



Illini Service Dogs

Interim Foster Expectations



Interim Foster Role Description:

- Interim fosters are volunteers who take in and foster a service dog in training until that dog is ready to transition back to University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana campus
- Interim fosters are expected to house for a few days to 1 month+ with a focus in training to be determined by the organization in collaboration with the interim foster
- The interim foster will house a dog anywhere from 8 weeks old to 2.5 years old. The duration of the time spent interim fostering will be determined by the organization in collaboration with the interim foster
- Currently, we are limiting our interim fosters to the Champaign-Urbana and Chicagoland areas, exceptions are possible in certain circumstances as determined by the organization's Board of Directors

Interim Foster Role Requirements:

- Must live within driving distance of either Champaign-Urbana or Chicagoland (radius is flexible)
- The interim foster must be 18 years or older and have a valid drivers license
- Prior history working with dogs is strongly preferred
- Live in a home with approved housing for a service dog in training (i.e. landlord/HOA approval)
- Compliance with all of the ISD policies, protocols, training strategies, and training tools including providing regular updates via online communication platform Slack (or other established method)
- Cannot be volunteering or working with another service dog organization at the same time as raising for ISD

Illini Service Dogs

Mobilizing the world, four paws at a time



Illini Service Dogs

Interim Foster Expectations



Interim Foster Expectations:

- Focus in mobility service dog training to be determined by the organization in collaboration with the interim foster
 - May include basic to advanced commands, house breaking, socialization, etc.
- Compliance with emergency, vet, escalation, and communication protocols
- Submit written summary updates 1-2 times a week via Slack (or other established method)
 - These are minimal guidelines. The interim foster may provide additional updates if desired or necessary
- Communications should be acknowledged/responded to within 48 hours of being received
 - This applies to both the interim foster and ISD contacts
- Availability for virtual and in-person touch bases with the Training Advisor(s) as needed
- Attend one-on-one or group trainings either in-person or virtually

Support Provided for Interim Fosters

- Collaboration with a Training Advisor(s) and Puppy Raiser Coordinator
 - *Training Advisor:* Oversees and progresses the day-to-day training and behavior of a service dog in training
 - *Puppy Raiser Coordinator:* Manages the operations, logistics, and ongoing support of the Puppy Raiser Program
- Illini Service Dogs will be responsible for all veterinary and food expenses. Additional resources will be provided as needed such as collars, leashes, dog bowls, crates, etc.
- Training support such as a dedicated Training Advisor, access to a Google Classroom training repository, video chats, and when possible, in-person visits

Note: Applying to be an interim foster will not affect the position of a potential service dog recipient on the Illini Service Dogs Applicant waitlist.

Illini Service Dogs

Mobilizing the world, four paws at a time