



Assistance Dogs INTERNATIONAL

Assistance Dogs International (ADI) Program Summary

ADI was formed in 1986 and became incorporated in 1988. The table below summarizes some basic statistics about ADI and its impact:

Current ADI Members	136 as of July 2021
Current ADI Candidate members	50 as of July 2021
Number of ADI Regions	3 (North America, Europe, Oceania)
Total member programs' active Assistance Dog teams	27,852 in 2019
New Assistance Dog teams placed by our members	4,795 in 2019

I. ADI Mission, Vision, and Values

ADI's mission is to foster a collaborative global community dedicated to the highest standards of excellence for the assistance dog industry.

The vision of ADI is a global network of organizations collaborating to ensure high-quality assistance dogs create new paths of possibilities for the individuals they support.

In all our actions and decisions, we are guided by these shared values:

- **MEMBER SERVICE:** We are non-profit, member-driven and transparent. We hold ourselves accountable for meeting and exceeding our members' expectations.
- **COLLABORATION:** We work together in relationships based in mutual trust with everyone dedicated to creating a better future for people in partnership with assistance dogs.
- **EXCELLENCE:** We are committed to innovation and continuous learning, to achieve the highest standards for service, quality, integrity and ethical practice.
- **DOG HEALTH & WELFARE:** To ensure the physical and emotional safety of assistance dogs, we are committed to training methods, care and treatment that demonstrate partnership, appreciation and respect.
- **RESPECT:** We treat all persons with dignity regardless of differences in race, sex, religion, culture or ability. We seek out opportunities to be culturally responsive, and to enhance diversity and inclusion.

II. ADI Overview

ADI is a coalition of nonprofit organizations that train and place Assistance Dogs with individuals with disabilities to improve their quality of life with greater independence. ADI Standards have become the benchmarks to measure excellence in the Assistance Dog industry. Assistance Dog users trust their lives and safety to their dogs so everything related to the training of both the dogs and people must meet extraordinary criteria.

The ADI Accreditation Program is at the heart of ADI. The Accreditation Program is a comprehensive process that thoroughly evaluates our members and new Candidate programs against our high standards to ensure they are operating to the standards in all aspects of their program. To demonstrate compliance, member organizations and candidate programs undergo an accreditation survey that begins with a thorough review of all their administrative and operational policies and procedures by a trained Accreditation Assessor. Next an on-site survey includes an inspection of their training and kennel facilities, observation of the training of the dogs and clients, and extensive interviews of their staff, volunteers, board members, and client teams. After the on-site survey is complete, the Accreditation Assessor prepares a detailed report that is reviewed and approved/denied by the Accreditation Review Committee of the ADI Board of Directors. All member organizations must successfully complete the

accreditation program to be a member of ADI, and members must complete the re-accreditation process every five years to maintain their membership.

Compliance with ADI Standards helps ensure that people with disabilities who are seeking a partnership with an Assistance Dog receive exceptional service from our accredited member programs, a highly professionally trained Assistance Dog trained to mitigate their disability, a comprehensive education about training and utilization of an Assistance Dog, and a thorough understanding of all aspects of public access with an Assistance Dog.

ADI has regional programs that benefit member programs in certain regions. ADI North America benefits from our Puppies in Flight program that allows trained American Airlines employee volunteers to use their flight benefits to transport Assistance Dogs on American Airlines flights. Transports may include delivering the animal to their puppy raiser, escorting the dog to and from program training, pairing the dog with their new handler, or familiarizing the dog with the flight experience.

III. Operating Principles

The Public

By selecting an ADI Accredited Member program, consumers can ensure that the program is meeting the highest standards in the Assistance Dog industry including standards for the treatment of clients and dogs as well as ethical business practices. Accredited ADI Member programs provide professionally trained Assistance Dogs that perform tasks to mitigate disabilities, ongoing support for the life of the Assistance Dog team, and education of public access laws.

ADI Members

ADI has a variety of direct benefits to our members. These include:

- An accreditation and evaluation process that ensures that all ADI Standards are implemented, maintained and current to the highest standards around the world.
- Immediate credibility is awarded to our members due to the outstanding global reputation of ADI as the leader of the industry.
- Ability to state they are meeting “ADI Standards,” which are the highest standards in the Assistance Dog industry.
- Opportunities to be involved with regional legislative advocacy to address issues and access laws related to the rights of individuals partnered with Assistance Dogs.
- Voting rights within the organization.
- An invitation to attend all regional and international ADI Conferences to share best practices, education, and facilitate information.
- Opportunity to apply for the International Breeding Cooperative that allows program members to share genetic material, puppies and dogs, and breeding information with the ultimate goal of improving the quality of all Assistance Dogs.

- Networking with other accredited and Candidate programs via closed Facebook Group Pages (Directors, Training Directors, Puppy Raiser Managers, Communication and Marketing, etc.).
- Opportunity to network and build relationships with staff and other programs that meet ADI Standards and share similar values and ethics.
- Opportunity to submit nominations for leadership positions for regional and international board positions and participation in board committees.
- Listing in the Accredited Members program search on ADI website for individuals seeking an Assistance Dog.
- Access to the “Members Area” on the ADI website for access to confidential information and resources including detailed information on public access laws.
- Placement of available employment opportunities on the ADI website.
- Participation in Trainer’s Certification Program (currently under revision).
- Receipt of the ADI ENewsletter.
- Ability to display ADI Accreditation Logo on their letterhead, website, marketing materials in strict coherence to the ADI Style Guide.

