



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: _____

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: _____

Other Comments/Agreements

Co-raiser's signature: _____

Co-raiser's signature: _____

Leader's signature: _____



Guide Dogs for the Blind

FLEA PREVENTION INFORMATION FOR PUPPY RAISERS

Controlling fleas on your puppy is a multi-step process. Adult fleas spend most of their time on an animal, but the flea eggs, larvae, and pupae are found in abundance in the indoor and outdoor environments. For every flea that you see on the puppy, there are likely to be hundreds of eggs and larvae in your home and yard. Therefore, a truly effective flea control program always includes treating the environment as well as treating all animals in the household.

- ❑ Properly apply Frontline Plus every 21-30 days. Do not bathe 1 week prior or 1 week after application.
- ❑ All other pets in the household (including outdoor pets) must be on a reliable monthly flea preventative as well.
- ❑ **Remove fleas and immature life stages from the indoor environment:** vacuum thoroughly, especially below drapes, under furniture edges, and where your pets sleep. It is estimated that vacuuming can remove up to 50% of flea eggs. Vacuum daily in high traffic areas, weekly in others. Each time, seal the vacuum bag in a plastic bag and discard immediately. Additionally, there are safe sprays that can be used indoors to prevent re-infestation. Virbac “Knockout” is one example.
- ❑ Wash all pets’ bedding weekly. Use heat to dry.
- ❑ Clean your automobile, pet carrier, garage, basement, or any other place where pets spend much time.
- ❑ **Remove fleas and immature life stages from the outdoor environment:** there are many safe pyrethrin based sprays that can be used in your yard; Virbac’s yard spray is one example. The fleas like to live in closed areas such as bushes, steps, under the house, porches, decks, under mats, etc. The eggs will die when exposed to direct sunlight and topical sprays. Repeat in 2 weeks. Another method of outdoor flea control without using chemicals is using free living nematodes. This option may take longer to clear the infestation; however it could be helpful for long-term control. Be aware that urban wildlife and feral cats passing through are often carriers of fleas. Try to eliminate places to hide such as open sheds or crawl spaces.

Keep in mind that until all of the fleas in your home have died, you will probably still see some fleas, even on a treated pet, since some immature forms may continue to develop. Also, it can take up to 24 hours for a flea to die on a pet that has been treated with an effective topical flea medication. If a large number of flea eggs and larvae are present, it can often take two to three months for fleas to be fully cleared from the home.



Guide Dogs for the Blind

FLEA PREVENTION CHECKLIST AND NEXGARD ORDER FORM

Puppy Name _____ Puppy Raiser Name _____

Puppy ID# _____ Puppy Raiser Address _____

Puppy's Current Weight: _____ Shipping Address? _____

The following are steps to take to eliminate fleas. Please answer the following questions.

- When did you first notice that your puppy had fleas? _____
- How many fleas are you finding on your puppy? (An occasional flea? Several fleas? Many fleas?) _____
- Do you have other pets in the household and/or outside? (type and number) _____
 - Are they on a flea preventative? _____
 - Which pets? What product? Application frequency? _____

Steps of action to eliminate fleas:

- Properly apply Frontline Plus on your puppy every three weeks.
- Regularly administer a reputable flea preventative (topical or oral) to all other pets in the household/outside. Give the flea preventative medication year-round according to the label instructions.
- Vacuum your house thoroughly, especially below drapes, under furniture edges, and where your pets sleep. Vacuum daily in high traffic areas, weekly in others.
- Wash all pets' bedding and area rugs at least once a week. It is important to dry these items in the sun or hot clothes dryer because this will help kill the flea eggs and larvae.
- Assess progress...is there improvement after the first month? _____. If so, great work, keep it up! If not, please submit this form to your club leader for review. The leader will communicate with your Community Field Representative (CFR) who will either provide additional helpful advice or determine that the oral flea/tick preventative, Nexgard, is the right choice for your puppy.

Leader approval: _____ Date: _____

CFR approval: _____ Date: _____



Date: _____
Contact: _____
Guide Dog Puppy Raiser: _____
Phone: _____
E-mail: _____

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GUIDE DOG TEAM GRADUATES

Local resident _____ contributed time and love in raising a puppy for Guide Dogs for the Blind (GDB), and was proud to see the dog graduate as a guide in a formal ceremony at the GDB campus in (*San Rafael, Calif., or Boring, Ore.*), on Saturday, _____.

