



**MobilityDog** 75 S. Grand Ave. #116, Pasadena, CA 91105  
MobilityDog.org | Pasadena, California

***MobilityDog advances FUNctional independence for people with disabilities through service dogs, education, and empowerment.***

## **PUPPY RAISERS' ANSWERS TO FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

Behind every mobility service dog is an excellent, caring Puppy Raiser who gives their time, love, and resources so that a Disabled Handler can know the freedom of functional independence. Puppy Raiser's official title is **Service Dog-in-Training (SDiT) Trainer** as they are training the SDiT socialization, manners, obedience, commands/cues, etiquette, and beginning tasking.

Preparing a valuable puppy to become a potential mobility service dog is an important responsibility that takes serious consideration. We have been utilizing Puppy Raisers and Co-Raisers situations, and they are working nicely, too!

We are honored to be on this journey with you as you find your cadence learning about becoming a Puppy Raiser. We are here to teach, train, support, and assist you along the way. Please read through some answers to commonly asked questions.

### **What Is So Special about MobilityDog?**

People come for a Service Dog, but you get a community! At MobilityDog, building a strong community helps sustain our community members and strengthens their ability to move into the world confidently. 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.

To support our members and 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 SDiT Trainers and Handlers to attend these meetups so they can learn for themselves and support others in our community. We train in person the First Saturday of each month, 10 am to 2:30 pm, with a catered picnic lunch between Brookside Park near Kidspace in Pasadena and Russ Park in Rossmore, and Huntington Central Park in Huntington Beach. Sometimes, we will meet at Rampl't Up at Bolsa Chica Sunset Beach or a prescheduled Target or restaurant! It is a fabulous time to be in person, experience many distractions, and train with all our Service Dog and Service Dogs-in-Training Teams.

We also ask our SDiT Trainers and Handlers to participate by posting a minimum of 3 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.

**MobilityDog** | P.O. Box 50792, Pasadena, CA 91105 | +1 (626) 470-7742  
Packages: 99 W. California Blvd. #50792, Pasadena, California 91105 | For an appointment, please call.  
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We highly value confidentiality: we feel strongly that each person's past and ongoing story is their own to tell. We share only when the person permits us to share.

### **How old will my puppy be?**

The puppies are just turning 8 weeks old when they meet their SDiT Trainers and Co-SDiT Trainers.

### **How will I get my puppy?**

You will be responsible for picking up your puppy at 8 weeks from MobilityDog's generous breeder or in Pasadena, CA, and delivering it back to MobilityDog in Pasadena or to MobilityDog's Service Dog Trainer in Claremont, CA.

### **What will my puppy already know how to do?**

Your puppy will have been raised using the Puppy Culture Method from birth to 8 weeks. This method exposes the puppies to all sorts and ages of people, vibrations, sounds, sights, textures and obstacle course items to climb on, through, and over. The puppies are nearly potty-trained and crate-trained. They are ready to walk on a loose leash as they begin basic obedience.

### **What will you already know when you get your puppy?**

Upon completing your application, we will meet on Zoom to review the MobilityDog's Training Manual. We will meet with you at First Saturdays and three additional times one-on-one going over the basics of playtime, socialization, walking, basic commands, and manners.

MobilityDog's Manager of SDiT Trainers, Service Dog Trainer(s), and SDiT Trainers Leads will be hands-on with you as you learn all the skills needed to be a successful and stellar trainer and raiser for your pup!

We are available 24/7 to our SDiT Trainers, paving a grand adventure, allowing for a fun, thoughtful, and happy raising/training experience for the SDiT and YOU! Use your support team and the Training Manual to create the best experience for SDiT Team and the future SD Team.

Progress reports along the way included but not limited to:

- The AKC-S.T.A.R. taken before 4 months
- Three introductory Obedience Training sessions at the local pet shop (Manager of SDiT Trainers will approve the classes, please set them up prior to receiving your SDiT.
- They will complete the standards for their Canine Good Citizen (CGC)
- Canine Good Citizen Advanced (CGCA),
- and Canine Good Urban (CGCU)
- with MobilityDog's AKC-accredited trainers.
- MobilityDog will cover these expenses.

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## What are my duties as a SDiT Trainer, AKA Puppy Raiser?

