director responsibilities such as financial management, resource identification, solicitation and fund-raising.
- Ongoing Programs and Services and long range planning.

4. Member organizations recognize the community has a right to receive information concerning ADI program Standards and Ethics.

5. Member organizations recognize the community has a right to receive education on the benefits received by a person with a disability through the use of an Assistance Dog.

Ethics for Dogs

ADI believes that any dog the member organizations train to become an Assistance Dog has a right to a quality life. Therefore, the ethical use of an Assistance Dog must incorporate the following criteria:

1. An Assistance Dog must be temperamentally screened for emotional soundness and working ability.
2. An Assistance Dog must be physically screened for the highest degree of good health and physical soundness.
3. An Assistance Dog must be technically and analytically trained for maximum control and for the specialized tasks he/she is asked to perform.
4. An Assistance Dog must be trained using humane training methods providing for the physical and emotional safety of the dog.
5. An Assistance Dog must be permitted to learn at his/her own individual pace and not be placed in service before reaching adequate physical and emotional maturity.
6. An Assistance Dog must be matched to best suit the client's needs, abilities and lifestyle.
7. An Assistance Dog must be placed with a client able to interact with him/her.
8. An Assistance Dog must be placed with a client able to provide for the dog's emotional, physical and financial needs.
9. An Assistance Dog must be placed with a client able to provide a stable and secure living environment.
10. An Assistance Dog must be placed with a client who expresses a desire for increased independence and/or an improvement in the quality of his/her life through the use of an Assistance Dog.
11. An ADI member organization will accept responsibility for its dogs in the event of a graduate's death or incapacity to provide proper care.
12. An ADI member organization will not train, place, or certify dogs with any aggressive behavior. An assistance dog may not be trained in any way for guard or protection duty. Non-aggressive barking as a trained behavior will be acceptable in appropriate situations.

Assistance Dogs in Public

There are guidelines on the public appropriateness, behavior and training expected of a dog working in public places.

These are intended to be minimum standards for all assistance dog programs that are members or provisional members with ADI. All programs are encouraged to work at levels above the minimums

1. Public appropriateness

- Dog is clean, well-groomed and does not have an offensive odor.
- Dog does not urinate or defecate in inappropriate locations.

2. Behavior

- Dog does not solicit attention, visit or annoy any member of the general public.
- Dog does not disrupt the normal course of business.
- Dog does not vocalize unnecessarily, i.e. barking, growling or whining.
- Dog shows no aggression towards people or other animals.
- Dog does not solicit or steal food or other items from the general public.

3. Training

- Dog is specifically trained to perform 3 or more tasks to mitigate aspects of the client's disability.
- Dog works calmly and quietly on harness, leash or other tether.
- Dog is able to perform its tasks in public.
- Dog must be able to lie quietly beside the handler without blocking aisles, doorways, etc.
- Dog is trained to urinate and defecate on command.

Dog stays within 24" of its handler at all times unless the nature of a trained task requires it to be working at a greater distance.

Training Standards

Service Dogs

These are intended to be minimum standards for all assistance dog programs that are members or provisional members with ADI. All programs are encouraged to work at levels above the minimums.

1. The service dog must respond to commands (basic obedience and skilled tasks) from the client 90% of the time on the first ask in all public and home environments.
2. The service dog should demonstrate basic obedience skills by responding to voice and/or hand signals for sitting, staying in place, lying down, walking in a controlled position near the client and coming to the client when called.
3. The service dog must meet all of the standards as laid out in the minimum standards for Assistance Dogs in Public and should be equally well behaved in the home.
4. The service dog must be trained to perform at least 3 tasks to mitigate the client's disability.
5. The client must be provided with enough instruction to be able to meet the ADI Minimum Standards for Assistance Dogs in Public. The client must be able to demonstrate:
 - That their dog can perform at least 3 tasks.
 - Knowledge of acceptable training techniques.
 - An understanding of canine care and health.
 - The ability to maintain training, problem solve, and continue to train/add new skills (as required) with their service dog.
 - Knowledge of local access laws and appropriate public behavior.
6. The assistance dog program must document monthly followups with clients for the first 6 months following placement. Personal contact will be done by qualified staff or program volunteer within 12 months of graduation and annually thereafter.
7. Identification of the service dog will be accomplished with the laminated ID card with a photo(s) and names of the dog and partner. In public the dog must wear a cape, harness, backpack, or other similar piece of equipment or

clothing with a logo that is clear and easy to read and identifiable as assistance dogs.

8. The program staff must demonstrate knowledge of the client's disabilities in relation to the services they provide. The program shall make available to staff and volunteers educational material on different disabilities.

9. The client must abide by the ADI Minimum Standards of Assistance Dog Partners.

10. Prior to placement every service dog must meet the ADI Standards and Ethics Regarding Dogs, be spayed/neutered and have current vaccination certificates as determined by their veterinarian and applicable laws. It is the program's responsibility to inform the client of any special health or maintenance care requirements for each dog.