Shown in the attached photo is puppy raiser _____ who presented guide dog “_____”, a _____ breed, to graduating student: _____.

Puppy raiser _____ is a member of the local GDB Puppy Raising Club _____ of _____ (*city, state*).

GDB uses the following breeds: yellow and black Labrador Retrievers, Golden Retrievers, and Lab/Golden Crosses. The puppies are born at GDB’s headquarters in San Rafael, CA and then placed in the homes of volunteer puppy raisers when they are about two months old. Puppy raisers are responsible for teaching their puppies good manners and basic obedience, as well as introducing them to new experiences.

The pups return to GDB for formal guidework training when they are about 15 to 17 months old. Following the completion of training, the dogs are matched with someone who is blind or visually impaired. The new guide dog team then completes an intensive two-week course culminating with a graduation ceremony at which the puppy raiser formally presents the dog to its new handler. All of GDB’s graduations are open to the public.

GDB is more than an industry-leading Guide Dog School; they are a passionate community that serves the visually impaired. With exceptional client services and a robust network of trainers, puppy raisers, donors and volunteers, GDB prepares highly-qualified guide dogs to serve and empower individuals who are blind or have low vision. All of their services are provided free of charge; they receive no government funding. GDB is headquartered in San Rafael, California, with a second campus in Boring, Oregon. More than 14,000 teams have graduated since its founding in 1942, and there are approximately 2,200 active teams in the field. If you know someone who could benefit from their services, please let them know about this program. To get involved, contact GDB at 800 295-4050; or visit www.guidedogs.com.

About Guide Dogs for the Blind. Guide Dogs for the Blind is more than an industry-leading guide dog school; we are a passionate community that serves the visually impaired. With exceptional client services and a robust network of trainers, puppy raisers, donors, and volunteers, we prepare highly qualified guide dogs to serve and empower individuals who are blind or have low vision. All of our services are provided free of charge; we receive no government funding. GDB is headquartered in San Rafael, California, with a second campus in Boring, Oregon. More than 14,000 teams have graduated since our founding in 1942, and there are over 2,200 active teams in the field. For more information, visit www.guidedogs.com.



Guide Dogs for the Blind

Policy: Boarding Female Dogs In-Season

Guide Dogs for the Blind has the following policy for the boarding of female puppies in season.

Raisers who choose to raise unspayed female puppies have the following options for housing in-season female puppies:

- At home
- In the home of an approved puppy sitter
- At a commercial kennel at raiser expense
- At Guide Dogs for the Blind's San Rafael or Oregon campus kennels. Both the San Rafael and Oregon Campus kennels have capacity limits by population. If the kennels are at capacity for the boarding of in-season female dogs, raisers will be required to choose one of the other three approved options.

Homes (raiser or puppy sitter) will be required to follow certain guidelines while the dog is in-season, including:

- Female canine seasons (proestrus and estrus) generally run for approximately 21 days, but individual dogs may stay in-season for longer periods (see "Education" below). It is during this period when females attract male dogs and enter their fertile period. The following guidelines are effective from the first through the 28th day of a dog's season or longer as required. Only the club leader may release a dog from the management of these guidelines after a consultation between the raiser and leader to insure that the dog is out-of-season.
- The raiser's leader must approve participating homes.
- Yard and home security should be of the highest standard. Marginally safe fencing and doors or young children who could possibly leave doors and gates open may disqualify a home.
- No unaltered or recently altered (within the past six weeks) male dogs may live in the home.
- The close proximity of neighboring or loose unaltered dogs may disqualify a home.
- Participating raisers must be capable dog handlers.
- Participating raisers must have a demonstrated willingness and ability to follow all guidelines.
- All participating raisers and family members must be trained by their leaders prior to boarding a female dog in-season.
- No outings outside of the home or yard are allowed.
- No interaction with unaltered male dogs is allowed.
- While in the house and not under direct supervision of a raiser or GDB trained family member, a dog must be confined to a crate.

- Dogs may not be left in a yard, pen or kennel without direct supervision by a raiser or GDB trained family member. Male dogs can be attracted to the scent of an estrus female dog from long distances and can be extremely determined to enter even well confined areas, thus, the need for direct supervision.
- Any dog that becomes lost, loose, or otherwise unsupervised must be reported immediately to the raiser's CFR or the Puppy Raising Manager or CCP Operations Manager regardless of the time period that the dog has been unsupervised.
- Any in-season female dog that comes in any contact with an unaltered male dog must be reported immediately to the raiser's CFR or the Puppy Raising Manager or CCP Operations Manager.

