



ABILITY DOGS OF ARIZONA

MATCHING PROGRAM OVERVIEW

HOW DOES THIS PROGRAM WORK?

Ability Dogs of Arizona has a small number of dogs available to Tucson area applicants who do not have an appropriate dog of their own. When placed, the dogs are about 8 to 12 months old, have been evaluated for service work, and received basic obedience training. Once placed, the applicant will purchase the dog for \$3,000, then continue the dog's training with Ability Dogs of Arizona for approximately 12-18 months.

- Applicants must meet all of the same criteria as those applying with their own dogs.
- It is best if there are no other dogs in your home. If you already have a dog, this may impact our ability to make a match.
- Matches are based on which dog we believe will work best for each person — our training staff will make this decision.
- We cannot honor requests for a specific breed, gender, or color.

If accepted for this program, you will be placed on the waiting list. Wait list time varies from several months to a year or more, depending on the number of dogs available. Before a dog is matched with you:

- We will do a home visit
- You will attend at least 6 training classes where you will have the opportunity to work with available dogs. This provides more information for us to utilize in the matching process.

WHAT CAN I EXPECT IF I AM MATCHED WITH A DOG?

- You will purchase the dog and start service dog team training.
- All criteria, program requirements, and fees for our Service Dog Training Program will apply (see page 2).
- You will be financially responsible for all of the dog's expenses.

There are many variables which determine whether a dog can successfully become a service dog, including the amount of time and effort you put into training the dog. **Your dog will not be fully trained — you will be training the dog. There is no guarantee that any dog received through the Matching Program will qualify for certification as a service dog through Ability Dogs of Arizona.** If the dog does not qualify, you must refer to the Match/Purchase agreements to determine if you can keep the dog as a pet or if you will have to return it.

HOW DO I APPLY FOR ONE OF THESE DOGS?

Complete and submit the application forms (available at abilitydogsaz.org or call 520-326-3412):

1. **Matching Program Application/Financial Self-Assessment**
2. **Physician Statement** (for physical disabilities such as mobility, hearing alert, diabetic alert) and/or **Mental Health Report** (for psychiatric service dog tasks). If dog will be trained for both types of disabilities, include both forms.

Once we receive your forms, we will schedule a consultation (\$30 fee) to discuss your needs and goals and help determine if this is the right program for you.

SERVICE DOG TEAM TRAINING OVERVIEW

WHAT CAN I EXPECT?

- Each month you will take a minimum of four lessons:
 - Two private lessons at the Training Center, your home, or at a public place;
 - Two group lessons at the Training Center or at a public place.
- In addition to lessons, you will train several times a day (5 – 15 minutes per session) practicing what you learned.
- Training includes relationship and focus building; socialization; basic and advanced obedience; public access; and assistance tasks specific to your needs.
- Each month you will take a minimum of four lessons (2 Private and 2 Group)
- Lessons may take place at the Training Center, your home, or at a public location.
- In addition to lessons, you will spend 10 – 15 minutes each day practicing what you learned.
- Training includes relationship and focus building; socialization; basic and advanced obedience; public access; and assistance tasks specific to your needs.
- On average, it will take 12-18 months to complete the program. (In all cases, we require a minimum of 6 months in our program before giving the certification test).

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

- Consultation fee of \$30
- A monthly lesson package (2 Private & 2 Group lessons) for \$260. The lesson package is purchased in advance for each month, and must be used by the end of the month.
- Home visits are required, and travel time and mileage may be charged.
- When ready to test for certification with Ability Dogs of Arizona, a \$250 fee. This fee includes additional post-certification support.
- Purchase price of the dog is \$3,000.