Hearing Dogs

These are intended to be minimum standards for all assistance dog programs that are members or provisional members with ADI. All programs are encouraged to work at levels above the minimums.

1. The hearing dog must respond to basic obedience commands from the handler 90% of the time on the first ask in all public and home environments. The dog must respond to the trained sound with an alerting behavior within 15 seconds from the beginning of the sound.

2. The hearing dog should demonstrate basic obedience skills by responding to voice and/or hand signals for sitting, staying in place, lying down, walking in a controlled position near the client and coming to the client when called.

3. The hearing dog must meet all of the standards as laid out in the ADI Minimum Standards for Dogs in Public and should be equally well behaved in the home environment.

4. Sound Awareness Skills. Upon hearing a sound, the hearing dog should alert the client by making physical contact or by some other behavior, so the client is aware when a trained sound occurs. The dog should then specifically indicate or lead the person to the source of the sound. All dogs must be trained to alert the handler to at least three (3) sounds.

5. The client must be provided with enough instruction to be able to meet the ADI Minimum Standards for Assistance Dogs in Public. Clients must be able to demonstrate:

- That their dog can alert to three (3) different sounds.
- Knowledge of acceptable training techniques.
- An understanding of canine care and health.
- The ability to continue to train, problem solve, and add new skills with their hearing dog.
- Knowledge of local access laws and appropriate public behavior.

6. The program must document monthly followups with clients for the first 6 months following placement. Personal contact will be done by qualified staff or program volunteers within 12 months of graduation and annually thereafter.

7. Identification of the hearing dog will be accomplished with the laminated ID card with a photo (s) and names of the dog and partner. In public the dog must wear a cape, harness, backpack, or other similar piece of equipment or clothing with a logo that is clear and easy to read and identifiable as an assistance dog.

8. The program staff must demonstrate the knowledge of deafness, deaf culture and hearing impairment. A staff member or agent must know basic sign language. The program shall make available to staff and volunteers educational material on deafness, deaf culture and hearing impairment.

9. The client must abide by the ADI Minimum Standards of Assistance Dog Partners.

10. Prior to placement the hearing dog must meet the ADI Standards and Ethics Regarding Dogs, be spayed/neutered and have current vaccination certificates as determined by their veterinarian and applicable laws. It is the program's responsibility to inform the client of any special health or maintenance care requirements for each dog.

Facility Dogs

1. The facility dog must respond to commands (basic obedience and skilled tasks) from the facilitator 90% of the time on the first ask in all public and home environments.
2. The facility dog should demonstrate basic obedience skills by responding to voice and/or hand signals for sitting, staying in place, lying down, walking in a controlled position near the facilitator and coming to the facilitator when called.
3. The facility dog must meet all of the standards as laid out in the minimum standards for Assistance Dogs in Public and should be equally well behaved in the home.
4. The facility dog must be partnered with a working professional facilitator and skilled at maintaining a calm manner and good social behavior in a variety of environments. They must also be accustomed to interacting with different types of people including those with physical and/or developmental disabilities.
5. The facilitator must be provided with enough instruction to be able to meet the ADI Minimum Standards for Assistance Dogs in Public. The facilitator must be able to demonstrate:

That their dog can remain calm and display good social behavior while interacting with a variety of people in different environments.

- Knowledge of acceptable training techniques.
- An understanding of canine care and health.
- The ability to maintain training, problem solve, and continue to train/add new skills (as required) with their facility dog.
- An understanding of how to use the dog in canine assisted interventions.
- Knowledge of local access laws and appropriate public behavior.

6. The assistance dog program must document monthly followups with facilitators for the first 6 months following placement. Personal contact will be done by qualified staff or program volunteer within 12 months of graduation and annually thereafter

7. Identification of the facility dog will be accomplished with the laminated ID card with a photo(s) and names of the dog and partner. In public the dog must wear a cape, harness, backpack, or other similar piece of equipment or clothing with a logo that is clear and easy to read and identifiable as assistance dogs.

8. The program staff must demonstrate knowledge of the clients' needs in the facility in relation to the services they provide. The program shall make available to staff and volunteers educational material on the needs of the clients in the facility.

9. The facilitator must abide by the ADI Minimum Standards of Assistance Dog Partners.

10. Prior to placement every facility dog must meet the ADI Standards and Ethics Regarding Dogs, be spayed/neutered and have current vaccination certificates as determined by their veterinarian and applicable laws. It is the program's responsibility to inform the facilitator of any special health or maintenance care requirements for each dog.

Program Staff and trained professional program volunteers can use program dogs in facilities to participate in canine assisted interventions. These dogs may be dogs in advanced training, breeding dogs (when not in estrous) and younger pups.

www.assisteddogsinternational.org