



Guide Dogs
of America



Tender Loving
Canines

FACTS AT A GLANCE

Transforming lives through partnerships with service dogs

Our Organization

At Guide Dogs of America, we transform lives through partnerships with service dogs. We breed, raise, and train guide dogs for individuals who are blind/visually impaired and service dogs for veterans and children with autism. We also place facility dogs with professionals in hospitals, schools, and courtrooms.

Our highly skilled canines become trusted companions that increase people's confidence, mobility, and independence. All programs and services, including transportation, personalized training, room/board, and postgraduate support, are provided at no cost to the recipient.

Cost \$60,000

Breeding, raising and training of each team—service dog and student

Our Community

- 50 Employees
- 250 Volunteers
- 150 Puppy Raisers

Our Dogs



OUR GUIDE DOGS FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE BLIND/ VISUALLY IMPAIRED

improve our clients' mobility and bring new opportunities for life experiences and social interaction. These highly trained canines help our clients travel safely from one destination to the next. They avoid obstacles, stop at elevation changes, keep their partner on a straight line, stop for all oncoming traffic, and even remember common routes.

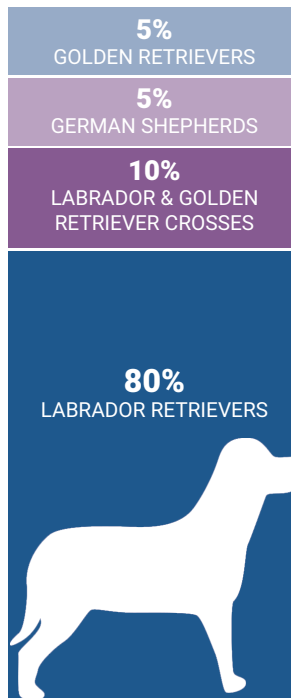
OUR SERVICE DOGS FOR VETERANS help heroes reintegrate into society by alleviating their PTSD symptoms and assisting with mobility limitations. They are trained to provide grounding or sensory input to decrease the physiological symptoms of stress/anxiety. They are also trained to interrupt or alert to early signs of hypervigilance or escalated anxiety brought on by triggers. For our veterans with mobility issues, our dogs can retrieve/carry items, brace for balance, and help with prosthetics.

OUR SERVICE DOGS FOR CHILDREN WITH AUTISM

become trusted companions that create hope and usher confidence and independence into our clients and their families' lives. They are trained to provide sensory input like laying in a child's lap or on their feet to help deescalate stressful situations. They can also perform cues like visit, wave, bow, and fist bump to welcome new opportunities to help improve communication skills.

OUR FACILITY DOGS ARE TASK-TRAINED SERVICE ANIMALS

that partner with professionals to support individuals with disabilities, victims of crime, and other vulnerable populations. Our facility dogs can help someone feel calm and secure during a difficult trial or testimony. In educational settings, facility dogs encourage children to attend class and stay engaged. In healthcare settings, grooming, feeding, and playing with our dogs can help with healing or rehab.



Our Program Requirements

Guide Dog

- Legally blind
- 18 years of age
- Orientation and Mobility training



Veterans

- Suffer from a diagnosed disability; Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), Post-traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), mobility (e.g., amputations)
- Separated from the military -- Document of Discharge (DD-214)
- If suffering from PTSD, which occurs in a majority of cases, applicants must be receiving treatment for their PTSD
- Sobriety for one year

Autism

- Diagnosis of autism-related learning disability
- Must be between 6 to 16 years of age
- Ability of a parent/caregiver to attend team training and be the primary handler of the dog

Facility

- Approval from employer for use of a facility dog
- Identify a secondary handler
- Ability to care for and manage a dog
- Must be able to attend Team Training



ACTIVE GRADUATES*

GUIDE DOGS	258
VETERAN DOGS	28
AUTISM DOGS	24
FACILITY DOGS	9

*As of 07/01/21



Our Classes

Guide Dog Class

- 3 weeks on campus
- 6 times a year
- 10 students per class
- Roughly 3:1 student to teacher ratio

Service Dog Class

- 3 weeks at home online
- 1 week on campus
- 4 times a year
- 5 students per class
- Roughly 2:1 student to teacher ratio

Puppy Raising

Our guide and service dogs are raised by loving and dedicated volunteer puppy raisers. They meet their puppy at 8 weeks old and spend about a year teaching basic obedience and house manners. Puppy raisers also provide ongoing urban socialization, which means exposing their dog to the outside world! All of this helps the puppy grow into a confident and well-mannered dog.

Training

Dogs return to GDA at 14 to 18 months of age to begin their formal training. Guide dog candidates are trained at our Sylmar campus, and service dog candidates are trained at several California prisons through our rehabilitative prison training program. In this successful program, carefully screened incarcerated individuals learn to teach service dog skills using positive reinforcement dog training techniques.

Every successful guide and service dog team starts when someone embraces the opportunity to raise a puppy.



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