



Illini Service Dogs

Puppy Raiser Expectations



Long-Term Puppy Raiser Role Description:

- Long-term puppy raisers are volunteers who take in and foster a service dog in training until that dog is ready to transition to University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana campus
- Long-term puppy raisers are expected to house for 2-6 months with a focus on crate training, potty training, house breaking, socialization and basic commands
- Generally, the long-term puppy raiser will house a dog between the ages of 8 weeks to 1 year old. The duration of the time spent puppy raising will be determined by the organization in collaboration with the long-term puppy raiser
 - Opportunities may exist to puppy raise a dog older than 1 year
- Currently, we are limiting our long-term puppy raisers to the Champaign-Urbana and Chicagoland areas, exceptions are possible in certain circumstances as determined by the organization's Board of Directors

Long-Term Puppy Raiser Role Requirements:

- Must live within driving distance of either Champaign-Urbana or Chicagoland (radius is flexible)
- The puppy raiser must be 18 years or older
- The puppy raiser must 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

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Long-Term Puppy Raiser Expectations:

- Focus on crate training, potty training, house breaking, socialization, and basic obedience training
 - Basic obedience shall include sit, down, stay, come, heel. Additional commands may be added at the discretion of the Training Advisor(s)
- Compliance with emergency, vet, escalation, and communication protocols
- Submit written summary updates 1-2 times a week via Slack (or other established method) and then a longer update once a month
 - These are minimal guidelines. The long-term puppy raiser 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 long-term puppy raiser and ISD contact
- 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 Long-Term Puppy Raisers:

- 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 a long-term puppy raiser will not affect the position of a potential service dog recipient on the Illini Service Dogs Applicant waitlist.

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