

MobilityDog
MobilityDog.org | Pasadena, California



MobilityDog advances FUNctional independence for the disabled community through service dogs, education, tools, and empowerment.

We are honored to be on this journey with you. We are here to assist you along the way with clarity and joy as a community. Please read through some answers to commonly asked questions.

ANSWERS TO FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

WHAT IS SO SPECIAL ABOUT MobilityDog?

You come for a Service Dog, but you get a community! At MobilityDog, we believe that building a strong community helps sustain our community members and strengthens their ability to move into the world with confidence. We also believe that our strong community provides a safe place for our community members to interact and grow, support each other as we work together, educate others, and advocate for people with disabilities.

As a way to both support our members and to educate them about training their Service Dogs daily, solving challenges they face, and teaching them about their rights as they step out into the world, we hold weekly Puppy Meetups every Tuesday from 12:15-1:15 pm PT. We count on all of our Handlers and Puppy Raisers to attend these meetups, so they can learn for themselves and support others in our community.

We also ask our Handlers and Raisers to participate by posting 3-4 times a week to our Facebook Group page, so we can all see what everyone is up to. We especially love to see pictures and videos.

In addition, we ask each Handler to contribute a blog post two times a year, sharing about living with a Mobility Service Dog in real life: the great moments, challenges, hardships, and truth.

We also highly value confidentiality: we feel strongly that each person's past and the ongoing story is their own to tell. We share only when the person permits us to share.

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST TO GET A MOBILITY SERVICE DOG?

MobilityDog raises funds to cover the \$28,700.00 - \$30,000.00 that it costs us to raise a puppy from 2 to 21 months and prepare it for its Handler. When a Handler accepts their Service Dog, they, of course, agree to take over the costs of maintaining a healthy and properly groomed dog: food, veterinary bills, and regular grooming (Cost: about \$3,500.00 a year). The Handler also assumes 80% of the costs of training the dog for the specialized tasks that meet the Handler's needs and the continuing annual training to stay in tune with the Public Access Test with Tasking standards. MobilityDog covers the remaining 20% of training fees and the cost of the yearly testing fees for the dog's working life.



MobilityDog provides specialized training with our three Service Dog Trainers at a discounted rate: Bundle of 10- 60/90 minute sessions in person- \$900.00. Bundle of 10- 30 minute online video sessions- \$375.00. MobilityDog will bill you for 80% of the fees; we will begin the lessons once paid!

The most expensive time for training is the transition when the dog is about 19-22 months of age. We have approximately three months when we are transferring the dog's training and tasking to the Handler, and the Handler and Service Dog are preparing and completing the gold standard- the Public Access Test plus tasking. Typically, the cost of transition training is \$4000.00.

The Service Dog arrives with a soft working vest, leash, martingale collar, balls, toys & chews, 46" crate, bed, and vaccines up to date, all provided by MobilityDog.

After the Public Access Test and Tasking is completed, your training fees each month will be roughly \$66.66 for just the monthly tune-up. Additional lessons will be as needed with the 80%/20% coverage. We require that the Team invests physically in working hard, keeping their training finely tuned, at all times, to the Public Access Test for the working life of the Service Dog.

WHEN DOES THE HANDLER GET THE SERVICE DOG?

Transitioning the dog to the handler begins when the dog is between 18 months to 21 months. The transition period, lasting about three months, is when we transfer the dog's training and tasking to the Handler and Service Dog are preparing to complete the Public Access Test with Tasking (PAT+T) to become a Service Dog Team.

Handlers are required to complete the PAT+T bi-annually. With assessments and continued training, you will be training for the first two years with your Service Dog: first six months 1-2 lessons per week, second six months weekly, second-year bi-monthly training and tasking.

During the entire working life of your Service Dog, you agree to attend our weekly Puppy Meetups, where we discuss training and behavior issues. You agree to post 3x's weekly on Facebook to share your successes and challenges while living with a service dog, and have documented refresher training with your Service Dog Trainer once a month. These are all online platforms.

