

# Canine Companions Fact Sheet



- > **2,691** Active graduate teams nationwide
- > **180** Teams graduated in 2022 to date
- > **520** People currently on the waitlist
- > **433** Dogs placed supporting veterans since founding
- > **841** In-person and virtual follow up visits in 2022 to date
- > **1,071** Puppies currently being raised
- > **133** Breeder dogs
- > **4,700** Volunteers nationwide
- > **51** Volunteer chapters nationwide
- > **7,288** Teams graduated since founding in 1975

Several hundred Canine Companions released dogs are currently functioning in human services roles such as search and rescue, border patrol, customs, therapy, medical alert and guide dogs, which are not reflected in the above numbers.

One in four Americans live with a disability and Canine Companions is here to help.

As the leader of the service dog industry, Canine Companions enhances independence for children, adults and veterans with disabilities through expertly trained service dogs.

Our service dogs assist people with a wide range of disabilities, including multiple sclerosis, cerebral palsy, spinal cord injury, stroke, hearing loss, developmental delay, veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder and more.

Established in 1975, Canine Companions is the largest non-profit provider of service dogs in the United States. With our cutting-edge research and training programs, we can achieve our industry-wide goal of providing service dogs to all eligible applicants and reducing wait times for individuals who would benefit from a service dog.

## Canine Companions Puppies

Canine Companions breeds Labrador Retrievers, Golden Retrievers and crosses of the two breeds. Puppies are raised by volunteer breeder caretakers who provide permanent homes to Canine Companions breeder dogs and nurture newborn puppies until they are about 8 weeks old. Then the puppies are placed with volunteer puppy raisers for a year and a half, where they receive lots of socialization, love, attention and experiential activities to prepare for their future.



## Canine Companions Professional Training

Now dogs are ready for their next step — professional training at one of six training centers across the country. Our dogs complete a six month training program where professional instructors teach them to respond to more than 40 commands, including retrieving items, pulling wheelchairs, interrupting nightmares and anxiety, opening and closing doors, alerting to important sounds, and much more.

After successfully completing professional training, the dogs enter Team Training. Team Training is a two-week intensive training where recipients are matched with their new service dogs and learn to work together as a team. Team Training culminates in an uplifting graduation ceremony, signaling the beginning of a new life together.

For some graduates, it means returning to work, reducing medication or their dependency on caregivers. Others gain confidence and security to leave their homes and maximize their potential in the community. But for all Canine Companions graduates, one of the greatest rewards is the unconditional love and unique relationship they experience through partnership with a Canine Companions service dog.

Canine Companions service dogs take their work seriously and are recognized for their high level of training. When not on the job, a Canine Companions dog enjoys off-duty time just as a pet dog would.

## About Canine Companions

Canine Companions does not charge for service dogs or the lifetime of ongoing support we provide. As a result, we depend on private funding through donations from individuals, corporations, foundations and community organizations. Our professional staff is supported by a national network of thousands of volunteers and donors, all committed to enhancing the independence for people with disabilities. Canine Companions service dogs help clients overcome physical, psychological and social barriers, helping them lead lives with greater independence.

Canine Companions is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and founding member of Assistance Dogs International (ADI), a coalition of non-profit service dog organizations that are committed to the highest standards in the training, placement, utilization and education around service dogs.

*Last updated June 2022*



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