



Puppy Parent Application

Overview of Position

Thank you for your interest in becoming a volunteer Puppy Parent for one of our Paws for Purple Hearts (PPH) service dogs in training! Puppy Parents play a crucial role in the life of a service dog by socializing the dog to new environments, experiences, and people. Puppies' minds are like sponges and the experiences that a service dog has early in life are critical to its later development and behavior. Not only will raising a service puppy be fun and exciting for you, it helps us to further our mission to provide highly trained service dogs to service members and veterans with disabilities. The ages of the dogs range from ~4 months to ~2 years.

Puppy Parents are volunteers and Paws for Purple Hearts will provide some of the items necessary to raise a puppy in your home, such as a leash, harness, and food. Any other items purchased for the puppy are considered a tax-deductible in-kind donation to Paws for Purple Hearts. Please notify PPH staff if you would like a receipt.

Following is an overview of the responsibilities of a Puppy Parent for our organization. To apply, please fill out the application on the following pages and return it to your local PPH representative.

Puppy Parent Responsibilities:

- Care for the dog in a safe and loving household for a period of time, or periods of time, as determined by Paws for Purple Hearts.
- Transport the dog to and from the Paws for Purple Hearts site, as requested, in order for the dog to participate in training with PPH trainers and veterans.
- Provide food, water, toileting area, and appropriate toys for the dog while it is in your care.
- Take the dog with you on public outings in order to expose him or her to new environments. If approved by PPH staff, the dog will have a "Service Dog in Training" vest that allows public access into areas where pets may normally be restricted (such as stores and restaurants).
- Reinforce the dog's training and, in some cases, teach new skills.
- Attend Puppy Parent training meetings as required by Paws for Purple Hearts.
- Submit regular Puppy Parent Reports to Paws for Purple Hearts as required.
- Obtain veterinary services for the dog, if necessary and as requested by Paws for Purple Hearts, while in your care.

Puppy Parent Qualifications:

- Primary handler must have permission to take the dog to school or work or have someone available for the puppy every four hours at a minimum.
- Primary handler must be able to drive and have access to a car. (Exceptions may be made on a case by case basis)
- Handlers who are minors must have parental supervision.
- Handlers must be able to transport the dog to and from the Paws for Purple Hearts site as requested.
- Primary handler must own the home or have permission to have a dog in the home.
- Home must be safe and able to be puppy proofed, with a safe outside area to potty train.
- Handlers must be non-smokers or refrain from smoking around the dog, including in the house.
- Household cannot have dogs under 2 years old in the home and no dogs with aggression or other behavior issues, such as reactivity, resource guarding, or dogs that are not potty trained.
- All handlers must be mentally and physically capable of training the puppy, carrying the puppy, and handling problem behaviors.
- All handlers must have the physical and mental capacity to provide consistent and stable care and training and ensure the dog is not at risk inside or outside of the home.
- Primary handler and all members of household must be willing to utilize positive training methods, follow the Paws for Purple Hearts training method, and commit to socialization and potty training.
- Primary handler must be willing and able to provide reports and attend training as requested by Paws for Purple Hearts.
- Primary handler and all members of household must be committed to our mission to provide highly trained service dogs for service members and veterans with disabilities.
- Experience with dogs preferred.

The schedule and length of time the puppy is in your care depends on the puppy, our needs, and your situation. Depending on these factors, a puppy parent schedule may look like one of these options:

- Take the dog home for the weekday evenings and weekends. Drop the dog off at PPH in the morning for training and pick up the dog in the evening after training.
- Take the dog home on the weekends and return the dog to PPH at the end of the weekend.
- Take the dog home for other designated periods of time, such as during the holidays or for extended periods of time as needed.

This application should be completed by the primary person or people who will be working with the puppy.

General Information

Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Daytime Phone _____ Evening Phone _____

Cell Phone _____ E-mail address _____

Are you a veteran or service member? Yes No

How did you learn about Paws for Purple Hearts and our Puppy Parent Program?

Why do you want to be a Puppy Parent for a service dog in training?

Dog Handler Information

Who will be the primary people working with the dog (referred to as Handler(s))?

Primary Handler: Name _____ Age _____

Occupation _____

Secondary Handler: Name _____ Age _____

Occupation _____

Other members of household:

Name _____ Age _____ Occupation _____

Name _____ Age _____ Occupation _____

Name _____ Age _____ Occupation _____

Please describe how you spend a typical day.

On weekdays:

On weekends:

Please tell us about your schedule.

When are you able to care for the dog in your home? (check all that apply)

- On weekends only On weekends and weekday evenings
 On weekday evenings only Over the holidays, such as Thanksgiving and Christmas
 Other extended periods of time as needed Other _____

Please tell us about past and current dog experience and other animals in your

household. Have you ever owned a dog(s)? Yes No If yes, when and what breed(s)?

