



## How You Can Help...

The Foundation relies on voluntary public contributions, and each donation is essential. With your help, the Guide Dog Foundation can continue to provide services to improve the quality of life for people who are blind, visually impaired, or who have other special needs.

### *Here's what you can do:*

- Spread the word about our free services to people with disabilities.
- Make a financial contribution and/or encourage your employer, club, or congregation to contribute or raise funds.
- Sponsor a puppy.
- Become a puppy raiser.
- Invite a Foundation speaker to your next meeting or event.
- Include the Foundation in your bequests, legacies, and planned gifts.
- Make a gift to the Foundation and receive an income for the rest of your life.
- Make a donation in memory or in honor of your friends and loved ones.
- Make a donation through your workplace giving campaign.

*Your contributions to the Guide Dog Foundation for the Blind, Inc. are tax deductible to the extent provided by law. For a copy of our annual report or to get more information, please contact us at 800-548-4337 or visit our Web site at [www.GuideDog.org](http://www.GuideDog.org).*



Second Sight®  
America's VetDogs®  
Capable Canine®

371 East Jericho Turnpike, Smithtown, NY 11787  
(800) 548-4337 • (631) 930-9000 • fax (631) 930-9009  
[www.GuideDog.org](http://www.GuideDog.org)

*Photos courtesy of the Dallas puppy raisers*

# Puppy Sponsorship Program



Produced by greenwoodgraphics.com



You have a unique opportunity to help a puppy grow up to make a difference for a person who is blind or has another disability.

You or your organization can have a real impact on someone's life by sponsoring a puppy through the Guide Dog Foundation for the Blind, Inc.

Since 1946, the Guide Dog Foundation for the Blind, Inc., a not-for-profit organization,

has been providing guide dogs free of charge to people who are blind or visually impaired and who seek the increased independence, mobility, and companionship a guide dog provides.

Did you know that the Guide Dog Foundation also trains dogs for people with disabilities other than blindness? Our Capable Canine® program provides other assistance dogs that might be trained to provide balance, fetch and retrieve dropped items, carry a backpack, provide physical therapy, relieve stress, or perform other tasks. Through America's VetDogs®, a subsidiary of the Guide Dog Foundation, we are also meeting the needs of our disabled veterans by providing guide and service dogs.

#### *What is a puppy sponsorship?*

Puppy sponsors are very important to the success of the Guide Dog Foundation's programs and services. The cost to breed, train, and place a guide or service dog, combined with the training, transportation, and housing of the new handler/dog team is in excess of \$55,000 per team, and *all services and equipment are provided free of charge* to people who are blind, visually impaired, or have other disabilities. Puppy sponsors make a \$6,000 contribution to the Foundation that helps cover some of these costs; in return, sponsors are given the opportunity to name one of our specially bred pups.

#### *Can I choose the actual puppy I want to sponsor?*

Yes. If you check the box on the sponsor form, you will be invited to the Foundation when a litter of puppies is born to select your puppy. You can also specify gender, color, and the breed if you have a preference. Most of

our dogs are Labrador and Golden Retrievers; we also use Standard Poodles, first-generation Labrador/Golden Retriever crosses, and occasionally other breeds. All our dogs are bred for temperament, intelligence, and physical soundness. Depending on your specifications, there may be a delay in assigning a puppy.

#### *What kinds of names do the dogs have?*

Some sponsors name their dogs after a loved one, while others choose a name that reminds them of a beloved pet. You may want to name your pup after a business or organization, or something that represents your line of work. For example, an airline called a puppy "Pilot," and a bank selected "Teller." You can be as creative or simple as you like.

#### *What will I receive when I sponsor a dog?*

For your generous gift to our program, you will receive a framed certificate of recognition and a photo of your puppy. When it is about two months old, the puppy will embark on the first leg of its journey to serve. It will leave the Foundation's puppy nursery and go live for about a year with a volunteer family who raises it according to our carefully designed protocol. As your puppy grows, we'll send you periodic updates about its wonderful adventures and experiences, until the day your puppy is ready to return to the Foundation.

