



Sunshine State Animal Rescue Service Dog Program (Helping you locate a service dog PROSPECT)

Types of potential service dogs we identify and refer:

- Psychiatric: Including but not limited to Anxiety, PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder), Depression and Dissociation
- Hearing alert
- Seizure response (note this is NOT the same as seizure alert)
- Mobility

Here you will find the information you will need to learn about our Service Dog Program.

- We believe that disabled does not have to mean unable. You may well be a fit for the service dog program where YOU work in tandem with a trainer to train you to train your dog. We, as an organization, do **NOT** train your dog. Once you are partnered with your dog, we will work with you to refer you to a trainer whose style is a fit for you and your dog.
- You will be required to meet regularly with a service dog trainer for individual lessons as well as occasional group lessons. Keep in mind that proper training of any service animal can take up to 2 years and you must continue with lessons during that time as well as yearly check-ins to make sure your dog is still up to par with the high standards presented for SSAR. If you do not live in the area, plan to move we are happy to do our best to help you find the best fit.
- Unable to pay does not have to be a reason of denial into the program. We do our best to help find discounted trainers, etc. so you pay what you can afford of the trainers fee, supplies and equipment and if you can't we will try to raise the money to cover the additional cost.
- You will be involved in each step along the way.
- You will not only learn how to train your dog but you will learn about your rights and how the laws regarding service animals apply to you.
- You will be required to submit a doctor's letter of referral stating you are disabled under the law and your disability can be mitigated by a service dog (additional law information can be provided upon request). This letter does not need to include your actual disability but simply states you are disabled as per the laws. This is for the protection of all service dogs and the people who need them. To make sure those who are requesting the potential working dog are eligible under the law. Those who attempt to pass off a pet as a service dog merely to gain access do a grave disservice to those who need the service animal most - and is now illegal in the state of FL (413.08) as of July 1, 2015.
- 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 and dog handlers within our organization and we screen potential working dog candidates to the best of our ability.

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.
