



## Veteran Owner Trained 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 at least 16 years of age to apply for this program.
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 owner must be able to perform all training requirements. If the disability limits the owner's ability to train their dog, an assistant may help in the training.
3. The task(s) to be trained must be directly related to the person's disability.
4. JLAD will determine acceptance of applicant based on the task-based needs of the applicant and the dog's potential to meet the owner's specific needs.
5. The owner will attend weekly classes held in consecutive increments of six months.
6. Applicants must have a referral or recommendation by your healthcare provider.
7. Applicant must have a qualifying disability that impacts your quality of life, independence, and activities of daily living.
8. Applicants must be willing and able to provide for the dog's physical, emotional, and financial needs.
9. 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.

## Dog Criteria:

JLAD will evaluate the dog for temperament, health, age, and level of basic obedience training. An appointment must be scheduled for this evaluation the cost of which is \$50.00 and is non-refundable. The applicant will receive an official notification of the admittance into the Owner Trained program after the dog's evaluation. Any dog not meeting JLAD required standards will not be accepted into the program.

### To be accepted into the program the dog must:

1. Meet the same program standards as the dogs trained and placed by JLAD
2. Be spayed or neutered by the age of 18 months
3. Remain current on all vaccinations. Copies of veterinary records must be provided to JLAD
4. Pass all health clearances required of assistance dogs with are hips, elbows, heart, and eyes
5. Meet all standard required to become a certified assistance dog
6. Perform a task that mitigates his handler's disability in a significant manner and must be specific to the handler's disability
7. Dog must weigh a minimum of 45 pounds and not exceed 80 pounds
8. Dog must be at least 8 weeks of age and no more than 3 years of age to enroll in the Owner Trained program
9. Dog breeds must be void of guarding instincts such as found in Shepherds, Rottweilers, Staffordshire Terriers, Huskies, Doberman, to name a few
10. Dog must pass the Canine Good Citizen (CGC) test at the conclusion of the first 6-month training

### To graduate from the program the dog must have:

1. Tolerance to a high level of stress
2. Sensitivity without anxiety
3. The ability to perceive environmental and interpersonal cues
4. The ability to complete tasks in very difficult and emotional situations
5. No reactivity, possessiveness, guarding behaviors or increased anxiety

## Program Requirements:

After acceptance into the program, a JLAD representative will schedule an in-home visit for the purpose of understand all elements that will influence the working environment of your dog.

All dogs are trained in basic obedience cues, 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 interactions, and PTSD. JLAD may at any time, including during program training, team training, or after certification determine to discharge/decertify the dog because of temperament, health, or behavioral or training issues. There is a 50% probability that any given dog will make it into service work. In regards to this training:

1. Training must be completed within a consecutive 2-year period or the team will be dropped from the program.
2. The team must meet all standards set forth by Assistance Dogs International (ADI) to be certified as an assistance dog.

3. JLAD will perform monthly follow-ups with the team for the first 6 months following program completion and certification
4. JLAD, at its sole discretion, will decide when the team is ready to go through the team training process and to take the Public Access Test (PAT.)
5. The owner will be provided instruction in meeting the ADI Minimum Standards for Assistance Dogs in Public. The owner must be able to demonstrate:
  - a. That the dog can perform a task directly related to their disability
  - b. That the client has knowledge of acceptable training techniques
  - c. That the client has understanding of canine care and health
  - d. The ability to maintain training, problem solve, and continue to train/add new skills (as required) with their assistance dog
  - e. Knowledge of federal, state, and local access laws, and appropriate behavior
  - f. Meet recertification requirements every two years by successfully passing the PAT. If the PAT is not completed successfully, the owner and dog will be required to participate in remedial training. The PAD must be successfully completed within 30 days of the original testing unless there are extenuating circumstance as determined by JLAD. Failure to successfully complete the PAT within the allotted time will result in the dog not be certified as an assistance dog. Tuition money will not be refunded.
6. Identification of the dog as an assistance dog will accomplished with a laminated ID card with a photo and manes of the team. Whenever the dog is in public the dog must wear a coat, a harness, or other similar piece of equipment or clothing that is clean and easy to read which identifies the dog as an assistance dog.
7. The dog must be friendly with public interaction

Special skills are trained on an individual basis. **JLAD will NOT train behaviors that encourage guarding, protecting, or searching for a thread.** In addition, we will not train any dogs for emotional support or medical alert

To be considered for our program, you must fill out an application. Upon acceptance of the application JLAD will schedule an in-home visit, Skype, Facetime, or Zoom depending on your distance from our headquarters. The purpose of this visit is to meet with you, as many family members as possible, and 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. JLAD will inform you as to when you can start training, as well as when you are ready to take the Public Access Test (PAT) which is required to graduate from our program. At this time, you will also be asked to pass written assessments regarding your training knowledge as well as knowledge regarding service dogs' laws. After graduation, JLAD will follow up with the Veteran and their dog to assure a smooth transition into this new, working partnership.

Three months following service dog placement, JLAD will follow up with the Veteran to evaluate their dog's behavior, 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 travel cost for the extended distance, overnight stay in a hotel of the client's recommendation, and all meals. Arrangements and payment for this visit must be received before the commencement of team training.

If for any reason a client does not uphold ADI standards and/or is found to mistreat the dog, JLAD reserves the right to revoke all association with said client. Someone who is part of the Veteran's support system as well as the Veteran's last known mental health provider will be notified.

## Program Cost:

Tuition fees are waived for Veterans. There are however two charges that are required:

1. Non-refundable Dog Evaluation: \$50.00
2. Non-refundable Application fee: \$150.00

No applicant, client, or graduate is required to participate in fundraising 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](mailto: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 Program Criteria form is part of the application process and must be returned.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of applicant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date