We encourage all leaders with the support of their CFR to develop protocols for individual raisers and their dogs, promoting the program and safety simultaneously.

Education: Female Dogs In-Season

The reproductive cycle of ovulation in dogs is identified as being "in-season" or "in-heat." During this period female dogs ovulate, generating eggs. In-season dogs are capable of being bred by male dogs, fertilizing the eggs and producing puppies. Spayed dogs do not come into season.

The foremost rule to always remember is that exceptions to timing, patterns, and identifying markers are frequent within individual dogs and between dogs. Raisers and leaders should always be vigilant in watching for signs of the dogs that they raise coming into, remaining, or perhaps re-entering seasons (see below).

Generally, dogs come into season every six months beginning some time after six months of age. Dogs, though, may come into season as early as 4 months of age or as late as a year or more. Cycles may run like clockwork every six months or they may happen more or less frequently. Dogs may even start a season, appear to go out-of-season, and start immediately again. This pattern is often referred to as a "split season." One can see the need for raisers and leaders to continually monitor dogs and not to trust any pattern to apply to individual dogs. Failing to properly identify the cycle of an individual dog may lead to an accidental breeding.

A standard season runs for approximately 21 days. The season may be preceded by a slight swelling of the dog's vulva. The season begins with a bright or dark red discharge from the dog's vulva. The discharge initially may be no more than a drop. Many females keep themselves very clean, and there may be no visible blood around the vulvar area. As the season progresses through the first week or so, the discharge generally increases and then decreases in volume and color. The vulva can be very enlarged and turgid during the first week, and then begins to soften. Some dogs may have a very heavy discharge and swelling; others may show lesser signs. Again, diligence in monitoring all dogs as individuals is required.

After being in-season for approximately seven to ten days, the amount and color of the discharge will lighten. The swelling will also lessen. In some dogs the reduction of swelling and discharge may be so significant that the dog appears to be out of season. This is not

the case. The dog is actually entering her most fertile period when a male can inseminate her! Extra caution is needed. It is also important to note that sperm can be viable and capable of impregnating an estrus female dog for as long as 7 days following a single mating. Therefore, one inattentive moment can lead to an unwanted pregnancy.

As the days pass and the swelling and discharge continue to lighten, the dog is still breedable. Some dogs are capable of conceiving beyond the twentieth day of season. Raisers must continually be cautious, following our guidelines for at least 28 days, and not lessening the required supervision until released by their leader.

Sometimes a female may go through what is known as a “silent heat.” This is when the usual physical signs of the heat cycle, the swelling and the bleeding, are not present. You may still see behavioral changes, including an increased interest from or with other dogs.

Other behavioral indicators may or may not be present. During and in the time surrounding a dog’s season, there may be a change in overall activity levels, with the female becoming much more active and “busy.” The change in behaviors may include flagging (raising the tail), play bowing or tipping forward, increased barking or whining, inability to settle or relax, and becoming more destructive. There may be an increase in level of thirst or appetite, and a change in elimination habits. The female may seem nervous or more high-strung. These behavioral changes can begin to occur up to three or four weeks before the physical signs of the heat cycle. More commonly, they occur in the week before the physical signs begin. In some females, there may be no noticeable change in behaviors at all. In others, just one or two of those listed. Also, behavioral changes do not always indicate the onset of the heat cycle. At the beginning of her cycle, the female may become less tolerant of other dogs approaching or sniffing her. She may lift her lip, growl, hackle, or even snap at the other dog. Instead of wagging her tail when other dogs sniff her rear, she may tuck it tightly straight down against her body. This does not mean she is becoming aggressive. It is a normal behavioral change. She will be her friendly self once again when her cycle is over. If you suspect a silent heat cycle, notify your CFR through your leader.

Occasionally, towards the end of the heat cycle or in the weeks following it, the increase in hormone levels may cause the mammary glands to become active and to produce milk. Some people call this a “false pregnancy.” This is not considered abnormal; but again, please notify your CFR through your leader.

Any sign of recurring discharge or swelling requires additional management by the prescribed guidelines and must be reported immediately to the club leader who will speak to your CFR.

Again, please always remember that exceptions to any patterns are frequent and that all dogs must be managed individually and with caution.

A leader who is uncertain of a dog’s reproductive cycle should consult with his/her CFR, who may recommend a veterinary consult with the GDB veterinary clinic.

