

# Patriot Service Dog Application

*Patriot Service Dogs, Inc* is a 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to helping our disabled military gain a sense of independence through their partnership with a well trained service dog. Our focus is placing service dogs with disabled military in need. We strive to make a difference in the lives of those who have given so much for our freedom.

## **Qualifications: You must...**

- Be an honorably discharged veteran or active military with a disability and/or a loss of limb
- Be willing to go through training with the service dog and learn all commands
- Provide a safe, loving environment for the service dog, which includes exercise and medical care (about \$100.00 per month)
- Agree to a home visit from a PSD instructor approximately 6 weeks after the initial training, and to participate in yearly recertification
- Give a written report on your service dog every other month

Return completed application to:

Julie Sanderson Patriot Service Dogs 10545 SE 42 <sup>nd</sup> Ct Belleview, FL 34420
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**\*\*PLEASE INCLUDE a copy of your DD214 if already discharged from military service or proof you are still active military, along with a recent photo of yourself\*\***

## **Before You Apply**

Being paired with a service dog is an amazing and life-changing experience, but it also brings with it a plethora of responsibilities and challenges. It involves a lot of hard work, patience, commitment, and at times, frustration. Please consider the following things before applying.

### **Privacy**

Having a service dog will immediately alert those around you that you have a disability. Some people will ask you about it, others will stare. How will you react? The general American population loves dogs, and so will welcome the service dog, some will even treat him/her as a celebrity. However, you can count on being stopped on the street, in the store, at work, etc., by people wanting to comment on or ask about your dog. Are you okay with this level of attention?

### **Be Realistic**

What specifically do you want the service dog to do for you? How realistic are those expectations? While our dogs are extremely well trained and can help in many ways, they are still dogs.

### **Time Commitment**

If you are accepted to have a dog placed with you, you will begin with a two week intensive training period to prepare you for working with your dog. You will attend lectures, one-on-one drills, take written exams, and practice for several hours each day. Are you willing to make this time commitment?

### *Home Visits*

PSD staff will visit your home six weeks after you graduate with your dog. Are you okay with someone coming to your home to watch you interact with your dog?

### *Bimonthly Reports*

PSD requires a written report on your service dog every other month. We will supply the form, it's not very long, but we do expect and require you to return the form each time. Are you committed to filling out these form every other month?

### **Working Dog = Working Human**

Our dogs are extremely well trained and have received thousands of hours of training, however, you must be willing to maintain these skills through daily practice. Are you will to work with your dog every day for the rest of the dog's life? Do you have the time and patience? Whatever you put into the dog, you will get more than double out, but you must be willing to invest time and energy into continuing to train your service dog.

### **Home Environment / Community**

Having a service dog will not only affect you, it will also greatly affect those in your household, your friends, and your coworkers. Please consider how those around you will react to you having a service dog, and please talk to them before continuing the application process. In order for a service dog to work well for you, it is essential for everyone in your household, work place, and/or school to be supportive of your ownership of a service dog.

Now consider logistics. Do you have the space in your house for a dog? Do you have the space/ability to provide adequate exercise? What public places do you visit? According to the ADA (American Disabilities Act), you have the legal right to have the service dog with you wherever you go, but you can expect to be challenged from time to time. How will you react to that? Are you willing to patiently explain and defend your rights?

Are you ready and willing to be a walking billboard for Patriot Service Dogs? Please always present yourself in a positive light while out in public with a service dog and agree to ALWAYS dress the service dog in approved Patriot Service attire. At no time during the working life of the service dog will he/she wear anything but approved Patriot Service Dog cape or harness except for when he is not working. At anytime if a picture is taken for publication, the dog will always be dressed in his Patriot Service Dog cape and will show he/she is a Patriot Service Dog.

### **Dog Germs**

Service dogs are well trained and well mannered, but they are prone to drool, shed, and occasionally vomit or have an “accident” in the house. Proper diet, grooming, and exercise can minimize these things, but service dog are just that - dogs. Even the best groomed dog will leave traces of hair on a favorite piece of clothing. A valuable shoe or household item may get chewed up, and the use of poop bags wherever you go will become second nature. If you are particularly fastidious and uncomfortable with messes, a dog may not be the best partner for you.

### **Final Assessment**

Weigh carefully the advantages provided by a service dog against the challenges, time commitment, financial responsibilities, and potential problems that a dog may bring into your life. The benefits resulting from a partnership with a service dog can be spectacular, but only if you are willing to do what it takes to maximize them.

