



Veteran Program Criteria

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

To 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.

JLAD conducts its business and acceptance process in a manner that prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, creed, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, ancestry, age, veteran status, genetic information, military assistance, or other protected status.

Applicant Criteria:

1. The applicant must be Military Veteran.
2. JLAD dogs assist people with primary mobility impairment such as multiple sclerosis, muscular dystrophy, cerebral palsy, spina bifida, paraplegia, tetraplegia, arthritis, amputation, stroke, or traumatic brain or spinal cord injury, and PTSD. JLAD does not train dogs to assist individuals with seizure disorders, blood sugar disorders, those with significant vision loss, and companion or emotional support dogs. The client must be able to perform all handling requirements. If the disability limits the client's ability to participate in Team Training, an assistant may help with writing tasks.
3. Applicant must have a qualifying disability that impacts your quality of life, independence, and activities of daily living.
4. The task(s) to be trained must be directly related to the client's disability.
5. JLAD will determine acceptance of applicant based on the task-based needs of the applicant.
6. Applicants must have a referral or recommendation by your healthcare provider.
7. Applicants must be willing and able to provide for the dog's physical, emotional, and financial needs.
8. Applicants must have a stable home environment, support of all other household and family members, be financially stable, open minded, and have a willingness to learn.

Program Criteria

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 facilitates 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 Veteran's PTSD.

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.

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. Timing and placement of your assistance dog depends on the availability of a suitable dog.

Once a dog that JLAD deems a suitable match becomes available, you will be notified. We will provide you more information about the dog and when the next Team Training will be held. You **MUST** attend Team Training and pass a Public Access Test before JLAD will qualify you as a working team. Team Training varies depending on the program and will be explained further during the first visit. Although it costs between \$25,000-\$30,000 to raise and train a service dog, a veteran can receive a service dog free of charge! The waiting period for a free of charge dog is considerably longer as we can only give away service dogs as our budget permits. Therefore, a veteran can choose to purchase a dog from us at the regular rate of \$9875, which will considerably shorten the waiting period. Prices are subject to change each calendar year; however, prices will be honored for the year the application was received.

Regular contact is scheduled after placement. Three months following certification as a working team, JLAD will follow up with the Veteran to evaluate the team's progress, and as needed, the

client will participate in training lessons and evaluations given in their home. Veterans must live within a 150-mile radius from our center in order for us to make this in-home visit. Should a client live further away, JLAD requires that the client cover our cost for the extended distance, overnight stay in a hotel of the client's recommendation, and meals. Arrangements and payment for this visit must be received before the commencement of team training. After 6 months of the client's partnership with a dog, the partnership will be reevaluated, and if appropriate, full ownership of the dog will be transferred to the client.

JLAD's policy ensures that, if a dog must be removed from its partnership, someone who is part of the Veteran's support system will be notified and preferably be present at the time of the dog's surrender to our program. The Veteran's last known mental health provider will also be notified.

No applicant, client, or graduate is required to participate in fund raising or public relations activities without their expressed and voluntary permission to cover any program cost or after care follow-up visits.

If you have further questions, please contact us at: 503-551-4572 or info@joydogs.org. The fillable application can be found on our website at <https://www.joydogs.org>

By signing below, I acknowledge having read the terms of this document and accept the conditions set forth by JLAD. This signed inquiry letter must accompany the application.

Signature of applicant

Date