



## **NON-Veteran Inquiry letter**

Thank you for your interest in The Joys of Living Assistance Dogs (JLAD). Our mission:

***Provide skilled, devoted companions to support and assist persons living with disabilities – creating cohesive teams focused on building a life of greater freedom and independence.***

All of our dogs are trained in basic obedience commands, house manners, and how to behave in public. Our dogs are also trained in technical skills such as: retrieving, opening doors, turning lights on and off, balance assistance, bracing, social interaction, and PTSD. In regard to this training, our dogs:

1. must facilitate friendly public interaction
2. meet all existing Assistance Dogs International (ADI) standards regarding temperament and behavior, as well as exhibit:
  - tolerance to a high level of stress
  - sensitivity without anxiety
  - the ability to perceive environmental and interpersonal cues
  - the ability to complete tasks in very difficult and emotional situations
  - no reactivity, possessiveness, guarding behaviors or increased anxiety.
3. meet all existing ADI obedience, accessibility and training standards including training with visual, verbal, or environmental cues to do three visually identifiable tasks that directly mitigate the recipient.

Special skills are trained on an individual basis. **JLAD will NOT train behaviors that encourage guarding, protecting, or searching for a threat.** In addition, our dogs are not trained for emotional support or medical alert. Dog availability may take approximately 3 years.

### **Here is how our program works:**

To be considered for our program, you must fill out an application. JLAD requires a non-refundable \$150.00 application fee. Upon acceptance of the application JLAD will schedule an in-home visit, Skype, or Facetime, depending on your distance from our headquarters. The purpose of this visit is to meet with you, as many family members as possible, any others living in your home, and family pets. This meeting helps JLAD understand all elements that will influence the working environment of a service dog. Upon acceptance into our program, we will start the process of looking for a suitable match. This decision is based solely upon need, regardless of age, race, sex, religion, or creed. Timing and placement of your assistance dog depends on the availability of a suitable dog.

Once a dog that JLAD deems a potentially suitable match becomes available, you will be notified. We will provide you more information about the dog and when the next Team Training Camp will be held. It costs between \$25,000-\$30,000 to raise and train a service dog. We

however only charge \$9875. Prices are subject to change each calendar year; however, prices will be honored for the year the application was received. Payment arrangements must be made upon acceptance of the application and must be paid in full before the beginning of Team Training camp. If the applicant, through no fault of JLAD, fails to complete team training, the dog remains the property of JLAD, and the \$9875 will be retained by JLAD. You MUST attend a Team Training Camp and pass a Public Access Test before JLAD will allow you to take your assistance dog home. Training camps vary depending on the program and will be explained further during the first visit.

After service dog placement, JLAD will follow up with the client and their dog to assure a smooth transition into this new, working partnership.

If you are ready to move forward and submit an application, or if you have further questions, please contact us at: 503-551-4572 or [info@joydogs.org](mailto:info@joydogs.org). Applications can also be downloaded from our website at <https://www.joydogs.org>

**A signed and dated copy of this inquiry letter must accompany the application.**

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**Signature of applicant**

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**Date**