It is imperative that you work with your dog daily and are capable of handling this continued training on your own. If you need additional assistance as your body evolves physically, we will support the changes with recommendations and solutions to remain together through each stage of your medical realities.

HOW DOES MobilityDog RAISE MONEY?

We count on all of our community members- handlers, raisers, trainers, board members- to raise a minimum of \$1500 annually; of course, we always hope for more! Community members can increase their minimum from their families and friends or see if their company matches funds. Together we have a fun meeting this fundraising effort with all the volunteers, handlers, and puppy raisers to support our costs and to raise awareness about our organization.



WHAT IF I CAN'T AFFORD EVEN THE LOW COSTS OF A DOG FROM MobilityDog?

A service dog is available based on needs and the best situation for the SDiT/SD and for the Handler. We are here to support you as a Service Dog Team, creating the best life for you. We work hard fundraising to provide scholarships based on the National Poverty Index Scale. Communication of financial issues is vital to keep our working Service Dog Teams intact. If an economic issue arises, immediately alert us.

WILL I OWN THE SERVICE DOG?

MobilityDog holds full ownership of the SD until the dog is three (3) years of age and the handler and dog pass all three of the tests. Once the SD Team has passed the PAT+T, they become a formal Service Dog Team. When the SD Team has been together for 20 months, MobilityDog passes 75% of the ownership of the dog to the handler. MobilityDog retains 25% ownership for the following reasons: 1) the Service Dog represents our organization, 2) we provide liability insurance coverage for our Service Dogs, 3) handlers' disabilities change, and we need to be present with MobilityDog's Service Dogs to ensure that the dogs continue to develop the necessary new and added skills to serve the Handlers' needs, and 4) and the MobilityDog Community will always be available to the Handler and Service Dog for continuing problem-solving and support.

WHAT WILL MY SERVICE DOG BE LIKE?

At MobilityDog, we raise Standard Poodles to become our Service Dogs, because they are smart, analytical animals; they love to work; they have hair rather than fur, making them hypoallergenic and thus allowing them to go everywhere; they are large enough to assist with the mobility needs of disabled handlers, and they can still tuck up nicely in small spaces when their handlers travel on public transportation and visit restaurants and theaters.

Our puppies are all raised under the Puppy Culture Method, exposed from birth to sights and sounds and textures, and they are handled often. Our Puppy Raisers work hard to continue to expose our puppies to all the sights and sounds and textures in the world. They socialize the puppies with all ages of people and all kinds of animals. They train the puppies with all the basic obedience skills and start basic tasking skills. And, of course, they PLAY with the puppies and allow the puppies to play with other dogs a lot! The Puppy Raisers earn the Star, Basic Obedience, Canine Good Citizen, Canine Good Citizen Intermediate, and the Canine Good Citizen Urban with their SDiTs before passing the dogs on to the Service Dog Trainer who then works with the dog to teach it skills that it will need to work with its specific Handler.

At MobilityDog, we know that happy dogs make the best Service Dogs, so we count on you to continue to give your dog lots of love, snuggles, playtime, and good exercise for their health and well-being. Daily playtime, free time to just be a dog in a fenced-in safe environment is vital to the health and wellness of your Service Dog! [Please read and study MobilityDog's Basic Canine Rights. Click Here.](#)

Your goal as a Handler is to continue to develop the energetic and curious MSD into a mature, dependable dog, with the following characteristics (excerpts from guidedogs.com): 1) Well-behaved- They have good house manners and will not relieve in the house. They are quiet and calm, eat only their own food, and are not destructive. 2) Socialized to the world- They continue to be exposed to a wide variety of people, things,



