Summary of ADI Standards

ADI Standards form the basis for ADI Accreditation. The following document summarizes ADI's Standards.

In order for an organization to be deemed compliant with ADI Standards, the organization must successfully complete the ADI Accreditation Process and be approved as an Accredited Member of ADI. The following is a **summary** of the ADI Standards; additional specific criteria must be met as outlined in the Accreditation Manual to be deemed compliant with ADI Standards. An organization may not report they meet ADI Standards based on the material in this document alone.

Should you wish to know more about these standards, please contact ADI at info@assistancedogsinternational.org. The Accreditation Manual and documents are only available to accredited members or candidate organizations or by request on a case-by-case basis.

Summary Standards of Administration

1. Organizations operate as a legal not-for-profit organization.
2. Organizations demonstrate operational stability.
3. Organizations demonstrate sound and ethical business practices.
4. Organizations demonstrate financial transparency.
5. Organizations demonstrate responsible use of resources.
6. Organizations demonstrate adequate safety and emergency procedures.
7. Organizations demonstrate fair and equal policies and procedures for both staff and volunteers.
8. Organizations must be transparent to what is offered to participants of public offered classes.
9. Organizations comply with all governmental regulations.

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Summary Standards for Staff Education, Professional Development, and Trainers

1. Trainers have the proper education and practical experience to ensure the dogs utilized in training by an organization are healthy, properly cared for, and appropriate for the job they are being trained to do.

2. Trainers utilize humane training methods that are evidence-based and follow the least intrusive, minimally aversive principle to teach reliable behaviors on cues.

3. Trainers are knowledgeable about public laws for both assistance dogs and their handlers as well as pet dogs. Trainers consider the safety of the team and the public.

4. Trainers participate in continued education within the industry.

5. Trainers are knowledgeable about the client's disability and how a dog may be trained to mitigate this disability.

Summary Standards for Client Services

1. Organizations demonstrate clear and comprehensive application, screening, and matching processes for clients.

2. Organizations treat clients equally and with respect and dignity.

3. Organizations provide clients with a thorough and individualized educational process regarding all aspects of assistance dog partnership. In-person training must be included in the education process.

4. Organizations provide lifetime follow-up and team support.

5. For organizations providing services to owner/private trainer trained teams, organizations demonstrate a minimum 6-month period of working with the owner/private trainer team and their dog before certification by the organization.

6. For organizations providing services to owner/private trainer trained teams, organizations must decide when the owner/private trainer team is ready to participate in the team training process.

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Summary Standards for Breeding and Dog Supply

1. Organizations have a breeding production plan.

2. An organization's breeding program must be the responsibility of a person with the appropriate expertise and experience. People responsible for breeding and/or whelping decisions must participate in continuing education.

3. Organizations have access to veterinary reproductive services that will provide emergency services.

4. Organizations have procedures for neonate puppy rearing and care.

5. Organizations have policies and procedures to reduce biosecurity risks.

Summary of Standards for Dog Training and Behavior

1. Organizations demonstrate consistent and high quality policies and procedures regarding selection, training, and care of dogs.

2. Organizations demonstrate a comprehensive education and training program individualized to the needs of the dog and client.

3. Organizations maintain detailed training records.

4. Organizations demonstrate support and education of puppy raisers/socializers who foster their young dogs.

5. Organizations train dogs to perform at least three specified assistive tasks for clients.

6. Organizations train dogs to be stable, well-behaved and unobtrusive in public. Dogs will not display aggression, eliminate inside, or show uncontrollable behavior in public.

Summary Standards for the Health and Welfare of Dogs

1. Organizations demonstrate that they provide humane care and treatment for all dogs that are the responsibility of the organization.

2. Organizations demonstrate that qualified staff or volunteers work with veterinarians for health screenings and to create a comprehensive, balanced health care management plan with detailed records for each dog.

3. Organizations demonstrate that they uphold their commitment to the dog's welfare for the lifetime of the dog.

4. Organizations spay or neuter all dogs prior to placement.

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Summary Standards for Facilities and Kennels

1. Organizations ensure that all facilities and kennels used by the organization provide the care needed to meet the individual needs of each dog.

2. Organizations ensure that the kennels provide a safe and enriched environment.

3. Organizations demonstrate proper maintenance and cleaning procedures throughout the entire facility.

4. Organizations demonstrate that facilities are accessible to the population served.

Summary Standards for Correctional Facility / Prison Programs

1. Organizations demonstrate comprehensive prison staff and inmate handler training.

2. Organizations demonstrate safety and emergency procedures for their dogs in the prison setting.

3. Organizations have a designated staff Prison Liaison.

Summary Standards for Psychiatric Service Dogs

1. Organization staff and volunteers must have a clear and comprehensive understanding of the psychiatric diagnoses they service.

2. Organizations must enlist the expertise of a licensed mental health professional who is experienced in the psychiatric diagnoses they service.

3. Organizations demonstrate Psychiatric Service Dogs facilitate friendly public interaction and do not encourage guarding, protection, and searching for a perceived threat.

Summary Standards for Training and Placement of Facility Dogs

1. Organizations working with Facility Dogs must ensure all policies and procedures for Facility Dog teams meet ALL applicable ADI Standards in addition to this section.

2. Organizations demonstrate a comprehensive education and training program individualized to the needs of the dog and the facility.

3. The Facility Dog is suited to work in a variety of environments and is accustomed to interacting with many different types of people.

4. If local law allows for public access, organizations ensure that when their facility dogs are in public they are clearly identifiable as a Facility Dog.

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