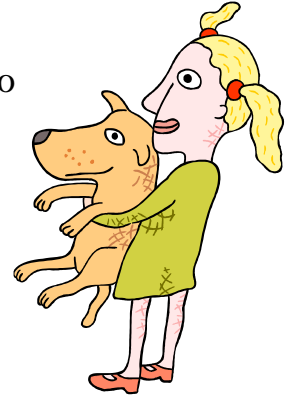


Dear Prospective Puppy Raiser

Thank you for your interest in our puppy-raising program. Raising a Service Dog puppy can be an intensely fulfilling and fun activity that permits all members of the family to work toward a common goal. However it does require a commitment of approximately one year to the process of developing the puppy's temperament and personality.

It is not necessary to have previous dog training experience to be a puppy raiser. It is, however, helpful if you have a dog, or had one in the past.

Raising a service Dog puppy does involve spending time grooming, socializing and caring for the puppy. Puppy raisers are taught ways in which work ongoing training into a daily schedule.



**1. What are the responsibilities of the foster puppy raiser?**

- The raiser must attend a basic obedience class in their community so that the puppy can learn basic obedience commands such as sit, down, stay and come. Obedience teaches the puppy “good manners” and establishes a foundation for the work the puppy will do. Attending an obedience class also helps socialize the puppy, which is a second responsibility of the raiser. Going to different places such as the grocery store, doctor's office, mall, airport, restaurant and other public places also socializes your puppy. It is important that you socialize the puppy 2-3 times per week.

**2. What if I work full time?**

- Many raisers work full-time. If the puppy is young it is important that arrangements are made so that the puppy is not left alone for more than four hours. Arrangements can be made with relatives, neighbors or other raisers to visit the puppy if the raiser cannot go home during the day for the first month or so.

**3. What if I already have a dog?**

- Having a dog is not a requirement but it can be helpful to the puppy's development. When the puppy goes to the training center there will be many dogs, so if the puppy grows up with another dog in its environment it can assist with the transitions to the training center.

**4. How much of my time is required?**

- You will need to spend quality time that includes play time, work time, general care time and time for socialization and exposing your puppy to people and public places. We will help you work out a schedule that fits you and your family's needs.

Application to Provide a Temporary Home for a Puppy being  
raised to become a Service Dog

Foster Family Application



The pup's ultimate purpose is to  
help a person with a disability.

**Full Legal Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**City, State, Zip** \_\_\_\_\_

**Home Phone** \_\_\_\_\_

**Work Phone** \_\_\_\_\_

**Occupation** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-Mail** \_\_\_\_\_

**Spouses Occupation** \_\_\_\_\_

**Spouses Work Phone** \_\_\_\_\_

**Do you have a fenced-in area?** \_\_\_\_\_

**(Approximate dimensions)** \_\_\_\_\_

**About how many hours would the dog be left alone on an average day?**

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**List the name, age and relationship of all those living in your home:**

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**Do you have any other animals in your home?**

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**If yes, please list the type, sex, whether neutered, and age of animal:**

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**Do you have any previous experience with dogs? \_\_\_\_\_**

**If yes, please explain: \_\_\_\_\_**

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**Would you be willing or able to attend dog classes? \_\_\_\_\_**

**How long, up to a maximum of 18 months, are you willing to house a dog? \_\_\_\_\_**

## **5. Who is responsible for Veterinary costs, food, etc...?**

- Hawaii Fi-Do is responsible for most costs incurred including routine vet visits and the spaying or neutering of the puppy. There may be costs associated with obedience classes although many obedience trainers offer free or reduced rate classes to our puppies. All costs incurred in raising your puppy may be deductible as a charitable contribution from your income. Consult a tax advisor for information concerning any tax deductions.

## **6. Isn't it hard to give the puppy up?**

- It can be the most difficult part of raising a foster puppy. The months spent raising the puppy are fun and rewarding. The many times your puppy makes someone laugh and smile will far outweigh the tears from returning the puppy to Hawaii Fi-Do. Someone on our waiting list will be hoping and dreaming of the day your puppy becomes their service dog.

Thank you for your interest,

Susan Luehrs