



# Assistance Dogs Australia Limited

*Increasing the Independence of People with Physical Disabilities*

## **PUPPY RAISING**

### **What does it mean**

In 1996, Assistance Dogs Australia was officially established following three years of extensive work by a dedicated group of volunteers. Assistance Dogs Australia is a non-profit organisation and it aims to provide dogs to assist people with disabilities in their lives other than sight and hearing impairments.

Assistance Dogs learn to respond to over 40 commands and assist the person with a disability to live as independently as possible with the Assistance Dog helping out in everyday situations.

### **Volunteers for puppy raising are needed**

The puppy raising program presents a unique opportunity for volunteers to assist in creating a meaningful change in someone's life. Assistance Dogs requires volunteers who are committed to the aims of the program, to raise a puppy in their home for a period of approximately 15 months – 18 months. The puppy raising family is a vital element in the entire program and if successful is the foundation for a stable, dependable and trustworthy companion for a person with a disability. Assistance Dogs supply food, flea and tick control for your puppy and pay any vet bills that may occur.

### **Growing puppies**

Puppy raisers ensure that Assistance puppies are socialised and well-mannered in a whole range of settings, these include the local shopping centre, public transport, even going to work with a family member. All these experiences prepare the puppy for its future role as an Assistance Dog. Training sessions for the puppy raisers are held once a week for the first 6 weeks and then once a month and the puppies are consistently evaluated. Commitment is the key to success for Assistance Dogs puppies, they need families who are prepared to follow the Assistance Dogs guidelines, attend classes and work as a team with staff to ensure that puppies graduate to advanced training programs.

### **Foster puppy raising guidelines**

If you are interested in becoming a foster puppy raiser, please review the following guidelines, complete the details below and post.

- Must have a fenced yard, secure yard.
- Puppy must be house trained and taught in-house good behaviour.
- Puppy raiser is required to attend all classes as required.
- Puppy is to be fed according to Assistance Dogs Australia guidelines.
- Puppy shall live with the family for 15 months – 18 months.
- Puppy raiser agrees to return the puppy upon request.
- Puppy raiser's age requirements shall be determined by an Assistance Dogs Australia representative and parental permission is required if under 18 years of age.
- The Assistance Dogs puppy should be the only young puppy in the household.



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## PUPPY RAISER APPLICATION

Applicant's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Suburb: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Post code: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant's Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Sex: Male ( ) Female ( )

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Other Family Members: \_\_\_\_\_

1. How did you hear about the Assistance Dogs Australia puppy raising program? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. What are your primary reasons for wanting to puppy raise? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

<b>Office Use Only. ID NO.</b> _____
Date Received: _____
Interview Date: _____
Interview Time: _____
Comments: _____



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3. Have you previously raised an Assistance Dog puppy ? Yes ( ) No ( ).  
If Yes, list names ? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Have you previously applied for an Assistance Dog puppy ? Yes ( ) No ( ) If Yes, when?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Have you raised any Non Assistance Dog puppies ? Yes ( ) No ( ) . If Yes, how many and which breeds? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

6. Are you a member of a service club/organisation? If Yes, please list ? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

7. What are the breeds, ages and genders of the dogs currently living with you? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

8. Please list any other pets living in your home: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

9. Have you had any other dogs in the last ten years? Yes ( ) No ( )  
If Yes, please list each by name and indicate why you no longer have it.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



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10. Have you received any formal obedience training with your dog(s)? Yes ( ) No ( )

If yes, please give details: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

11. Do you have an enclosed yard? Yes ( ) No ( )

If No, are you willing to build a kennel or run? Yes ( ) No ( )

12. Are there children living in your home? Yes ( ) No ( ) If Yes, how many? What are their ages? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

13. Please briefly describe your home, yard, and living environment: \*\* Note: If you have a pool, it has to be fenced. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

14. If you are accepted to puppy raiser and Assistance Dog puppy, where do you plan to have it sleep at night? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

15. Do you rent or own your home? If you rent, please list your landlords name and daytime phone number. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

16. Will you be able to take the Assistance Dog puppy to your workplace? Yes ( ) No ( )  
If Yes, how often? If Yes, please describe your work environment: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



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17. Are you or another member of your household home during the daytime?

Yes ( ) No ( ). If Yes, who is home and for how many hours? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

18. Please describe a typical day for you: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

19. Please describe your feelings about returning the puppy back for advanced training after 15 months: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

20. About how much time per day do you plan to spend training the Assistance Dog puppy? 10-20 minutes ( ) 20-30 minutes ( ) more than 30 minutes ( )

21. Are you willing to attend regularly scheduled obedience classes during the entire time the puppy is in your care? Yes ( ) No ( )

22. Do you have the physical ability to correct or restrain a 35 kg dog? Yes ( ) No ( )

23. If your application is accepted, how soon will you be ready to puppy raise a puppy?

\_\_\_\_\_

**Please note: Preference cannot be given for specific breed, gender or colour.**



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To the best of my knowledge, the above information is true and accurate. If I am selected as an Assistance Dogs Australia puppy raiser, I agree to adhere to all requirements of Assistance Dogs Australia and to be responsible for the care, feeding, and training of the canine placement during the period that the puppy is in my home. I will attend the regularly scheduled puppy classes held at Assistance Dogs Australia or an approved obedience training program in my community. I agree to return the puppy to Assistance Dogs Australia upon request.

Applicant signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's signature (if under 18 years of age): \_\_\_\_\_

***Please send completed application to:***

Assistance Dogs Australia  
PO Box 455  
ENGADINE 2233  
or  
Fax: (02) 9548 3766