



RESCUE TO SERVICE DOG PROGRAM OVERVIEW

HOW DOES THIS PROGRAM WORK?

- Dogs are identified as potential service dog candidates by one of our animal welfare partners. Founding partners are Arizona Greyhound Rescue, Humane Society of Southern Arizona and Pima Animal Care Center.
- Dogs live in foster homes for at least 3 months. The foster family begins teaching the dog core skills – loose leash walking, sit, down, not to jump, etc. They also begin socialization of the dogs in pet-friendly public places.
 - Foster homes can NOT be the home of a potential adopter of the dog.
- Dogs are re-assessed after about 3 months of living in the foster home. Dogs still believed to have potential to become service dogs will be matched with a person with a disability who is looking for a dog to train to assist them.
- To get on the list to adopt one of these dogs, complete the Handi-Dogs Rescue To Service Dog Training Application and have your physician complete the Handi-Dogs Physician Statement or Mental Health Report. Submit both forms to Handi-Dogs along with \$15 to schedule a Consultation with our Training Manager. Applicants to this program must be age 18 or older.
- During the Consultation the Training Manager will help assess if training a service dog with our program is a good fit for you.
- If accepted into this program, your name will be placed on the list of people looking for a dog.
 - The number of dogs in the program is limited. We will not be able to honor requests for a specific breed or color. Matches are based on the dog we believe will work best for you.
- Before a dog is identified for you, Handi-Dogs will do a home visit and you will be asked to attend at least 6 training classes (currently on Wednesday evenings 5- 6 pm). In class you will have the opportunity to work with available dogs. This provides more information for us to utilize in the matching process.
- When a dog is matched with you, you will complete the animal welfare organization's adoption paperwork and Handi-Dogs Match Agreement and new student forms. An \$85 adoption fee is charged by the animal welfare organization. You will also need to pay for your first 8 lessons with Handi-Dogs prior to taking the dog home.
- **NOTE:** There are a lot of variables which determine if a dog can successfully become a service dog, including the amount of time and effort put into training the dog. Your dog will NOT be fully trained — you will be training your dog. There is NO guarantee that the dog adopted through the Rescue To Service program will qualify for certification as a service dog through Handi-Dogs. If this happens, you will need to refer to the adoption agreement signed with the animal welfare organization and the Match Agreement signed with Handi-Dogs to determine if you can keep the dog as a pet or if you will need to return it.

WHAT CAN I EXPECT AFTER I ADOPT A DOG THROUGH THIS PROGRAM?

- Begin training with your new dog in Handi-Dogs Service Dog Training Program.
- Attend weekly training lessons with your new dog. Most will be private lessons with a Handi-Dogs instructor at the Training Center, your home, or at a public place. Some will be group lessons. (6 lessons every month is recommended; a minimum of 4 is required).
- In between lessons, you will spend a minimum of 10 – 15 minutes each day practicing what you learned.
- You advance at your own pace. On average it takes 1 – 1 ½ years to complete.

<p>Introduction Level <i>Introduction & Foundation Work</i></p>	Orientation — Ongoing assessment of team potential — Relationship & focus building
<p>Basic Level <i>Basic Obedience & Introduction to Assistance Tasks</i></p>	Basic obedience training — Early stages of assistance task training — Socialization around humans, dogs, & distractions — Handling of dog
<p>Advanced Level <i>Advanced Skills & Public Access Training</i></p>	Advanced obedience training — Public access training — Assistance task training
<p>Handi-Dogs Certification Test</p>	Test to become a Handi-Dogs certified service dog team.

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

- 8 lessons are purchased at a time, at a cost of \$200.* (*About 1 ½ - 2 months of training.*)
 - *Your first payment will be made at time of match. It will only be refundable for unused lessons should the dog be deemed not appropriate to continue in the program.*
- Expect to pay \$1,200 - \$1,500 over the course of your 1 – 1 ½ years of training.
- When ready to test for certification with Handi-Dogs, an additional \$100 fee is charged. This fee includes additional post-certification support.
- If you live 20-40 miles from our training center, there will be an extra charge for travel time and mileage for home visits. We are not able to provide service to areas more than 40 miles from our training center.

HOW DO I GET STARTED?

Complete and submit 2 forms (available at <http://www.handi-dogs.org/home/rescue-to-service>), or call 520-326-3412):

- 1. Rescue To Service Dog Training Program Application**
- 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, our Training Manager will schedule a consultation (\$15 fee) to discuss your needs and goals and help determine if this is the right program for you.