



The Processing of a HANDLER'S APPLICATION

Steps to Begin the Process of Applying for a MobilityDog's Service Dog:

1. info@mobilitydog.org -Please use this email for applying, questions, and assistance while applying for a Service Dog. Thank you.
2. Please send us your basic contact information.
3. 10 words sharing why you are requesting the Handler application
4. Part One of the Handler's Application will be sent to you to fill out and return.
5. A required FAQ [informational virtual gathering for all applicants is held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month from 3:00 - 3:45 pm PT. Click here to register.](#)

After receiving Part Two of your application, we will continue with the three-month Handler vetting process below. (There is a \$350.00 application fee with Part Two.)

Having a Service Dog is not for the faint of heart: It's a lot of work, and yet it provides infinite rewards. In order to become part of a Service Dog Team, disabled Handlers must understand how to work with and care for their Service Dog. We want to ensure that potential Handlers realize what is required of them. We also provide, in this process, the opportunity for the Handler Applicant to understand what it will mean to be a part of our MobilityDog community.

At each step of this process, we will assess whether MobilityDog will be able to meet your needs. This process is a time to ask and answer questions to thoroughly understand the expectations and intentions of the future handler, community, and MobilityDog's Board of Directors.

1. MobilityDog's Handler Application Meet and Greet Team will schedule a zoom meeting to get to know you, your intentions, and the specifics of your needs. If the two team members feel MobilityDog will be a good match for you, they will continue to move your application through the vetting process. If they feel we are not a good match for you, we will let you know and make a referral for you.
2. VETTING PROCESS... The Handler Application Processing Committee will meet two to three times with you and give you homework assignments in between meetings, so that you can share situational responses and they can learn more about you.
3. The Handler Application Committee will decide if MobilityDog will be able to meet your needs. **If you are approved to become a Handler, you will continue with the following process 4-8. Please read and study our Policy & Procedure for Building a Strong Community.**

MobilityDog,Letters: PO Box 50792, Pasadena, CA 91105
Packages: 99 W. California Blvd #50792, Pasadena, CA 91105
For an appointment, please call.
+1(626) 470-7742 info@mobilitydog.org mobilitydog.org
501c3 Nonprofit Organization EIN 82-4426022



4. We will give you the commands and videos demonstrating the hand signals we use in training our Service Dogs.
5. We will invite you to attend three First Saturday Field Trip to experience being at the side of a Service Dog under the guidance of our Certified Service Dog Trainer (CSDT). Since each situation is unique, we will create this scenario for each client observing your learning style and how you accept guidance while surrounded by the MobilityDog Community
6. Once you are vetted, MobilityDog encourages you to listen and learn at 3 Tuesday Puppy Meetups (via zoom), our Puppy Raisers and Handlers weekly group meeting which includes sharing successes, challenges, and training. This allows you to experience being part of an online community.
7. Transition timeline, when you will meet your service dog and the two of you will begin learning how to work together: You will come to Claremont, California for 2.5-4 weeks. You will stay locally (Airbnb or camping recommendations available), living with your dog to begin the essential bonding process. You and your dog will train daily with our CSDT. We request that no other pets be present at this crucial time.
8. After you return home, you will continue training with our CSDT weekly until you pass the PAT+T. After that, you will train with our CSDT once a month for the working life of the SD.

Everything we do, each interaction, is to get to know you, which allows us to confidently match the appropriate dog with the needs and abilities of each handler. We are grateful for your time, energy, and sharing.

**Mobility Service Dogs-West Coast Project DBA MobilityDog
advances FUNctional independence for people with disabilities
through service dogs, education, and empowerment.**

MobilityDog,Letters: PO Box 50792, Pasadena, CA 91105
Packages: 99 W. California Blvd #50792, Pasadena, CA 91105
For an appointment, please call.
+1(626) 470-7742 info@mobilitydog.org mobilitydog.org
501c3 Nonprofit Organization EIN 82-4426022



MOBILITYDOG'S POLICY AND PROCEDURE FOR Building a Strong Community

POLICY

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, to support each other as we work together, educate others, and advocate for people with disabilities. We consider the guidelines in MobilityDog's "Ingredients to Build and Sustain a Community" (Taken and amended for MobilityDog in January 2021 from A Rector's Pen, Oct. 6, 2020, St. John's Episcopal Church, Boulder, CO) as important ingredients for building and sustaining our community. It is our policy to apply our beliefs to our day-to-day interactions with our community members and community at large.

PROCEDURE

1. To build a shared history and a shared identity together, we do the following:
 - a) Raisers, handlers, and trainers attend weekly Puppy Meetups where we share our successes, frustrations, and challenges, as well as receive/give support;
 - b) People who have disabilities but cannot have a service dog meet and share on our Tuesdays Together meetings, where we share ideas/experiences to get stronger and find joy;
 - c) Raisers, handlers, and trainers attend the First Saturday Field Trip events where we meet in person the first Saturday of each month, share training ideas and games, and celebrate the successes of our fellow raisers and handlers;
 - d) The Board of Directors attend bi-monthly Board Meetings where we review our policies and procedures, update and expand our community programs, review budget and plan for fund raising activities, support each other's efforts, and relentlessly propel our effort to build a strong community.
2. We encourage the "sense of aliveness and agency that makes the community much more than simply the sum of its parts" (A Rector's Pen) by being present.
3. We believe that it is important for our community to recognize and celebrate every achievement. We celebrate with our community members when they successfully pass the Canine Good Citizen Test, the Canine Good Citizen Urban Test, and the Public Access Test + Tasking. We celebrate with our community at the anniversary of MobilityDog's founding and other important accomplishments.
4. We encourage community members to share ideas and suggestions on how we can collectively improve services and practices.

MobilityDog, Letters: PO Box 50792, Pasadena, CA 91105
Packages: 99 W. California Blvd #50792, Pasadena, CA 91105
For an appointment, please call.
+1(626) 470-7742 info@mobilitydog.org mobilitydog.org
501c3 Nonprofit Organization EIN 82-4426022



5. We understand that having a strong community means that we will not always agree. When issues cannot be satisfactorily resolved, clients and community members can file a grievance/complaint to the Executive Director. (See the Grievance/Complaint Policy and Procedure.)

Expectations for all MobilityDog Community members:

1. Handlers, Raisers, and Trainers: show up and be present at the Puppy Meetups.
2. Respect the confidentiality of each person in our community.
3. Be supportive to each other and learn from each other.
4. Listen, process, question and engage in discussion about the ideas presented.
5. Always represent yourself and people with disabilities with calmness, respect and dignity even in the face of ignorance.
6. Handlers and Raisers: Post on FaceBook 3 times a week including words, photos, and videos.
7. Actively participate in all our fundraisers each year.

