**Handi-Dogs**

**MATCHING PROGRAM OVERVIEW**

**HOW DOES THIS PROGRAM WORK?**

Handi-Dogs has a small number of dogs available to applicants who do not have an appropriate dog of their own. These dogs come from shelters, rescue groups, selected breeders, a cooperative of specially-bred puppies, or Handi-Dogs’ breeding program.

- 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 foster the dog in your home 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.
- The length of the foster period is dependent on your meeting all program requirements, and may last anywhere from 90 days to completion of the program (12-18 months).
- When ownership of the dog is transferred to you, you will be responsible for paying the purchase price of the dog. Expect to pay up to $3,000.

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 Handi-Dogs.** 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 handi-dogs.org, or call 520-326-3412):

1. **Matching 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.

3. **Financial Self Assessment**

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:
  - 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.
  - Six lessons a month is recommended for consistent progress; four lessons a month is required.

- 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.

- On average, it will take 12-18 months to complete the program.

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

- Consultation fee of $30

- Orientation $260

- Four required monthly lessons for $210 (two private, two group). Lesson package is purchased in advance for each month, and expires at the end of the month.

- Additional lessons are $65 per hour for a private lesson and $40 for a group lesson.

- For those living 20-40 miles from our training center, travel time and mileage for home visits will be charged. We are not able to provide service to areas more than 40 miles from our training center.

- Purchase price of the dog. This can range from $10-$3,000, depending on the source of the dog (rescue/shelter/breeding program).

- When ready to test for certification with Handi-Dogs, a $200 fee. This fee includes additional post-certification support.

Expect to pay $1,700 - $4,000 over the course of your 12 to 18 months of training.

*Handi-Dogs, Inc. reserves the right to change pricing & program parameters at any time.*