Any female in-season dogs that come into contact with an unaltered male dog or become loose, lost, or otherwise unsupervised must be reported immediately to the CFR or the Puppy Raising Manager or CCP Operations Manager if the CFR is unavailable.

We believe that this program presents an excellent opportunity for raisers to maintain the training and bond, which they devote to the puppies that they raise. We also respect raisers' abilities to safely house puppies in all instances. This program is representative of that trust. We appreciate the extra efforts of those who decide to undertake these additional responsibilities.



Guide Dogs for the Blind

USE THIS SHEET TO BODY SCORE YOUR PUPPY WHEN COMPLETING THE PROJECT RECORD BY CHOOSING THE NUMBER THAT BEST DESCRIBES YOUR PUPPY'S CURRENT BODY CONDITION

Understanding Your Dog's Body Condition

Too Thin

1 Ribs, lumbar vertebrae, pelvic bones and all bony prominences evident from a distance. No discernible body fat. Obvious loss of muscle mass.

2 Ribs, lumbar vertebrae and pelvic bones easily visible. No palpable fat. Some evidence of other bony prominence. Minimal loss of muscle mass.

3 Ribs easily palpated and may be visible with no palpable fat. Tops of lumbar vertebrae visible. Pelvic bones becoming prominent. Obvious waist.



Ideal

4 Ribs easily palpable, with minimal fat covering. Waist easily noted, viewed from above. Abdominal tuck evident.

5 Ribs palpable without excess fat covering. Waist observed behind ribs when viewed from above. Abdomen tucked up when viewed.



Too Heavy

6 Ribs palpable with slight excess fat covering. Waist is discernible viewed from above but is not prominent. Abdominal tuck apparent.

7 Ribs palpable with difficulty; heavy fat cover. Noticeable fat deposits over lumbar area and base of tail. Waist absent or barely visible. Abdominal tuck may be present.

8 Ribs not palpable under very heavy fat cover, or palpable only with significant pressure. Heavy fat deposits over lumbar area and base of tail. Waist absent. No abdominal tuck. Obvious abdominal distension may be present.

9 Massive fat deposits over thorax, spine and base of tail. Waist and abdominal tuck absent. Fat deposits on neck and limbs. Obvious abdominal distention.





BODY CONDITION SYSTEM

ADULT

Feeding to ideal body condition provides real, long-term health benefits, and the chart below should be used to monitor your dog's body condition. Since every dog is different, modify your feeding amounts as needed to help your dog reach ideal body condition.



Underfed Dog

Ribs are highly visible. Increase the amount you are feeding. After 2 or 3 weeks, compare again. Adjust until dog exhibits ideal body condition.



Ideal Body Condition

Can feel and see outline of ribs. Dog has a waist when viewed from above. Belly is tucked up when viewed from the side. Maintain current feeding regimen.



Overfed Dog

Dog has no waist when viewed from above. Belly is rounded when viewed from the side. Decrease amount you are feeding. After 2 or 3 weeks, compare again. Adjust as necessary.

BENEFITS OF MAINTAINING IDEAL BODY CONDITION:

- Promotes a leaner, longer, healthier life
- Reduces potential for developing weight-related health conditions
- Reduces a dog's percentage of body fat for better health
- Helps maintain healthy blood sugar levels
- Helps maintain healthy blood pressure and heart rate



The Body Condition System was developed and tested at the Purina Pet Care Center, and has been documented in the following publications: Laflamme, DP. Body Condition Scoring and Weight Maintenance. *Proc N Am Vet Conf* Jan 16-21, 1993, Orlando FL, pp 290-291. Laflamme DP, Kealy RD, Schmidt DA. Estimation of Body Fat by Body Condition Score. *J Vet Int Med* 1994; 8:154. Laflamme DP, Kuhlman G, Lawler DF, Kealy RD, Schmidt DA. Obesity Management in Dogs. *J Vet Clin Nutr* 1994; 1:59-65.



Guide Dogs for the Blind

CHILD ABUSE REPORTING LAWS IN GDB PUPPY RAISING STATES

All information below is excerpted from "Mandatory Reporters of Child Abuse and Neglect" by the Child Welfare Information Gateway.

All States, the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands have statutes identifying persons who are required to report suspected child maltreatment to an appropriate agency, such as child protective services, a law enforcement agency, or a State's toll-free child abuse reporting hotline.

