



Guide Dogs for the Blind

Puppy Raising Department

GDB Puppies Watercraft Guidelines

We realize that many raisers have access to water for fun, transport and sports and may wish to include their puppies. These guidelines are provided to ensure that our puppies stay safe and do not compromise the safety of others.

Note: Commercial ferries are exempt from these guidelines. Other large, multi-passenger craft and cabin cruisers may also be held to less restrictive standards. Please check with your CFR with any questions.

- Puppies should be positively introduced to a body of water before embarking in any watercraft; please see the document “Swimming and Wading for GDB Puppies”
- Puppies should be introduced to the craft out of the water before embarking
- Puppies must wear a life jacket and be on leash at all times
- A minimum of two people must be in the craft with the puppy including at least one adult.
- The handler must be capable of controlling the puppy at all times
- Only one puppy per craft.

Types of Craft

Only stable craft with sides are approved. GDB puppies are not allowed to ride on paddleboards, Jetskis/personal watercraft, inner tubes or kayaks. Puppies are not allowed to ride in non-motorized watercraft on fast flowing water or in the ocean.

These are general guidelines only. Raisers and leaders should check with their CFR before taking a puppy on the water.