Have you ever raised a puppy? Yes No

If yes, have you potty trained a puppy? Yes No

Have you crate trained a puppy? Yes No

Do you currently own any pets? Yes No

If yes, what type(s), breed(s) and age(s)?

Are your pets neutered or spayed? Yes No

Can you provide proof of vaccinations for your pets? Yes No

Please provide the name and phone number of your veterinarian.

Name _____ Phone _____

Does your dog(s) have any behavior that could be problematic with a new puppy in the house?

Yes No If yes, please describe:

Have you ever attended dog training classes? Yes No

If yes, what kind?

Obedience Agility Show Tracking/Search and Rescue

Assistance Dog puppy raising with the following organization _____

Other _____

Please tell us about your household.

In what type of residence do you live?

House Townhouse Apartment/Condo Dorm Other _____

Do you own or rent your residence? Own Rent

If you rent your home, can you provide written verification that dogs are permitted in your residence along with your landlord's name and phone number? Yes No

Landlord's Name _____ Phone number _____

Do you have access to a yard at your residence? Yes No If

yes, is the yard fully fenced in? Yes No

If yes, what type of fence do you have? _____ Height? _____

Do you have a pool at your residence? Yes No If

yes, is it fenced? Yes No

How much interaction do you anticipate the puppy will have with other dogs in your neighborhood?

Please tell us what life will be like with a service dog puppy.

Do you accept that Paws for Purple Hearts will not be responsible for any destruction by the dog to your house, household items, yard, car, school, or workplace? Yes No

Do you acknowledge that the puppy may have toileting accidents in your home? Yes No

Do you plan to take the dog to work school with you? Yes No

If yes, do you have permission to take the dog to work or school (if necessary) Yes No

How many days a week and how long? _____ day(s) a week for _____ hour(s) a day

Where do you work or attend school? _____

What kind of environment would the dog be exposed to at work or school?

If you can't take the dog to work or school, where will the dog stay? How many hours will it be alone?

In what situation(s) would you not take the dog with you?

If you must leave the dog alone at home, where will the dog stay?

Where in the house will the dog sleep during the night?

How will you exercise the dog and how often?

Are you committed and willing to take the dog with you on public outings, such as the grocery store, zoo, movie theatre, mall, etc.? Please note that you are responsible for the safety and positive exposure of the dog to public places and experiences, such as crowds, traffic, construction, children, music and unusual environments.

Yes No

If no, please explain:

Do you smoke (cigarettes or marijuana)? Yes No

If yes, can you commit to refraining from smoking near the dog, including in your home? Yes No

Can you commit to attending PPH training sessions? (*Session frequency and length may vary based on situation*) Yes No

Can you commit to filling out reports on the dog's behavior and experience? (*Report submission timeline may vary based on situation*) Yes No

Do you consent to pre-announced visits to your home by a PPH representative before and during the time the dog is in your care? Yes No

Paws for Purple Hearts service dogs-in-training are male and female Golden Retrievers, Labrador Retrievers, and Golden/Labrador Retriever crosses, and may not be altered while in your care. Are you willing to parent a dog of any gender or breed? If not, please explain.

Please provide contact information for someone we can contact as a reference.

Name: _____ Relationship: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Volunteer Applicant Agreement and Liability Waiver

In anticipation that you will be accepted into Paws for Purple Hearts' Puppy Parent program, please read and sign the agreement below.

I authorize Paws for Purple Hearts to seek emergency medical treatment in case of an accident, injury, or illness.

I understand that if I am injured while acting as an unpaid member of the volunteer staff that I am not covered by applicable state Worker's Compensation Law.

I understand that working with dogs involves risks, including possible injury, illness, death, damage to or destruction of property, and I choose to volunteer with Paws for Purple Hearts of my own free will with full knowledge and acceptance of those risks.

I indemnify and hold harmless Paws For Purple Hearts from and against any and all claims, losses, liabilities and damage to persons or property, expenses, costs and/or attorneys' fees arising out of the acts or omissions of Paws For Purple Hearts, its directors, officers, agents or employees, and I agree that anything whatsoever that happens relating to the dogs, their training, or my volunteer work with dogs will not result in any claims against Paws For Purple Hearts, its directors, officers, agents or employees by me or anyone acting on my behalf for personal injuries or property damages.

If I volunteer through the Department of Veterans Affairs ("VA"), Department of Defense ("DOD"), a state Veterans services department, or similar host organization, I understand and agree that any claims I may have that are related to the program will be referred to the host organization and that the host organization may, at its own discretion, pursue those claims further.

I acknowledge that the information contained on this form is true and correct. I understand that any misrepresentation of facts may result in the removal of the PPH dog from my home.

Applicant's signature _____ Date _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian if Applicant is a Minor

Parent/Guardian Name _____

Paws for Purple Hearts
10201 Old Redwood Highway, Penngrove, CA 94951
servicedog@pawsforpurplehearts.org
844-700-PAWS