

Family Members and Service Dog Training

Instructions

It is necessary to have a Family Plan so that the Service Dog-in-training can have the dependable, supportive structure that he or she will need to complete training and to maintain the capability to work as a Service Animal.

Complete this inventory as a family. Try to identify and record common answers that you all agree on. Discussion is normal and desired. If agreement is not reached, write down the various opinions. Email your answers to your trainer. After this inventory is completed and submitted, your trainer will schedule a session to meet with you and your family. During that session, the trainer will provide information about a Service Dog's needs and will facilitate discussion and answer questions so that everyone may come to agreement on the family plan.

Inventory

1. How strongly does each family member connect with the Service Dog in-Training? Rate this on a scale of 1-10 with 10 being the highest. Explain your answer.
2. How strongly does the Service Dog in-Training connect with each family member? Rate this on a scale of 1-10 with 10 being the highest. Describe any behaviors in the dog that seem to indicate the level of connection or interest.
3. Are there any other dogs or animals in the home or dogs that visit the home/yard? Please describe them and their needs.
4. What is the relationship like between the Service Dog in-Training and any other dogs or animals in the home?

5. Knowing that a Service Dog will need special training time both at home and outside of the home, and more structure than a pet dog would need both in the home and outside of the home, how will you continue to meet the needs of other dogs in the household (if any)?
6. What is your vision for how family members will interact with the Service Dog while the dog is off-duty and on-duty?
7. How would you define off-duty and on-duty?
8. Where do you anticipate that the Service Dog will accompany his or her Service Partner (the person who needs the Service Dog)?
9. What challenges could arise when other family members or friends visit, or when you visit other family members or friends, and these people are informed of the special structure that applies to a Service Dog?
10. How do you feel about crate training?
11. To what extent are you willing to follow the trainer's recommendations and requirements for structure for the dog inside and outside of the home?
12. Knowing that the Service dog will need to develop and maintain a special relationship with his or her Service Partner, and that this will affect how family members and friends will interact with the Service Dog when the dog is on and off duty, what questions or concerns you have?
13. What types of behaviors do you think could possibly distract Service Dog from his or her job? Knowing that the Service dog will need to focus on and respond only to his or her Service Partner while working, how will you ensure that family members and friends don't distract the dog while he or she is on-duty?