MobilityDog's SDiT Trainers, AKA PUPPY RAISERS GOALS

Behind every outstanding Mobility Service Dog, there is a dedicated puppy raiser who has worked daily from the time the puppy was eight weeks until it is 18-20 months of age.

Below is a list of goals that MobilityDog feels are crucial for **SDiT Trainers** to focus on with their Service Dogs in Training during the 18-20 months that the pups are with the raisers.

1. The Raisers agree to these goals: develop energetic and curious pups into mature, dependable dogs, with the following characteristics (some excerpts from guidedogs.com):
2. **Well-behaved-** The pups 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.
3. **Socialized to the world-** The pups have been exposed to a wide variety of people, places, and things and accept new situations in a calm manner. Puppies are comfortable and well-behaved in restaurants, grocery stores, parks, schools, libraries, malls, museums, concerts, plays, parties, weddings, volunteering, loud and quiet, and among children and adults- essentially all day-to-day life. They are expected to have full access, 24/7 with their SDiT Trainers.
4. **Well-traveled-** The puppies are relaxed and comfortable when traveling in all modes of transportation: cars, vans, buses, trains, airplanes, ferries, boats, bicycles, cable cars, subways, etc.
5. **People friendly-** The pups bond well with people, enjoy receiving verbal praise, and are eager to please.
6. **Animal-friendly-** The pups are calm and appropriate around all animals they might come in contact with, including dogs, cats, birds, horses, and livestock.
7. **Comfortable Alone-** As important as it is to be exposed to all experiences in life, it is equally important that a SDiT can be left alone with confidence and not have separation anxiety. Crate your SDiT and let them be home for a few hours, it is healthy and allows them to rest.
8. **Never wake a sleeping Puppy**- Our puppies are growing and require lots of exposure, lots of playtime, and lots of sleep time to grow into a stellar Service Dog!
9. **Responsive-** The pups obey basic commands and cooperate during various training exercises. They have great manners, never barking or drawing attention to themselves. They respond to words and hand signals.
10. **Etiquette trained-** The pups have been exposed to proper manners in public for tucking under the table while their Handler dines, sidewalk relieving, professional appointments, hotels, in the workplace, shopping in all kinds of shops and grocery stores, everywhere you go.
11. **Solo Doggie Play-** It is essential that each SDiT knows how to play with a human and how to entertain themselves with play. The Canine Spirit is incredible and the reason we

SDiT/Sd make suce fabulous medical devices. However, it is vital that they can play alone to replenish that canine spirit. As their handler's disabilities change over time, each one of our SDiT must have the ability to seek out fun acceptable playtime activities to keep their Poodle Brains engaged instead of acquiring disruptive negative behavior because they are bored! Encourage independent playtime each day.

1. **ShiShi-** Relieve themselves on a leash wherever asked. Teach to go on all surfaces…
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To accomplish this, you will take your dog almost everywhere with you: on daily "field trips" to stores and businesses, parks and entertainment venues, etc. The goal is to expose the puppy to all of life's adventures: people, animals, noises, modes of transportation, stairs, and elevators. The puppy is to be at your side as it learns to live as an extension of your body, as it will for its future mobility handler, balanced equally with playfulness and just being a dog. They are dogs and must run, play games, and have doggie fun daily. **A happy dog makes the best, well-adjusted Service Dog-in-Training.**

A SDiT left alone at home is learning to settle, which allows them to be confident as they learn to entertain themselves and get some downtime to be still.