



You come for a Service Dog, but you get a community! At MSD-WCP, 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, to 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 on a daily basis, 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 several 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 3-5 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 story- both past and ongoing- is their own to tell. We share only when the person gives us permission.

Handlers are required with their Service Dog in Training at their side to complete the Canine Good Citizen (CGC) and Canine Good Citizen Urban (CGU), followed by the Public Access Test (PAT) within 3 months of receiving their dog.

All handlers are required to meet with their Service Dog Trainer weekly via Video Conferencing until after the PAT is successfully completed. After successfully completing the PAT, you become a Service Dog Team and will retake the PAT every year for the working life of your Service Dog. It is important to keep a fine-tuned SD Team!

As we near the end of the Service Dog's working life, together we make plans for the next service dog and a beautiful end to the working life of your current service dog.

**MobilityDog Pasadena, CA**  
**+1(626) 470-7742 [info@mobilitydog.org](mailto:info@mobilitydog.org)**  
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