and places and accept new situations in a calm manner. 3) Well-traveled- They are relaxed and comfortable when traveling in all modes of transportation: cars, vans, buses, trains, airplanes, ferries, etc. 4) People friendly- They bond well with people, enjoy receiving verbal praise, and are eager to please. 5) Animal-friendly- They are calm and appropriate around all sorts of animals, including dogs, cats, birds, livestock, and all animals they come in contact with. 6) Responsive- The dogs obey basic commands and cooperate during various training exercises. 7) Capable of 24/7 full access. 8) Crate trained- In an emergency, the MSD must be comfortable in a crate. 9) Well-groomed- They are professionally groomed every six (6) weeks and kept clean and brushed with a shaved face, shaved feet, short nails, and shaved hygiene area to meet proper health standards for public places such as restaurants and escalators. (Professional dog groomer = \$70-95. MobilityDog will support your request to groomers for a donation or a discount.)

WHAT WILL MY SERVICE DOG BE ABLE TO DO FOR ME?

MobilityDog's mobility service dogs wear a specially designed harness that safely distributes the handler's weight while assisting the handler with mobility tasks. A harness is considered Medically Necessary and, as such, is covered under most insurance policies for service dogs. MobilityDog service dogs are placed with their handlers, prepared to assist and task in the following ways:

1. Counterbalance for walking, standing, and being
2. Assistance movement forward, backward, and sideways
3. Provide balance and support on uneven flooring indoors and outdoors
4. Pressing the button on automatic doors such as doors, elevators, etc
5. Retrieving dropped items
6. Retrieving out-of-reach objects (like a ringing phone, dropped keys, socks, etc)
7. Providing support/stability while walking and going up and downstairs
8. Support during dressing and undressing
9. Opening and closing doors, drawers, and closets
10. Turning the lights on and off
11. Carrying bags and small objects
12. Bracing for people who suffer from balance or strength issues
13. Tunnel under an unconscious handler's legs or lying across their body to elevate their blood pressure
14. Pawing or nosing their handler over onto their side or into a recovery position
15. Bracing to support an unsteady or injured handler as they struggle back to their feet or into their wheelchair
16. Standing over a fallen or an unresponsive handler so that the handler does not get stepped on
17. Pawing/barking to alert bystanders of the emergency situation and continue to bark at people and attempt to lead them back to the handler until someone accompanies the service dog back to their unconscious, unresponsive or symptomatic handler.
18. Retrieving an emergency-only medicine stored in the fridge
19. Running to wake up another person who resides or works in the home and return with them to the disabled individual, if their handler is unresponsive, or if their medical equipment is alarming. Our service dogs are trained to "call" 911 for an ambulance for extreme emergency needs.
20. AND SO MANY MORE...



WHAT HAPPENS WHEN MY DOG AND I AGE?

SD Team members are interwoven into the heartstrings and truly complete each other's actions and companionship regarding end-of-life issues. As we vibrantly live each day with our SD allowing us FUNctional independence, we know that living with disabilities does reflect medical realities. We all know how fragile each day can be. We are here to honor you and your Service Dog's life journey. As the handler and/or Service Dog reach their end of life, we are here to walk this pathway supporting you.

HOW WILL I BE TREATED AS A MEMBER OF THE MobilityDog COMMUNITY?

At MobilityDog, we strive to collectively create a thriving community for everyone to reach their goals and potential. We count on the handlers, raisers, volunteers, staff, donors, clients, and dogs all to treat one another with mutual respect and kindness. We strongly believe that words matter, that integrity in action and words are crucial, and that compassion is vital.

If you have any questions or thoughts, please do not hesitate to start a conversation! We are grateful for the opportunities filled with possibilities to live our best life. Solutions are a gift.

LIFE CHANGES?

Suppose at any time you cannot care for this dog or keep it acceptably, including but not limited to its care, exercise, grooming, feeding, play, and good health as a working SD. In that case, you will immediately surrender the SD or SDiT to MobilityDog leadership. You agree that the SD or SDiT will not be sold, adopted, or given to another party.

Informational Virtual Gathering

2nd Tuesday each month

3:00 - 3:45 PM PT

Press [HERE](#) to sign up for the ZOOM!



MobilityDog

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