I have carefully read and considered this document:

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Signature

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Date

## APPLICATION

Thank you for filling out our application. We greatly appreciate the time you are investing to apply, but please understand that it does not guarantee that a dog will be placed with you. We will, however, consider each application carefully. Please be as honest as possible so that we will know your needs and lifestyle in order to provide the best match possible.

### Personal Information:

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ MI: \_\_\_\_\_

Birth Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Gender (Circle) M F Height: \_\_\_\_\_ Weight: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you:    Married        Single        Divorced        Separated        Widowed

War you fought in:    WWII        Korean        Vietnam        Operation Iraqi Freedom

Operation Enduring Freedom        Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Branch of Armed Services: \_\_\_\_\_

Active \_\_\_\_\_ Retired \_\_\_\_\_ Medically discharged \_\_\_\_\_

1. How did you hear about PSD?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Our dogs are trained to perform many services, which include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Get help in emergencies
- Pick up and retrieve items
- Provide bracing to stand, walk, and sit down
- Help with chores, such as laundry
- Take shoes and socks off
- Open and close doors and cupboards
- Emotional stability

Please describe what exactly what you would like the service dog to do for you:

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3. A prerequisite for receiving a service dog is a desire on your part to become more independent. How would having a service dog help you achieve that desire?

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**Work / School:** According to The American Disability ACT [ADA], you are legally allowed to bring a working service dog into any public facility. However, be aware that you may experience some resistance.

What was the reaction from your boss/co-workers/teachers about the possibility of you bringing a service dog to work/school?

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If you work, where do you work, and what do you do for a living?

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What are your regular work hours?

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Do you work overtime? \_\_\_\_\_

**Home Environment:**

I live in a (circle): House Duplex Apartment Retirement Facility Mobile Home

Do you (circle) Rent or Own your home?

If your rent:

Name of apt. complex: \_\_\_\_\_

Landlord's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Landlord's Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please describe the home environment where the dog will live (size, number of rooms, upstairs, ground floor, noisy, cluttered, etc.):

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Do you have a yard (circle)? Yes No Is it Fenced (circle)? Yes No

If the yard is fenced, please tell us its size: Length: \_\_\_\_\_ Width: \_\_\_\_\_ Height: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have any other pets (circle)? Yes No

If yes, please specify: \_\_\_\_\_

**Family Information:** Having a service dog will not only affect you, it will also greatly affect those in your household. In order for a service dog to work well for you, it is essential for everyone in your household to be supportive of you. Please consider how those around you will react to you having a service dog and talk to them before continuing the application process.

I have talked to everyone living in my home about having a service dog work for me and they are supportive of my decision (circle): Yes No

Do you or anyone living in your home have any previous negative experiences with a dog (circle)? If yes, please explain. Yes \_\_\_\_\_

No

Will having a service dog cause resentment in your household (circle)? Yes No



**Personal Health:**

Please describe any physical limitations or medical conditions you have that you believe a service dog can help you with:

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How long have you had this physical limitation or medical condition? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you take prescription or non-prescription drugs on a daily basis? If so, please list each medication you are taking and what you are taking it for.

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Do you consume alcohol on a daily basis? If so, what kinds and how much do you take?

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**Strength Assessment**

Rate your physical strength on a scale of 1-10. 1 = least and 10 = Most

Right Hand \_\_\_\_\_ Left Hand \_\_\_\_\_

Right Arm \_\_\_\_\_ Left Arm \_\_\_\_\_

Right Leg \_\_\_\_\_ Left Leg \_\_\_\_\_

Upper Body \_\_\_\_\_

**Self-Assessment**

Rate yourself on the following scale: 1 = Frequently 2 = Occasionally 3 = Rarely  
There are no wrong answers. Please be completely honest so that we will have a better understanding of your personality and will thus be able to meet your needs in the best way possible.

\_\_\_\_\_ Assertive when I face conflicting opinions

\_\_\_\_\_ Confident when I am faced with unfamiliar circumstances or problems

\_\_\_\_\_ Openly express my feelings of fear, love, sorrow, etc.

