

JOB TITLE: Service Dog Trainer
DEPARTMENT: Training
REPORTS TO: Training Supervisor
EMPLOYMENT TYPE: Hourly, Non-Exempt, Full Time 40 hours/week
COMPENSATION: \$20-25/hour based on experience & qualifications



SUMMARY: The Dog Trainer plays a critical role in training, evaluating, and caring for dogs in the Patriot PAWS program, ensuring they meet the highest standards for service dog certification. This position is responsible for assessing dogs' suitability, providing training and mentorship to Veterans, supporting the Prison Training Program, and conducting public demonstrations and outreach events. Dog Trainers also conduct follow-up visits, administer ADI Public Access Tests, and maintain accurate training records in the DogTracker system.

This role requires a deep understanding of canine behavior, strong communication skills, and the ability to work collaboratively with Veterans, volunteers, and fellow trainers.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

Dog Training & Evaluation

- Train and assess dogs regularly to determine their potential as Service Dogs, Companion Dogs, or other placements within the program.
- Maintain consistent and structured training methods, following Patriot PAWS' standards and positive reinforcement techniques.
- Provide training and behavioral support to dogs in the Prison Program, including transportation as needed.
- Assist in the management, training, and support of Puppy Raisers as assigned by the Training Outreach Coordinator
- Administer and document ADI Public Access Tests for qualified dogs during post-graduation follow-ups.
- Assist in placing and coordinating In-Home Working Dog, Facility Dog placements, and Adoptions.

Veteran Training & Support

- Guide and mentor Veterans during their two-week training and graduation process, ensuring proper handler-dog bonding and skill development.
- Conduct home visits for Veterans before and after their training, assessing the environment and providing ongoing support.
- Offer individualized training strategies for Veterans to meet their specific mobility and service needs.

Demonstrations, Events & Outreach

- Participate in and lead public demonstrations, community outreach, and fundraising events to showcase Patriot PAWS' mission.
- Represent Patriot PAWS at educational presentations and speaking engagements, helping to raise awareness and support.

Administrative & Compliance Responsibilities

- Maintain accurate training records in the DogTracker system, ensuring timely updates on dog progress, evaluations, and public access certifications.
- Assist in developing and refining training protocols and best practices for consistency across all training environments.
- Collaborate with fellow trainers and leadership to identify training improvements and support program growth.

- Perform additional job-related duties as assigned by Management.

QUALIFICATIONS & REQUIREMENTS

Education & Experience

- Minimum of two years of experience in dog training required.
- Experience with obedience training, Service Dog training, or behavior modification is highly preferred.
- Certifications from recognized institutions such as Karen Pryor Academy, Bergin University, or other service dog training programs are highly desirable.

Skills & Competencies

- Strong understanding of canine behavior, learning theory, and positive reinforcement training techniques.
- Ability to adapt training methods to meet the unique needs of each dog and Veteran.
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills, with the ability to coach Veterans and volunteers effectively.
- Proficiency in Microsoft Office Suite (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook) and DogTracker or similar database systems.
- Strong organizational and time management skills, with the ability to manage multiple dogs and training schedules.

PHYSICAL DEMANDS & WORK ENVIRONMENT

- Frequently required to stand, walk, bend, and lift for extended periods during training sessions.
- Frequent exposure to outdoor weather conditions, including rain, heat, and cold.
- Occasional exposure to wet and/or humid environments (non-weather).
- Regular exposure to high noise levels from barking dogs and training environments.

BENEFITS

- Medical, Dental, Vision, Life Insurance
- Employer Matched 401K
- Paid Vacation, Holiday, and Sick Leave
- Employee Assistance Program

HOW TO APPLY

Please complete the online application and submit your resume at

<https://www.tfaforms.com/rest/forms/view/5208831>

Email marissa@patriotpaws.org with any questions.