#### *What happens when a puppy comes in for training?*

After about a year, the puppy raiser family returns the puppy to the Foundation for formal training and evaluation. Your puppy can take many exciting career paths, and our training staff will determine the best job for it. Canines with exceptional characteristics will join our breeding colony to pass those traits on to subsequent generations. Other dogs will serve as

Won't you help a disabled person live an active and productive life by funding a puppy sponsorship?

guide dogs or go on to become capable canines as service, therapy, or companion dogs. Some guide or service dogs will be partnered with disabled veterans through America's VetDogs. Dogs that

are not suitable for any of our programs may transfer to another assistance dog provider or train with law enforcement agencies to become detector dogs. If there is no appropriate career, a dog may become a cherished family pet. We'll let you know which path your puppy takes.

#### *Can I choose the person who will receive the dog I sponsor? Or what kind of job it will do?*

Unfortunately, this is not possible. Dogs are sponsored and named at their birth; when they are matched and begin working, they are about a year-and-a-half old. Not every dog in our program will become a guide or service dog, and we have no way of predicting which puppies will become successful in a particular career. Many factors come into consideration, and our trainers conduct a meticulous matching process to ensure that a dog and consumer are well suited for each other and that they will be safe together.

#### *If the dog doesn't make it through the program, can I name another puppy?*

The safety of our guide and service dog teams is paramount, and it is vital that a dog meets our stringent standards before being partnered with a person with disabilities. We are proud of the fact that we graduate only "the best of the best" dogs from our programs. We cannot offer a replacement warranty for any sponsored dog, but if your puppy does not become a working dog, you will receive a handsome desktop award in recognition of your sponsorship gift. In addition, all puppy sponsors are acknowledged by name in the Guide Dog Foundation's annual report.

#### *Are released dogs or retired dogs available for adoption?*

Sponsors are not entitled to adopt the dog they sponsored. After we determine that there is no appropriate career, released dogs are first offered to their puppy raisers, the family who raised the dog. Retired dogs are first offered to our graduate's family, and then to the puppy raiser. We are very careful to place every dog in an appropriate home that can meet that dog's individual needs.

## Puppy Sponsorship Form

Yes! I want to sponsor a puppy at the Guide Dog Foundation for the Blind, Inc.

Individual/Family Sponsorship

Corporate/Foundation/Organization Sponsorship

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Fax (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor Name to be used on certificate and in annual report:

\_\_\_\_\_

Name of Dog \_\_\_\_\_  I would like to select my puppy from a litter

Preferences:  Male  Female  Either

Golden Retriever

Yellow Labrador

Black Labrador

Standard Poodle\*

Labrador/Golden cross

Labrador/Poodle cross\*

No Preference

*\*There will be an extended wait for these puppies.*

Full Donation enclosed (make check for \$6,000 payable to *Guide Dog Foundation for the Blind, Inc.*)

Partial donation enclosed\*

*\*Your contribution may be pledged and paid over time, up to three years. To do so you must indicate any donations to be applied to your open sponsorship; your puppy will be selected when the \$6,000 sponsorship is paid in full.*

Please charge my:  Visa  MasterCard  Amex Amount to be charged \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_ Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

*I have read the attached brochure and accept the provisions of the sponsorship program. I authorize charging my credit card if entered above.*

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

*The Guide Dog Foundation for the Blind, Inc. is tax exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code. Your \$6,000 sponsorship gift is deductible to the full extent allowed by law.*

Please check below if you would like more information about the following programs:

Wills, Bequests & Estate Planning

Puppy Raising Program

America's VetDogs®

Gifts in Memory or in Honor

Speakers & Tours

Planned Giving

Please mail completed Puppy Sponsorship Form (including payment/payment information) to:

Guide Dog Foundation For the Blind, Inc.

371 E. Main St (Jericho Tpke), Smithtown, NY 11787-9897