



Puppy Raiser (Foster) Role Description & Application

Ability Dogs of Arizona
75 South Montego Drive
Tucson, Arizona 85710
520-326-3412

PUPPY RAISER ROLE DESCRIPTION

Ability Dogs of Arizona Matching Program 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 8-12 months old, have been evaluated for service work, and received basic obedience training. Once placed, the applicant will continue the dog's training with Ability Dogs of Arizona for about 6-12 months.

Puppy Raisers are a critical part of our Matching Program. Puppy Raisers will care for the dog in their home, and be responsible for socializing, training core skills, and exposing the dog to various environments. All care and training will be done under the supervision of Ability Dogs of Arizona staff. The anticipated time with a puppy raiser is ten to twelve months.

Eligibility to be a Puppy Raiser

- You must have a relatively calm household.
- You can have other animals in your home under the following conditions:
 - They must have no aggressive history or tendencies.
 - All dogs and cats must have proof of current rabies vaccinations.
 - All dogs must have proof of current vaccinations for rabies and DHPP. The Matching Program dogs will be receiving vaccinations on the appropriate schedule under Ability Dogs of Arizona's direction.
 - All dogs should be spayed/neutered. If any dogs are not spayed/neutered, this must be disclosed in advance. Matching Program dogs will not be spayed/neutered during the time they are with the Puppy Raiser. This will be discussed before a dog is placed with you.
- You must agree to a home check prior to having a dog placed with you and agree to random home checks after that.
- You must be able to commit to fostering for 10–12 months.
- All members of your household must agree to comply with Ability Dogs of Arizona directions for the care and training of the dog.
- You and your family members will not be eligible to receive the dog for the purpose of training it as a service dog.

Responsibilities

- You will be providing a safe environment for the dog, with the expectation that it will live in your home for 10—12 months. Ability Dogs of Arizona will supply a crate, leash, collar, settle mat, and other training equipment as required. This equipment will go with the dog when it is placed with a Service Dog Program applicant.
 - The dog must reside in the house. It cannot be left outdoors overnight or for extended periods of times.
 - You will supervise the dog throughout the day.
 - You will feed the dog a diet recommended by Ability Dogs of Arizona.

- The dog must wear a collar with ID tags at all times, except when being bathed.
- The dog must be on leash at all times unless it is in a secured fenced area or inside the home.
- Ability Dogs of Arizona instructors will teach you how to crate train the dog and use the crate appropriately. Too much time in a crate will have a negative impact on the puppy, both mentally and physically (impacting the growth and development of bones and joints).
- You will not encourage the dog in behaviors that may be inappropriate for the future receipt, such as being on furniture or beds, or jumping on or pawing at people.
- You will teach the dog core obedience skills under the direction of an Ability Dogs of Arizona instructor.
 - You will use only the approved positive reinforcement techniques as taught by this program.
 - You will attend weekly training lessons with the dog at Ability Dogs of Arizona, and may have supplemental lessons at other times. These lessons are provided without charge.
 - You will do daily training homework (at least 10 – 15 minutes per day).
- You will socialize the dog and provide exposure to various environments in accordance with Ability Dogs of Arizona instructions:
 - Follow your instructor’s guidance — if you take the dog to too many places, or the wrong places before it is ready, it could negatively impact the dog’s ability to become a service dog. Ability Dogs of Arizona instructors will advise you about when and where you can take the dog.
 - The dog is not a Service Dog In-Training and does not have public access privileges. The dog is not allowed to wear any vest, scarf, leash or other clothing or equipment that may identify it as a service dog in-training. Ability Dogs of Arizona will make this determination at the appropriate time.
 - Do not take the dog to dog parks.
- You will transport dog as needed to training sessions, socializations, veterinarian appointments, etc. The dog must be crated or in an approved seat belt at all times.
- You will complete weekly training reports.
- You will keep the dog well-groomed (brushed, bathed, clean ears and teeth, keep nails clipped, etc.)
- You will work with Ability Dogs of Arizona instructors to arrange ‘meet and greets’ with prospective recipients.
- You agree to return the dog to Ability Dogs of Arizona upon request.
- You will be expected to pay for the dog’s food, treats, grooming, and transportation. Ability Dogs of Arizona will pay for veterinary care. If required financially, fosters may request reimbursement for the dog’s expenses. Reimbursement must be pre-approved by Ability Dogs of Arizona.

Throughout the fostering period, the dog will be evaluated for the potential to enter service dog training. If Ability Dogs of Arizona determines at any time that the dog may not be suitable for service dog training, the dog will be removed from the Matching Program. In this case, you will work with Ability Dogs of Arizona to determine the best care and permanent home for the dog.

ABILITY DOGS OF ARIZONA PUPPY RAISER APPLICATION

Volunteers must be at least 18 to be the primary puppy raiser. Children younger than 18 may foster along with a parent or guardian.

Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Preferred Phone _____ Cell Home Work Other

Alternate Phone _____ Cell Home Work Other

Email: _____

Why are you interested in fostering for Ability Dogs of Arizona?

Is your interest in volunteering part of a school assignment/requirement or a court appointed community service requirement? No Yes

Are you employed? ... No ... Yes: Occupation _____

If yes, please describe the conditions (work from home, outside the home, days, hours, etc.):

Are you currently a student? ... No... Yes: Level _____

How many hours a day are you away from home because of school? _____

Do you live in a ... House... Apartment/Condo... Mobile Home ... Other: _____

If you rent or lease, are there any pet restrictions? ... No ... Yes

Do you live in a ... City/Urban Area ... Suburban Neighborhood ... Rural Area

Do you have a fenced yard or outdoor enclosure? ... No ... Yes: Please describe the general size, fencing, & ground cover:

Please list any other Adults in your home & their relationship: _____

Please list the number of Children in your home & their ages _____

Please list any other pets in your home, including species & ages: _____

How did you hear about us? _____

Please list one reference we can contact: Name _____

Phone _____ Relationship _____

Have you ever been convicted of a criminal offense? No Yes: _____

Have you ever been charged with neglect, abuse, or assault of a person and/or animal?

No Yes: _____

Would you be willing to take a drug screening test? Yes No

Ability Dogs of Arizona does not and shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion (creed), gender, gender expression, age, national origin (ancestry), disability, familial or marital status, sexual orientation, or military status, in any of its activities or operations. These activities include, but are not limited to, hiring and firing of staff, selection of volunteers and vendors, and provision of services. We are committed to providing an inclusive and welcoming environment for all members of our staff, clients, volunteers, subcontractors, vendors, and clients.

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Applicant information is privileged and confidential. Such information may only be accessed on a need-to-know basis. Need-to-know is defined as the minimum use, disclosure or access necessary for one to adequately perform one's specific responsibilities. All other access is prohibited unless authorization is obtained from the applicant or unless otherwise permitted by state or federal law.

Participating in Ability Dogs of Arizona classes or activities, or volunteering or fostering with Ability Dogs of Arizona, does not signify that the individual is a dog trainer or is qualified to train dogs.