



Hearing Dog Training Programs

The programs listed here will accept applicants from the Virginia, Maryland, and DC area.

Canine Companions for Independence

Northeast Regional Office:

PO Box 205

Farmingdale, NY 11735

631-561-0200 V/TTY; 631-561-0230 FAX

Debra Dougherty, Director

Ellen Torop, Program Director

www.caninecompanions.org (National Office)

www.caninecompanions.org/regions/northeast/northeast.index.html

(Regional Office)

National Office: 1-800-572-2275

info@caninecompanions.org

Service Area: National

Member of Assistance Dogs International? Yes – Full

Waiting List: Varies

Fee: None

Other Expenses: Must attend a 2-week training and pay for some expenses related to travel, meals, lodging

Training Method: Leash correction/positive reinforcement

Dog's Training: Puppy raiser turns in dog at approx. 15 months; 6-9 months of advanced training follow

Process to Apply: Fill out application forms – personal info, medical. Live interview. Contact regional office to request application packet.

Ownership of Dog: CCI retains ownership.

Certification: Partner/dog must pass tests for ability to successfully command, control dog and ensure safety, as well as properly care for dog; re-certification every 1-3 years

Followup Services: Annual graduate workshops; program staff available to continue assisting with training or addressing any problems

Age Requirement: 18 years

Specific Breed Requests: No. All dogs are Labs, Golden Retrievers or a mix.

Training of Pet Dogs: No

Specialty Training for Dual Disabilities: No

Northern Virginia Resource Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Persons

3951 Pender Drive, Suite 130 • Fairfax, VA 22030

703-352-9055 (V) • 703-352-9056 (TTY) • 703-352-9058 (FAX)

www.nvrc.org • info@nvrc.org

Dogs for the Deaf

10175 Wheeler Road
Central Point, OR 97502
541-826-9220 V/TTY; 541-826-6696 FAX
Robin Dickson, President/CEO
www.dogsforthe deaf.org
info@dogsforthe deaf.org

Service Area: National

Member of Assistance Dogs International? Yes – Fully

Waiting List: Approximately 1 year

Fee: \$50 application fee; \$500 deposit refunded after person/dog have been together 1 year

Training Method: Positive reinforcement

Dog's Training: Dogs are rescued from shelters and trained for approximately 6 months

Process to Apply: Fill out application forms – personal info, medical. Live interview in home. Contact regional office to request application packet or get from website

Ownership of Dog: Transferred to partner

Certification: Must pass certification test and periodic retesting

Followup Services: Provided as long as team is together

Age Requirement: 16 years

Specific Breed Requests: Yes, but wait can be longer

Training of Pet Dogs: No

Specialty Training for Dual Disabilities: No

Fidos for Freedom

PO Box 5508
Laurel, MD 20726
410-880-4178 V; 301-570-7570 TTY; 301-570-9061 FAX
Joseph Swetnam, Director
www.fidosforfreedom.org
fidos@fidosforfreedom.org

Service Area: 75 mile radius of Laurel, MD

Member of Assistance Dogs International? Yes – Full

Waiting List: Varies – 6 months to 2 or 3 years

Fee: \$10 application fee; \$150 administration fee if approved

Training Method: Leash correction/positive reinforcement

Dog's Training: Two to three years

Process to Apply: Application form, medical, audiogram, interviews, personal references

Ownership of Dog: Transferred one year after dog goes home with client if approved

Certification: Must be renewed each year – written exam, skills test, public access test, demonstration of skills and ability to work in public

Followup Services: Teams must return to center twice each month for a year; weekly trainings and support, phone consultations

Age Requirement: 18 years

Specific Breed Requests: No

Training of Pet Dogs: No

Specialty Training for Dual Disabilities: No

International Hearing Dog, Inc.

5901 E. 89th Avenue
Henderson, CO
303-287-3277 V/TTY; 303-287-3425 FAX
Valerie Foss-Brugger, Executive Director
www.ihdi.org
ihdi@aol.com

Service Area: National

Member of Assistance Dogs International? No

Waiting List: Varies – 6-12 months

Fee: None

Training Method: Positive reinforcement

Dog's Training: Dogs are rescued from shelters and trained for 4-6 months

Process to Apply: Contact to request application form or call to answer preliminary questions

Ownership of Dog: Transferred to partner at time of certification

Certification: After 90-day trial period; must pass tests for sound work, obedience, general behavior

Followup Services: Provided for the life of the dog

Age Requirement: 18 years

Specific Breed Requests: No

Training of Pet Dogs: No

Specialty Training for Dual Disabilities: Sometimes

NEADS (Dogs for Deaf and Disabled Americans)

PO Box 213
West Boylton, MA 05183
978-422-9064 V/TTY; 978-422-3255 FAX
Ricard Beeman, CEO
www.neads.org
info@neads.org

Service Area: National

Member of Assistance Dogs International? Yes - Full

Waiting List: Varies – 6 months and up

Fee: \$9,500; will help to raise some funds—no one denied based on ability to pay

Other Expenses: Must live at the training center for a week

Training Method: Leash correction/positive reinforcement

Dog's Training: Dogs from shelters, breeders, donations are trained for several months

Process to Apply: Fill out application forms (available on website); personal interview

Ownership of Dog: Transferred to partner

Certification: Team must pass public access test and successfully demonstrate sound work

Followup Services: Workshops and other services

Age Requirement: 13 years; younger children may be accepted if they have a facilitator

Specific Breed Requests: Sometimes

Training of Pet Dogs: Yes, if the dog passes program requirements

Specialty Training for Dual Disabilities: Some deaf/physical disability

Paws With a Cause

4646 South Division
Wayland, MI 49348
616-877-7297 V; 800-253-7297 TTY; 616-877-0248 FAX
Michael D. Sapp, Sr., CEO
www.pawswithacause.org
paws@pawswithacause.org

Service Area: National

Member of Assistance Dogs International? Yes – Full

Waiting List: Varies

Fee: None

Training Method: Food enhancement, positive reinforcement, clicker

Dog's Training: Dogs from PAWS limited breeding program and shelters, trained for 6 months

Process to Apply: Application forms – audiogram, needs assessment; contact by phone, email

Ownership of Dog: Ownership is transferred to partner at certification

Certification: Dog and client must demonstrate ability to perform well as a team in assigned tasks; re-certifications every 18 months

Followup Services: Retraining or additional training provided as needed

Age Requirement: 18 years

Specific Breed Requests: Yes but wait may be longer

Training of Pet Dogs: Yes if criteria is met

Specialty Training for Dual Disabilities: May provide hearing/guide and service/hearing

Saint Francis of Assisi Service Dog Foundation

PO Box 21403
Roanoke, VA 24018
540-342-3647 V
www.saintfrancisdogs.org
info@saintfrancisdogs.org

Service Area: Virginia

Member of Assistance Dogs International? Yes - Full

Waiting List: Up to 5 years; capped at 20 adults and children. Places 7-10 dogs a year.

Fee: \$25 non-refundable application fee, plus \$200 at the time ownership is transferred.

Training Method: Unknown

Dog's Training: Puppy raisers turn in dogs to field trainers for 14-18 months of training while living in trainer's home

Process to Apply: Request the one page pre-application form or get it from the website

Ownership of Dog: Recipients own their dogs.

Certification: In order for the dog to achieve certification, he must achieve four levels of proficiency, the fourth being with the recipient. The dog and handler must perform obedience commands and tasks in public areas.

Followup Services: Unknown

Age Requirement: Children (based on maturity of child)

Specific Breed Requests: Unknown

Training of Pet Dogs: No

Specialty Training for Dual Disabilities: Multiple disabilities