\_\_\_\_\_ Willing to accept correction or constructive criticism

\_\_\_\_\_ Able to express feelings of anger and frustration appropriately

\_\_\_\_\_ Emotionally secure individual

\_\_\_\_\_ Shy around people I don't know

\_\_\_\_\_ Willing to test & learn new concepts that differ from my previous beliefs

\_\_\_\_\_ Able to respond rationally to crises

\_\_\_\_\_ Embarrassed easily

\_\_\_\_\_ Cry easily

\_\_\_\_\_ Able to laugh at myself when I make a mistake

\_\_\_\_\_ Have a comedian attitude

\_\_\_\_\_ I am an exuberant individual

\_\_\_\_\_ Try to like new things

\_\_\_\_\_ Able to handle responsibilities

\_\_\_\_\_ I often try to hide my feelings

\_\_\_\_\_ Try to take others' feelings into consideration

\_\_\_\_\_ Spend time around animals

**Equipment Required**

Please check equipment you use:

Wheelchair:            Manual \_\_\_      Power \_\_\_      Both \_\_\_

Hearing Aid \_\_\_      Wrist Braces \_\_\_      Leg Brace \_\_\_      Cane \_\_\_

Prosthesis \_\_\_      Crutches \_\_\_      Walker \_\_\_      3-Wheel Electric Scooter \_\_\_

Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

**Dog Care:**

At PSD we know that not only are you unique as a person, but that all our of dogs are also unique. Please be completely honest when answering the following questions. There are no wrong answers. We just want to make sure that we place a dog with you that will be the best match for both you and for the dog.

**Type of Dog:** Please check next to your preference

Prefer: Male \_\_\_      Female \_\_\_      long hair \_\_\_      short hair \_\_\_

Like \_\_\_      Do not like \_\_\_      to play with dogs

Care \_\_\_      Do not care \_\_\_      if dogs lick me

Like \_\_\_      Do not like \_\_\_      to take dogs on walks

Mind \_\_\_      Do not mind \_\_\_      a dog following me all day

Mind \_\_\_      Do not mind \_\_\_      having dog hair on my clothes and furniture

Want \_\_\_      Do not want \_\_\_      my dog to have access to my entire home

I am \_\_\_      I am not \_\_\_      allergic to dogs  
(or one of my household members)**2. Care for the Dog:**

I understand that I will be solely responsible for my service dog and will make sure that he/she is properly cared for (circle).      Yes      No

If you are not physically able to feed or take care of the service dog you must provide or arrange for someone else to care for your service dog. This includes feeding twice a day, exercise, potty, and general care.

Exercise: Our dogs average between 55-85 pounds, and need at least 45 minutes of hard running each day. Please explain how you can provide that.

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### 3. Training:

Training a dog is a continual process, one that must be carried on by you. The service dog will have learned many service tasks & commands, but it is up to you to keep the commands fresh in the dog's brain so that he/she does not forget them.

I will spend time each day practicing commands with my service dog (circle): Yes No

Veterinary Care will be provided by:

Clinic Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Do we have permission to contact them? \_\_\_\_\_

### Financial:

Our trained service dogs are provided free of charge, but you are responsible for all subsequent costs of caring for your service dog. Normal, on-going costs include: dog food, monthly heartworm & flea preventatives, toys and treats for training rewards, regular vet check-ups, and possibly occasional emergency vet visits and grooming.

**The estimated cost for caring for a service dog is \$1200.00 per year**

I understand that I will be completely responsible for all of my Service Dog's costs while the dog lives with me (circle): Yes No

I can afford to pay all necessary costs (circle): Yes No

If not, I have someone who is willing to provide financial support (circle): Yes No

If yes, please provide name address & phone number of person providing financial support for the service dog:

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### **Patriot Service Dog Agreement**

If, at anytime and for any reason, I find it impossible to keep the dog I have received from PSD, I will return the dog to this organization. I will not sell or give the dog away to anyone, including a family member without prior permission from Patriot Service Dogs.. PSD believes that the dog's happiness and health is of prime importance, and will take back any dog whose quality of care is not up to the highest standards, which includes that the dog maintains a healthy weight, receives proper veterinary care, gets daily exercise, and receives the necessary love and care. **PSD will retain ownership of the service dog for the first two years to ensure that you are working well with the dog and that all of the above standards are met.**

PSD may make site visits when I am at home with my dog approximately six weeks after the dog is placed with me. I will fully comply with these visits.

I agree to ALWAYS dress the service dog in approved Patriot Service Dogs attire any time the dog is working and or out in public. At no time during the working life of the service dog will he/she wear anything but an approved Patriot Service Dog cape or harness except for when he is at home and 'off the clock'. Anytime a picture is taken for publication, in print or on a website or if the dog appears on a TV show or movie, the dog will always be dressed in his Patriot Service Dogs cape. I will inform the publication, TV show or website they must post Patriot Service Dogs web address.  
www.PatriotServiceDogs.org

#### **Media Release**

I agree that all photographs or video footage taken of me any time during the training or at any event are the property of Patriot Service Dogs and can be used by PSD for training, record keeping, fundraising, publication and educational purposes.

