



about ksds

KSDS began as Kansas Specialty Dog Service and was incorporated as a 501(c) 3 non-profit in January 1990 with the desire to fill the gap in assistance dog placements in the Midwest. KSDS was the first organization in the nation to train both Guide Dogs and Service Dogs at the same facility.

To date, KSDS has placed over 450 teams in over 33 states throughout the United States.

While the cost of training a KSDS Assistance Dog is estimated at over \$20,000, KSDS places each dog **FREE** of charge. KSDS is able to place these highly trained dogs for free thanks to donations from individuals, corporations, organizations and foundations.

KSDS is proud to be an accredited member of Assistance Dogs International (ADI) a coalition of assistance dog organizations which lead the industry in setting the standards of ethics for and placing Assistance Dogs.



Having a Guide Dog gives me the independence and confidence to do the simplest of tasks in a world set up for those with vision. With my KSDS Guide Dog, Kedzie, I can go for walks and hold down a full-time job, just to name a couple of things.
-Jannel

contact ksds

We look forward to hearing from you!



KSDS

Assistant Dogs

124 W. 7th Street

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Guide Dog Program



what is a guide dog

KSDS Guide Dogs are specially trained to provide mobility assistance for individuals who are blind or visually impaired to travel safely from one place to another. They do this by navigating sidewalks, alerting to stairs, crossing streets safely and avoiding obstacles including hanging ones.

Guide Dogs know 'left' and 'right' and are very helpful with object identification when asked to 'find' a door, counter, elevator, sidewalk, chair, etc.

All dogs placed are in top condition, having passed numerous physical exams. KSDS only trains specially selected black and yellow Labrador Retrievers and Golden Retrievers that have been carefully bred for optimum health and temperament. The goal for a KSDS Guide Dog is to be able to assist a person for eight to ten years.

*All three of my Guide Dogs
from KSDS have given
me my freedom back.*

—Bill



how to apply

To receive a KSDS Guide Dog, a person must go through a multi-phase application process. The initial application requests basic information, as well as medical and professional references. Video, phone, and personal interviews are utilized to determine an applicant's qualifications.

Additionally, there is a non-refundable \$25 application fee. KSDS will review each application individually with consideration given for the applicant's need for canine assistance, mobility, and ability to maintain the dog's health and training. Upon acceptance into the program, KSDS will notify the applicant when a dog is available and schedule admission into a class.

Dogs are specially selected for each individual, so there may be waiting period of six months to a year for a KSDS Guide Dog.

We would be happy to visit with you further about how a KSDS Guide Dog may benefit you. If you would like to receive the application packet, or for questions concerning the application process, please contact Client Services at KSDS.



team training

KSDS Team Training is an intense course that covers all aspects of caring and working with their new KSDS Guide Dog. Students will attend the 21 day team training session on the KSDS campus in Washington, Kansas.

All recipients will complete KSDS and Assistance Dogs International requirements and certification evaluations. Students must demonstrate their ability to care for and utilize their dogs before graduation.

Family is welcome to participate in the Team Training as long as they don't disrupt the team's Relationship. In the case of a minor, a parent or legal guardian is required to attend the classes.

Follow-up is always available and teams must re-certify every 5 years. KSDS teaches each recipient to be a responsible dog partner. Graduates sign a contract that gives them ownership after working successfully with the dog for one year.