



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. Special skills are trained on an individual basis. Our dogs are not trained for emotional support or medical alert.

Owner Trained Assistance Dog Program Criteria and Requirements

APPLICANT CRITERIA

1. The applicant must be at least 16 years of age to participate in the Owner Trained Assistance Dog Program
2. 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 assist in the training.
3. The task(s) to be trained must be directly related to the person's disability.
4. JLAD will not train any task that arouses a dog's prey drive, or fear to elicit a display of aggression for defense purposes.
5. 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.
6. The owner will attend weekly classes held in increments of 6 months
7. 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.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

1. 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



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significant vision loss, companion or emotional support dogs.

2. Prior to acceptance into the program, JLAD will evaluate the dog for temperament, health, age, and level of basic obedience training. You will receive an official notification of admittance into the Owner Trained program after the dog's evaluation. Any dog not meeting JLAD requirement standards will not be accepted into the program.
3. 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.
4. Training must be completed within a consecutive 2-year period or the team will be dropped from the program. Tuition money will not be refunded.
5. The team must meet all standards set forth by Assistance Dog International (ADI) to be certified as an assistance dog. They must also meet all JLAD program-training requirements, which include any training necessary to certify a dog fully trained as an assistance dog.
6. 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).
7. 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 their dog can perform a task directly related to their disability
 - b. Knowledge of acceptable training techniques
 - c. An 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.
8. JLAD will perform monthly follow-ups with the team for the first 6 months following program completion and certification.
9. The Team is required to recertify 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 PAT must be successfully completed within 30 days of the original testing unless there are extenuating circumstances as determined by JLAD. Failure to successfully complete the PAT within the allotted time will result in the dog not being certified as an assistance dog. Tuition money will not be refunded.
10. Identification of the dog as an assistance dog will be accomplished with a laminated ID card with a photo and names 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 clear and easy to read which identifies your dog as an assistance dog.



DOG STANDARDS

To be accepted into the program the dog must:

- meet the same program standards as the dogs trained and placed by JLAD
- be spayed or neutered by the age of 18 month
- remain current on all vaccinations. Copies of veterinary records must be provided to JLAD
- pass all health clearances required of assistance dogs which are hips, elbows, heart, and eyes
- meet all standards required to become a certified assistance dog
- perform a task that mitigates his handler's disability in a significant manner and must be specific to the handler's disability
- dog must weigh a minimum of 45 pounds
- dogs cannot exceed 80 pounds
- a dog must be at least 8 weeks of age and no more than 3 years of age to enroll in the Owner Trained program.
- Dog breed must be void of guarding instincts, such as found in Shepherds, Rottweilers, Staffordshire terriers, Huskies, Dobermans, to name a few.
- Dog must pass the Canine Good Citizen (CGC) Test at the conclusion of the first 6-month training session.

PROGRAM COST

1. Non-refundable Dog Evaluation: \$50
 2. Non-refundable Application fee: \$150
 3. Tuition fee for the first six months of weekly classes: \$1500.00.
 4. Tuition fee for each succeeding 6 months of weekly classes: \$1000.
- All tuition fees paid are non-refundable once training begins.
 - Tuition is subject to change each calendar year. Applications must be received by December 31st to honor the current price.