Your goal as a Puppy Raiser is to socialize your SDiT and as you raise and train an independent, confident dog that is comfortable being in crowds, around all sorts of people animals, around all sorts of distractions, and also alone, without separation anxiety and comfortable being alone in a crate or outdoor area to entertain itself and explore and create activities on its own. A dog with good manners, well-behaved, non-reactive, enjoys working, and can happily play with toys, balls, and zoomies, keeping their canine spirit alive.

## What are MobilityDog's Rights of all Canines?

MobilityDog is committed to the best environment for each dog. We are committed to each dog's general health, wellness, treatment, welfare, and the basic rights of each canine gifted to us from rescues and breeders and poodles that 'show up' to become our responsibility. We will provide each dog with their fundamental rights to food, safe and secure shelter, water, exercise, veterinarian care, humane and gentle training, space to be a terrific, fun-loving dog, and loving care. We hold wellness checks, weekly puppy meetups, weekly training sessions, and are hands-on. As a top priority, we will always have the well-being of our Service Dogs in Training, Service Dogs, and all the dogs we encounter. [More here](#)

**Our Goals for Our SDiT Trainers AKA Puppy Raisers** are to develop dogs that are

1. **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.
2. **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.
3. **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.
4. **People friendly-** The pups bond well with people, enjoy receiving verbal praise, and are eager to please.
5. **Animal-friendly-** The pups are calm and appropriate around all animals they might come in contact with, including dogs, cats, birds, horses, and livestock.
6. **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.
7. **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!

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8. **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.
9. **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.
10. **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 such 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.
11. **ShiShi-** Relieve themselves on a leash wherever asked. Teach to go on all surfaces... [more here](#)

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.

### **What comes with my Puppy?**

42" crate, dog bed, toys, collar(s), soft harness, leashes, training tools, seat belt, PVC dowels for soft retrieval, balls, bell, light button, and great support from MobilityDog! It takes a village!

### **Will I receive training from MobilityDog?**

MobilityDog provides its Puppy Raisers with a full Training Manual, which includes what to do when, expectations at various developmental stages, training skills, and how to care for your dog with accompanying reference materials and training videos. MobilityDog's Certified Service Dog Trainer(s) meet with you the First Saturday of every month between Brookside Park in Pasadena and Russ Park in Rossmore or Huntington Central Park in Huntington Beach or a field trip starting at 3 months of age and continuing for the duration of its time with you.

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MobilityDog expects you to sign up for Obedience and Etiquette classes with an organization in your community. (PetCo and PetsMart have acceptable classes.) You will work to pass these tests: the AKC S.T.A.R., the Canine Good Citizen (CGC), the Canine Good Citizen Intermediate (CGCI), and the Canine Good Citizen Urban (CGCU). After the Service Dog in Training (SDiT) transitions to its Handler, the two of them will take the Public Access Test with Tasking (PAT+T).

### **How long will the puppy be with me?**

The puppy will transfer from you to the Certified Service Dog Trainer (CSDT) when the puppy is 18 to 21 months old. The CSDT will work with the dog to learn the specific assistance skills that the dog will need to help its disabled handler.

### **Who owns the puppy?**

MobilityDog is the sole owner of the puppy during the time it is with its SDiT Trainer AKA Puppy Raiser.

### **What are my financial obligations?**

MobilityDog will pay for vaccines, neutering/spaying, and **preapproved** routine or emergency veterinary care necessary to maintain the health and well-being of the SDiT. We supply dog food and some treats, which Raiser picks up on the First Saturday Picnic & Training each month. Also, we supply the tools they need for training.

SDiT Trainers are asked to donate the financial obligations and responsibilities of the grooming expenses every six weeks, toys, and appropriate housing. We ask that Raisers keep all invoices and expenses while raising and submit them to MobilityDog at the end of their time with the dog for a tax write-off.

A monthly progress report and expense report is required on the 1-5 of each month regarding the previous month. It is in the SDiT Trainers & Handlers' Portal on the Website. (receipts are required to support all expenses.

Raisers must be actively involved in fundraising annually with video sharing of their raising experiences. They will be provided with assistance in the form of letters, flyers, and events. Social media posts assist with funds.



**[Informational Virtual Gathering 3rd Tuesday each month, 3:00 - 3:45 PM PT](#)**

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

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