



Where our Service Dogs Begin...

Mobility Service Dogs-West Coast Project raises, trains, and matches poodles with mobility-impaired individuals. Our poodles are donated from breeders whose priorities are the health, temperament, working ability, and longevity of their dogs. Some of our poodles are rescued and so they begin with extra TLC and testing. Truly, it takes a remarkable canine to become a Mobility Service Dog (MSD). We are grateful to these breeders.

MSD-WCP follows the Puppy Culture raising method and takes into consideration the needs, development and growth of each individual dog in our program. Our donated puppies start life at 2 days being exposed to sounds, sights, and textures while playing with their littermates. At 8 weeks, they join a Puppy Raiser family to learn how to live in a home as well as be socially exposed, loved up, and to build self-confidence while learning all the basic rules of dog life, puppyhood, obedience, manners, and socialization. At 6 months, they are neutered or spayed. Until the dog is about 17-20 months of age, the Puppy Raiser exposes the Service Dog in Training (SDiT) to the world, teaches it basic obedience, and begins basic task training. The Puppy Raiser is asked to expose the puppy to the world each day and have the puppy by their side as they live their basic routines, in order to prepare this young puppy for the world of a working service dog. Once the dog has been matched with their Handler, the Puppy Raiser and a Certified Service Dog Trainer begin working on more pointed task training, according to the needs of their disabled Handler.

The raising and transition timeline is just an estimate, since each dog is an individual. The point of transition depends on laying down a successful foundation that flows with each personality, the growth of each dog, the consistency of the Puppy Raiser, and the energies in the puppy's world. We raise up each puppy to meet their full life as a healthy, happy, and well-adjusted future Service Dog; this timeline is different for each Service Dog in Training.

Phase	Time Frame	Person working with Dog
Puppy	17-20 Months (dog's age)	Puppy Raiser
Transition	1-4 Months (length of time)	Certified Service Dog Trainer
SDiT: Service Dog in Training	1-3 Months	Service Dog Handler
Service Dog	Up to 10 years	Service Dog Handler

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