



## Summary of ADI Standards

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

In order for a program to be deemed compliant with ADI Standards, the program 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. A program 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](mailto:info@assistancedogsinternational.org). The Accreditation Manual and documents are only available to accredited members or candidate programs or by request on a case-by-case basis.

### Summary Standards of Administration

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

### **Summary Standards for Clients**

1. Programs demonstrate clear and comprehensive application, screening, and matching processes for clients.
2. Programs treat clients equally and with respect and dignity.
3. Programs 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. Programs provide lifetime follow-up and team support.

### **Summary Standards for Training of Dogs**

1. Programs demonstrate consistent and high quality policies and procedures regarding selection, training, and care of dogs.
2. Programs demonstrate a comprehensive education and training program individualized to the needs of the dog and client.
3. Programs maintain detailed training records.
4. Programs demonstrate support and education of puppy raisers/socializers who foster their young dogs.
5. Programs train dogs to perform at least three specified assistive tasks for clients.
6. Programs 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 Welfare and Health of Dogs**

1. Programs demonstrate that they provide humane care and treatment for all dogs that are the responsibility of the program.
2. Programs 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. Programs demonstrate that they uphold their commitment to the dog's welfare for the lifetime of the dog.
4. Programs spay or neuter all dogs prior to placement, career-change, release, or retirement.

### **Summary Standards for Facilities and Kennels**

1. Programs ensure that all facilities and kennels used by the program provide the care needed to meet the individual needs of each dog.
2. Programs ensure that the kennels provide a safe and enriched environment.
3. Programs demonstrate proper maintenance and cleaning procedures throughout the entire facility.
4. Programs demonstrate that facilities are accessible to the population served.

### **Summary Standards for Correctional Facility / Prison Programs**

1. Programs demonstrate comprehensive prison staff and inmate handler training.
2. Programs demonstrate safety and emergency procedures for their dogs in the prison setting.
3. Programs have a designated staff Prison Liaison.

### **Summary Standards for Certification of Owner/Private Trainer Trained Teams**

1. Programs providing certification of owner/private trainer trained teams must ensure all client owner/private trainer teams meet ALL applicable ADI Standards in addition to this section.
2. Programs demonstrate a minimum 6-month period of working with the owner/private trainer team and their dog before certification by the program.
3. Programs must decide when the owner/private trainer team is ready to participate in the team training process.

### **Summary Standards for Training and Placement of Service Dogs for Veterans with Military-related PTSD**

1. Programs working with military-related PTSD teams must ensure all policies and procedures for military-related PTSD teams meet ALL applicable ADI Standards in addition to this section.
2. Program staff and volunteers must have a clear and comprehensive understanding of military-related PTSD.
3. Programs must enlist the expertise of a licensed mental health professional who is experienced in PTSD.
4. Programs demonstrate assistance dogs for military-related PTSD clients facilitate friendly public interaction and do not encourage guarding, protection, and searching for an enemy or threat.

### **Summary Standards for Training and Placement of Facility Dogs**

1. Programs 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. Programs 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, programs ensure that when their facility dogs are in public they are clearly identifiable as a Facility Dog.

### **Summary Standards for Trainers**

1. Trainers have the proper education and practical experience to ensure the dogs utilized in training by a program 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.