

KSDS Social Dog Program Information



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What is a Social Dog?

Social Dogs are trained to work with a professional in the field of education, counseling, medicine, rehabilitation, retirement and specialty agencies. Partnership of the Social Dog will be given to the professional individual upon completion of their certification and ownership after successfully working for one year.

How does a person receive a Social Dog?

To receive a Social dog from KSDS, a person must go through a multi-phase application process. The initial application requests basic information, as well as professional references. Video, phone and personal interviews are also utilized to determine an applicant's qualification. The person attends a 5 day team training session on the KSDS campus to learn all aspects of caring for and utilizing a Social dog.

Can KSDS train or certify my own dog?

KSDS does not train or certify pets for individuals. We have our own, carefully selected breeding stock that produces the dogs that we use in the program. KSDS uses Black and Yellow Labradors as well as Golden Retrievers.

What are the qualifications to receive a dog?

KSDS reviews each application on an individual basis. Under consideration will be the applicant's need for a Social Dog, the plans in place for working with the dog and the support of the facility the dog will be working in. The working environment, workload of the dog and the home environment will be evaluated. The goal of KSDS is to place safe, happy and confident Social dog teams. If the KSDS staff feel that this goal can be obtained, the process will continue towards a placement.

How long is the waiting list?

The waiting list for those accepted to receive a dog is approximately one year. The first priority is ensuring the best possible match for each person's needs.

Who owns the dog?

KSDS teaches each recipient to be a responsible dog owner. Persons will sign a contract that gives them partnership upon completion of their training time and certification. Ownership is given after working successfully for one year. KSDS reserves the right to retain ownership if the dog is being mistreated.

How long can a Social Dog work?

The dogs that we place are in top condition, having passed numerous physical exams. However, much like humans, things can arise that may cause an "early retirement". Our goal is for a Social dog to be able to work for eight to ten years.

What is the Team Training like?

KSDS Team Training is a fairly intense course. All aspects of owning and working with a Social dog are covered. Persons receive their dogs on the first day of class and are responsible for their total care from then on.

A typical day begins with the morning routine (feeding, watering, toileting and grooming the dog) at 8 am. A day's session will include obedience plus lectures, group activities and training trips.

There are brief morning and afternoon breaks plus a one-hour lunch break. The person is responsible for the morning and evening meal. Training time will end at 5 pm each day. Crates will be provided for use at the motel.

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

What is Assistance Dogs International?

Assistance Dogs International (ADI) is an organization comprised of assistance dog providers throughout the world. ADI sets the minimum standards of ethics for training and placing Assistance dogs. KSDS has played an active role in ADI and is proud to be a fully accredited member.

I am interested in receiving an application, what do I do next?

If you would like to receive the application packet please complete the enclosed questions and send to KSDS. For questions concerning the application process please feel free to contact KSDS. We would be happy to visit with you further about how a Social dog may benefit you.