



Sunshine State Animal Rescue is a no-kill rescue in FL. Foster based sanctuary & rehoming of shelter animals including assessing potential working dog candidates (501c3 pending) We are a foster based program that offers refuge to shelter animals. We also offer hope and independence by providing help with training of a medically required service dog and education in regards to how the laws apply to you as a person with a disability that uses a service dog. SSAR helps individuals with disabilities while also serving our community by educating the public of disabilities, the ADA and service dogs through education and advocacy.

Sunshine State Animal Rescue provides a variety of Service dogs for people with disabilities. SSAR's goal is to teach clients how to successfully, train, manage and utilize these highly trainable dogs. The dogs in our program are from area kill-shelters and have passed their initial exam and temperament testing. We try our best to pair up each individual with the best dog for them.

The application process lasts between 1-2 months, on average, before an applicant can be accepted into the Sunshine State Animal Rescue program. If accepted, the candidate moves to the waiting list, which can last anywhere from 3 months to 1 year depending on the availability of the proper dogs.

Once accepted as a candidate, Sunshine State Animal Rescue works closely with you on how to effectively train and use a Service dog. In addition we also teach you to how the laws apply to you as a person with a disability. Sunshine State Animal Rescue instructors will only graduate a student with an assistance dog if they feel that person can safely and effectively handle and care for the dog on their own or with the assistance of an adult family member.

Process Summary

Please note that Sunshine State Animal Rescue serves individuals covering a wide range of disabilities including; Seizure response (not seizure alert), Psychiatric (including but not limited to PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder), anxiety, depression and dissociation) hearing alert and mobility. However, Sunshine State Animal Rescue does NOT train or place dogs for the following; to guide or work for the blind, to do seizure or diabetic alert, to anticipate or detect medical symptoms, to respond aggressively or offer protection.

STEP 1: Complete application. Contact us Sunshinestateanimalrescue@yahoo.com to receive one by e-mail. Either email it back or mail it to the address listed below.

STEP 2: Once we receive your completed application request, we will review it and **may** contact you to determine how to best help you.

STEP 3: Once the application materials are received and reviewed, if appropriate, Sunshine State Animal Rescue will contact the applicant to schedule a telephone interview.

STEP 4: After completing the telephone interview, if appropriate, medical and/or professional reference forms will be sent to the applicant. These forms are to be filled out by a physician and a therapist or other professional and returned to Sunshine State Animal Rescue at the address listed below (original copies must be sent but please keep a copy for yourself).

STEP 5: After review of the medical and/or professional forms, Sunshine State Animal Rescue will contact the applicant for a personal interview.

STEP 6: Following the personal interview, the selection review committee will review all of the applicant's application materials and determine if the applicant can be accepted into our assistance dog program.

STEP 7: If an applicant is accepted, they will be added to the waiting list.

It is important to remember that although assistance dogs are highly trained, they are not machines that will respond automatically to commands. There are certain aspects of dog handling that are required to gain and maintain their responsiveness. These include: quick decision making and action or reaction; a degree of physical movement, strength and reaction speed; good judgment in order to make the appropriate handling decisions; and consistency with the dog.

- Sunshine State Animal Rescue dog cannot take responsibility for the safety of the recipient. Please also keep in mind; these dogs are living beings, not machines. There are no guarantees how far the dog will progress in training. However, we do have seasoned trainers in our group and we screen potential working dog candidates to the best of our ability. Sunshine State Animal Rescue dogs are only able to perform under the direct supervision of an adult, and cannot go to school alone with a child.

Please keep in mind that the application can be denied at any point during the application process. Sunshine State Animal Rescue prohibits discrimination based on race, color, creed, gender, religion, marital status, age, national origin or ancestry, physical or mental disability, medical condition including genetic characteristics, pregnancy, sexual orientation, citizenship status, military service status, or any other consideration made unlawful by federal, state or local laws.

Thank you so much for your interest in our Service Dog Program. We feel passionately about partnering shelter dogs with service jobs when possible and appreciate your considering our program.

Sunshine State Animal Rescue P.O. Box 5211, Navarre, FL 32566

SunshineStateAnimalRescue@yahoo.com