



# Guide Dogs for the Blind

## PUPPY RAISING VOLUNTEER CO-RAISER AGREEMENT

Co-raising a guide dog puppy in training can be a very rewarding experience; it can also involve some challenges. Outlined below are things to consider when entering into a co-raising experience.

### Schedule

- Who gets the pup and when (trade once a week, once every other week, etc.)? This is most important when the pup is very small when consistency is especially important.
- How does pup get transferred between homes?
- If one raiser is going on vacation or out of town for work, does the puppy go with them if it means the other raiser will miss their turn with the pup?
- Who will take the puppy trade pup?

### Vet care

- Shots and general care should be done by same vet.
- Decide which raiser will take the pup for its regular vet appointments.
- Leave vet forms at vet to make it easier for all co-raisers.

### Food, toys and supplies

- Each home has its own food supply.
- Each home should have its own crate, toys, etc.

### Other

- Who handles pup at meetings?
- Who will handle the puppy on outings?
- When the other handler has the puppy, it is theirs to manage. You must agree at the beginning not to interfere with the learning process of the other handler.
- If things do not work out for one raiser family, would the other co-raiser be willing to finish the pup themselves, find another co-raiser or would the puppy need to be transferred?
- If the puppy needs to be taken to GDB, who is responsible to get it there?
- Keep in mind the importance of open communication between parties. Leaders will assist with questions about the proper handling and development of the puppy.
- Who gets to keep the puppy tags? Other memorabilia items?

### Career change

This is probably the most important conversation between co-raisers and it should occur before a puppy is even placed in a co-raise situation. Things may change during the course of the puppy raising experience, but having an agreement up front should alleviate problems later.

- If the puppy is career changed, which raiser has the first right to adopt?

Discussion and agreement on the topics above will help avoid frustration or confusion and make co-raising a puppy enjoyable and satisfying.

## Co-Raiser Names

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Agreement: \_\_\_\_\_

## Things to Know

**Each** co-raiser will be responsible to complete a *Monthly Puppy Progress Report* every month. Open communication must be kept between co-raisers and leader. If issues occur, the leader must be consulted.

## Schedule Agreement

First 3 weeks, where puppy spends the night (one family): \_\_\_\_\_

Second 3 weeks, where puppy spends the night (other family): \_\_\_\_\_

Trade agreement after the first 6 weeks: we strongly suggest 2 or 3 weeks intervals for the next several months: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

How does the puppy get transferred between homes? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Vet Care Agreement

Whose vet will be used? (It is important that you use the same vet for shots and general care.)

\_\_\_\_\_

Who is responsible to get the pup to the vet? \_\_\_\_\_

If the vet wants payment up front, who pays? \_\_\_\_\_

## Breeder Custodian Agreement

\_\_\_\_\_ will be given first opportunity to become the breeder custodian, then the opportunity goes to the other raiser.

Additional information for the breeder custodian agreement: \_\_\_\_\_

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## Career Change Agreement

\_\_\_\_\_ will be given first opportunity to adopt as their own pet, then opportunity goes to other raiser.

\_\_\_\_\_ will be given first opportunity to place the dog with a close friend or relative, if neither can keep as a pet, then opportunity goes to the other raiser.

Additional information for the career change agreement: \_\_\_\_\_

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## Other Comments/Agreements

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Co-raiser's signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Co-raiser's signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Leader's signature: \_\_\_\_\_