**I hereby declare all information in this packet to be truthful, to the best of my knowledge. I have read, understand, and will comply with all of the above.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name (please print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Patriot Service Dogs

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## Health Care Provider Reference Form

Patriot Service Dogs is an organization that specializes in training service dogs to help disabled military regain their independence. Some of the tasks PSD dogs are trained to help with are:

- Help with chores, such as laundry
- Pick up and retrieve items
- Open and close doors and cupboards
- Provide bracing to stand, walk, and sit down
- Take shoes and socks off
- Emotional stability

This form will be used to determine the eligibility of the applicant for a service dog from Patriot Service Dogs.

Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Health Care Provider (please print): \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Patient Status:**

Please discuss the patient's disability or disabilities:

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Cause of disability:

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Is the disability progressive (circle)?      Yes      No

Is there incapacity due to drug or alcohol abuse (circle)?      Yes      No

**Effects of Applicant's Disability (Please check all that apply)**

Muscular Weakness \_\_\_ Vision Impairment \_\_\_ Memory Loss \_\_\_ Hearing \_\_\_  
 Coordination Problems \_\_\_ Speech Impairment \_\_\_ Limited Mobility \_\_\_ Deafness \_\_\_  
 Delayed Development \_\_\_ Reduced Stamina \_\_\_ Spasticity \_\_\_ None \_\_\_  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Patient Side Effects (Please check all that apply)**

Heat/Cold Sensitivities \_\_\_ Balance \_\_\_ Depression \_\_\_ Allergies \_\_\_ Anger \_\_\_  
 Heightened Emotions \_\_\_ Brittle Bones \_\_\_ Chronic Pain \_\_\_ Seizures \_\_\_

**Activity or Daily Living (Please Check)**

	Yes	Slight	No
1. Able to sustain an attention span	___	___	___
2. Manifesting inappropriate behavior beyond his/her control	___	___	___
3. Able to control physical & motor movement sufficient to sustain ADL	___	___	___
4. Able to exercise judgment to make decisions necessary for ADL	___	___	___
5. Capable of perception & memory to sustain ADL	___	___	___
6. Able to follow directions & learn to a degree necessary for ADL	___	___	___
7. Under medication which impairs physical or mental functioning	___	___	___
8. Capable of decisions concerning self & others' safety & needs	___	___	___

**Overall Patient Assessment:**

Would you recommend this individual for a Patriot Service Dog (circle)? Yes No

Do you think Patriot Service Dogs would benefit from a consultation with you to help facilitate placement of a service dog with this patient (circle)? Yes No

Do you think this individual has the ability to care for a dog or implement the help necessary to care for a service dog (circle)? Yes No

Do you feel that the applicant will be able to handle a service dog in times of stress and in public situations where the presence of the service dog is challenged (circle)? Yes No

Additional Comments/Observations:

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Physician's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please Return Completed Form to:**

Patriot Service Dogs  
Julie Sanderson  
10545 SE 42<sup>nd</sup> Ct  
Bellevue, FL 34420

## Personal Reference Form

### for Patriot Service Dogs Application

Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

Patriot Service Dogs is an organization that specializes in training service dogs to help disabled veterans regain their independence. These dogs are trained to:

- Get help in emergencies
- Pick up and retrieve items
- Open and close doors and cupboards
- Provide bracing to stand, walk, and sit down
- Help with chores, such as laundry
- Take shoes and socks off
- Emotional stability

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

What is your relationship to the applicant? \_\_\_\_\_

How long have you know the applicant? \_\_\_\_\_

How does the applicant's disability impair his/her ability to function in daily life? To your knowledge, what family and/or community systems are available to the applicant?

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In what ways would the applicant benefit from having a service dog?

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How do you think the applicant would handle a service dog in times of stress?

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By law, service dogs are required entry to all public areas. How would the applicant handle the increased attention and social interaction that comes from having a service dog? How would he/she react to situations in which his/her right to be accompanied by a service dog is challenged?

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To your knowledge, is the applicant able to care and provide for a service dog?

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Any additional comments or observations?

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**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please Return the Completed Form to:**

Patriot Service Dogs  
Julie Sanderson  
10545 SE 42<sup>nd</sup> Ct  
Bellevue, FL 34420