



Guide Dogs of America

An International Guiding Eyes Program

13445 Glenoaks Boulevard, Sylmar, CA 91342

(818) 362-5834 • Fax (818) 362-6870

www.guidedogsofamerica.org

Dear Prospective GDA Puppy Raiser:

Thank you for your interest in becoming a Puppy Raiser for Guide Dogs of America. As you requested, you will find enclosed information regarding GDA's guide dog and puppy raiser programs.

On receipt of your completed questionnaire, a member of the Puppy Department will contact you to set up a home interview. The interview serves two purposes: it offers a detailed explanation of the puppy raiser program and also determines the suitability of a home placement for a GDA puppy. Following the interview you will receive a call regarding the availability of a puppy-in-training which is based on the current puppy census and number of qualified applicants.

Again, thank you for your interest in volunteering to "foster parent" a guide dog in training. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call.

Sincerely,

Louise Henderson

Puppy Program Manager

PUPPY RAISING PROGRAM

You can help by becoming a Guide Dogs of America Puppy Raiser. Guide Dogs of America is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing mobility to blind people through the use of highly trained guide dogs.

At our school, a professional staff supervises the breeding and whelping of Labrador Retrievers, Golden Retrievers and German Shepherds. Some day these puppies will grow up to provide a more fulfilling life for a blind person. You can be part of this very important service.

When the potential guide dogs are puppies, at approximately 8 weeks old, they are placed in pre-selected foster homes. You could have one of these puppies in your home for approximately 18-22 months, after which time they are returned to the center for formal guide dog training. During the time when the puppy is in your home, GDA will provide for veterinary care at the center and if it is necessary to take the puppy to an outside Vet. you will be reimbursed for the visit. All we ask of you is to provide the puppy's food, take the puppy to Obedience classes, give it a lot of love and socialization. Remember, as GDA is a non-profit organization, anything you purchase for this puppy is tax deductible.

On the day you receive your puppy, our Puppy Manager will brief you on general facts of dog and puppy care as well as answering any questions that you might have. We issue you a leash, collar, tags, bowl and brush for your puppy and puppy raiser ID card for you. There are required meetings once a month for all the Puppy Raisers in our program. At these meetings, there is always a different topic for discussion, plus the opportunity to get any questions answered that you may have. In addition to offering monthly meetings, a member of the Puppy Department will make visits to the Puppy Raisers home to help with any problems that may arise.

It is important for these future Guide Dogs to be exposed to the same kind of everyday situations a trained Guide Dog would have to handle. This would include walking on a very crowded street, entering stores and shopping malls, traveling in a car etc...We also need our Puppy Raisers to teach the puppy basic obedience, such as how to walk on a loose leash (on the left side), how to sit, lay down, stay and come when called.

If you are interested in becoming a Puppy Raiser, please contact Guide Dogs of America at (818) 362-5834, e-mail: LHenderson@guidedogsofamerica.org or write to 13445 Glenoaks Blvd. Sylmar, CA 91342.

GUIDE DOGS OF AMERICA

Puppy Raiser Questionnaire

DATE: _____

NAME(S): _____

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE (Home) _____

(Work) _____ (person's name)

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

1) Will someone be home during the day to feed and care for the puppy?

Yes

No

2) Give a brief description of the amount of time you can devote to the care and education of the puppy .

3) Is the entire family enthusiastic about the placement of a puppy in the home?

Yes

No

4) Will one person assume primary responsibility for the care of the dog?

Yes

No

12) Would the family be willing to enroll the puppy in an obedience class?

Yes

No

13) Is the family willing to participate in monthly meetings, classes and/or GDA activities?

Yes

No

14) How did you hear about Guide Dogs of America?

Please feel free to give us any other information about yourselves or your family.

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Please mail form to Guide Dogs of America when completed, or Fax to
(818) 833-6441.

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Thank you