



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.



Our family has taken eight puppies into our home, had our hearts broken upon the return of each, and watched with pride at their graduation day. We've been moved by the stories of independence that these incredible dogs have provided for their partners.

–Natalie

contact ksds

We look forward to hearing from you!



KSDS, INC
ASSISTANCE DOGS

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Volunteer Puppy Raiser Program



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what is a puppy raiser

KSDS Puppy Raisers are a special group of people. They are responsible for taking a puppy bred through our stringent breeding program into their home and over the next 18-24 months teaching this puppy basic obedience, house and public manners and socialization.

At the appropriate time, KSDS will notify Puppy Raisers the dog they have nurtured is ready to return to the KSDS campus for formal training where it will learn additional skills to be a beloved Guide Dog, Service Dog, or Social Dog.

Puppy Raisers can be families or individuals. They are giving people who put other's needs before their own and love people and animals.

Our family's puppy raising experience has brought us together around a common goal - to raise a happy, healthy puppy that will go on to transform someone's life.

-Kim



how to apply

To apply to be a KSDS Volunteer Puppy Raiser you will need to fill out an application. You will also need to get your veterinarian to write a letter of recommendation for you and get letters of recommendation from two other individuals from your community. KSDS will review each application individually and upon acceptance, will notify the applicant when a puppy is available.

KSDS trains black and yellow Labrador Retrievers and Golden Retrievers that have been carefully bred for health and temperament. Puppies will be placed in puppy raiser homes after they have reached eight weeks of age.

We would be happy to visit with you further about being a Volunteer Puppy Raiser. If you would like to receive the application, or for questions concerning the application process, please contact the Puppy Raiser Coordinator at KSDS.



requirements

The puppy should be fed the provided dog food by Hill's Pet Foods. People food is not allowed to be fed. Puppy raisers are also expected to maintain a heartworm monthly prevention program with the provided HeartGard®.

Puppy Raisers are required to spay or neuter the puppy at for to six months of age, maintain the vaccination program, and maintain an internal and external parasite control program suggested by KSDS. All expenses are the responsibility of the puppy raiser, but many veterinarians reduce or donate fees for the assistance puppies.

Puppies should be taught house manners, basic and intermediate obedience in a positive, caring environment so they can start learning from and communicating with people. Puppy Raisers are also responsible for exposing the puppy to different environments and situations helping them to develop good manners.

KSDS will provide a 'Puppy in Training' cape, training manual, and monthly report forms to monitor the puppies progress.