



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.

While the cost of training a KSDS Assistance Dog is estimated at over \$25,000, 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.



Sky makes kids smile, they see her in the hallways and wave. She has helped de-escalate crisis situations with kids helping them calm themselves down, just by walking into the room. She provides unconditional love and is a calm presence able to sense the kids that need her most. It's amazing.

–Jesi

contact ksds

We look forward to hearing from you!



KSDS, INC
ASSISTANCE DOGS

124 W. 7th Street
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Social Dog Program



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what is a social dog

KSDS Social Dogs are specially trained to work with a professional in the field of education, counseling, medicine, rehabilitation, retirement and specialty agencies.

Some of the skills KSDS Social Dogs are trained to do include retrieving dropped or selected items, carrying objects, tugging doors and clothing and manipulating light switches and buttons. When these dogs work in a school setting, they can model appropriate behavior, teach positive interaction, interrupt hyperactivity and provide unconditional love.

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 Social Dog is to be able to assist a person for eight to ten years.

*Maggie serves a bridge
for the child to learn
to trust their therapist.
-Daniel*

how to apply

To receive a KSDS Social 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 Social Dog.

We would be happy to visit with you further about how a KSDS Social 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 Social Dog. Students will attend the 5 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.

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.

*Mimosa teaches
the children how to obey
the rules by following the
commands that I give her.
-Lori*