In addition, ADI Members may have additional regional benefits depending upon their location. Regional benefits include:

- Participation in ADI partnered program with American Airlines Puppies in Flight Program (ADI North America).

Lastly, ADI Members may have additional benefits from sources outside of ADI. These include:

- Accredited Member clients fly with ease on many international airlines with appropriate documentation.
- Accredited Member client USA war veterans may apply and receive Dog of Record benefits from the Veterans Affairs Department (VA) for veterinary expenses.
- Accredited Member clients have access to all United States VA facilities and military bases.
- Ability to participate in CEN Working groups.
- Ability to participate in regional groups such as Assistance Dogs UK and others.

IV. Membership Eligibility, Requirements, and Responsibilities

Membership in ADI is open to non-profit Assistance Dog programs. Members are required to pay annual dues, submit annual census and information documents, abide by ADI’s Standards, and undergo an accreditation survey every 5 years.

Membership in ADI begins when a program applies to be Candidate member. Candidate members must be non-profit or charity and have placed 5 Assistance Dogs that have successfully worked for one year or more. Once a Candidate application is approved by the regional board of directors, a Candidate program has 5 years to work towards a successful accreditation survey and placement of 10 Assistance Dog teams. By the end of its 5th year of candidacy a Candidate program must successfully undergo an

accreditation survey to become an accredited member. All member programs must undergo an accreditation survey every 5 years.

Membership Categories

Candidate Program- the Candidate program is working towards ADI Member status. Candidate members must be Candidates for a minimum of 2 years and no more than 5 years. Candidate members pay a reduced fee compared to member programs. Candidate members receive some but not all of the benefits of member programs:

- Access to the “Candidates Area” of the ADI website for access to educational resources.
- An invitation to attend all regional and international ADI Conferences to share best practices, education, and facilitate information sharing.
- Networking with other accredited and Candidate programs via closed Facebook Group Pages (Directors, Training Directors, Puppy Raiser Managers, Communication and Marketing, etc.).
- Candidate website listing on the ADI website.

Candidate program limitations:

- Do not have voting rights within ADI.
- May not use the ADI logo.
- May not claim that they are a member of ADI or that they meet ADI Standards.
- Are not allowed to nominate any individual, nor have a representative stand for elected positions or committee membership with ADI.
- May not state their client teams are "ADI Certified."

Member Program- the member program has successfully completed at least one ADI accreditation survey. Member programs may mentor Candidate programs to help them with the accreditation process and enjoy all of the full benefits offered by ADI. Member programs must undergo an accreditation survey every 5 years.

Termination of Membership

The Accreditation Review Committee and the ADI International Board of Directors has the right to terminate any member program that fails to maintain compliance with ADI Standards.

V. Organizational Structure

ADI is organized as a coalition of Assistance Dog programs throughout the world. ADI is a virtual organization with four staff members throughout the world. ADI does not directly provide, train, certify, or register individual Assistance Dogs or Assistance Dog teams, as that is the function of our member organizations. ADI certification is only available to Assistance Dog partnered teams that were trained by our accredited member programs. ADI is managed through an international board of directors, regional board of directors, and a variety of committees: Education, Marketing, Membership, Standards, Accreditation Review, and Regional Candidate Review. Member programs of ADI assist in the

development of ADI Standards and provide input about ADI policies and procedures through our committees.

ADI International Board of Directors

The ADI International Board of Directors is comprised of a minimum of 5 and maximum of 21 volunteer members. The International Board is made of representatives appointed from each region as well as members at-large.

ADI Regional Board of Directors

ADI Regional Board of Directors exist for ADI's three regions: North America, Europe, and Oceania (Australia and New Zealand). Regional Board of Directors deal with regional issues such as public access issues and regional cultural differences.

Education Committee

The Education Committee develops and implements educational programs and activities to our Member and Candidate programs to provide opportunities to achieve the level and skills necessary to serve the Assistance Dog clients with competence, professionalism, and the ability to achieve ADI Accreditation status; and externally to targeted audiences to further educate the public on the objectives, programs, and standards of ADI.

Marketing Committee

The Marketing Committee develops outward facing marketing materials and public awareness campaigns to engage the community in the mission of the Assistance Dog industry and ADI.

Membership Committee

The Membership Committee promotes and provides guidance on ADI membership and retention around the world including organizations that are outside of the regional chapters.

Standards Committee

The Standards Committee develops new standards and revises/updates existing standards, and converts standards into appropriate assessment criteria for the Accreditation Manual and Compliance Guidance Notes.

Accreditation Review Committee

The Accreditation Review Committee oversees the accreditation process including the approval/denial of the accreditation status. This committee has 5 members; two from the North America region, two from the European region, and a fifth regional member. Members to this committee are appointed by the ADI International Board of Directors and must have been an Accreditation Assessor for a minimum of 5 years.

Regional Candidate Review Committee

The Regional Candidate Review Committee reviews Candidate program applicants and makes recommendations to approve or deny candidacy status to the Regional Chapter Board.