In approximately 18 States and Puerto Rico, any person who suspects child abuse or neglect is required to report. Of these 18 States, 16 States and Puerto Rico specify certain professionals who must report but also require all persons to report suspected abuse or neglect, regardless of profession. New Jersey and Wyoming require all persons to report without specifying any professions. In all other States, territories, and the District of Columbia, any person is permitted to report. These voluntary reporters of abuse are often referred to as "permissive reporters."

Arizona

Professionals Required to Report Rev. Stat. § 13-3620

The following persons are required to report:

- Physicians, physician's assistants, optometrists, dentists, behavioral health professionals, nurses, psychologists, counselors, or social workers
- Peace officers, child welfare investigators, or child protective services workers
- Members of the clergy, priests, or Christian Science practitioners
- Parents, stepparents, or guardians
- School personnel or domestic violence victim advocates
- Any other person who has responsibility for the care or treatment of minors

Reporting by Other Persons Rev. Stat. § 13-3620

- Any other person who reasonably believes that a minor is a victim of abuse or neglect may report

Inclusion of Reporter's Name in Report

- The reporter is not specifically required by statute to provide his or her name in the report

California

Professionals Required to Report Penal Code § 11165.7

Mandated reporters include the following:

- Teachers, teacher's aides, administrators, and employees of public or private schools
- Administrators or employees of day camps, youth centers, or youth recreation programs
- Administrators or employees of licensed community care or child daycare facilities; Head Start program teachers
- Public assistance workers
- Foster parents, group home personnel, and personnel of residential care facilities
- Social workers, probation officers, and parole officers
- Employees of school district police or security departments
- District attorney investigators, inspectors, or local child support agency caseworkers
- Peace officers and firefighters, except for volunteer firefighters
- Physicians, surgeons, psychiatrists, psychologists, dentists, residents, interns, podiatrists, chiropractors, licensed nurses, dental hygienists, optometrists, marriage and family therapists, or social workers
- State or county public health employees who treat minors for venereal diseases or other conditions
- Coroners and medical examiners
- Commercial film and photographic print or image processors; computer technicians
- Child visitation monitors
- Animal control or humane society officers
- Clergy members and custodians of records of clergy members
- Employees of police departments, county sheriff's departments, county probation departments, or county welfare departments
- Employees or volunteers of a Court-Appointed Special Advocate program
- Alcohol and drug counselors
- Employees or administrators of public or private postsecondary institutions
- Athletic coaches, athletic administrators, or athletic directors employed by any public or private schools
- Athletic coaches, including, but not limited to, assistant coaches or graduate assistants involved in coaching at public or private postsecondary institutions

Reporting by Other Persons Penal Code §§ 11165.7; 11166

- Volunteers of public or private organizations whose duties require direct contact with and supervision of children are not mandated reporters but are encouraged to obtain training in the identification and reporting of child abuse and neglect and are further encouraged to report known or suspected instances of child abuse or neglect.
- Any other person who reasonably suspects that a child is a victim of abuse or neglect may report.
- For the purposes of this section, 'any other person' includes a mandated reporter who acts in his or her private capacity and not in his or her professional capacity, or within the scope of his or her employment.

Inclusion of Reporter's Name in Report Penal Code § 11167

Reports of mandated reporters shall include:

- The name, business address, and telephone number of the mandated reporter
- The capacity that makes the person a mandated reporter

Reports of other persons do not require the reporter's name.

Colorado

Professionals Required to Report Rev. Stat. § 19-3-304

Persons required to report include:

- Physicians, surgeons, physicians in training, child health associates, medical examiners, coroners, dentists, osteopaths, optometrists, chiropractors, podiatrists, nurses, hospital personnel, dental hygienists, physical therapists, pharmacists, registered dieticians
- Public or private school officials or employees
- Social workers, Christian Science practitioners, mental health professionals, psychologists, professional counselors, marriage and family therapists
- Veterinarians, peace officers, firefighters, or victim's advocates
- Commercial film and photographic print processors
- Counselors, marriage and family therapists, or psychotherapists
- Clergy members, including priests; rabbis; duly ordained, commissioned, or licensed ministers of a church; members of religious orders; or recognized leaders of any religious bodies
- Workers in the State Department of Human Services
- Juvenile parole and probation officers
- Child and family investigators
- Officers and agents of the State Bureau of Animal Protection and animal control officers
- The child protection ombudsman
- Educators providing services through a Federal special supplemental nutrition program for women, infants, and children, as provided for in 42 U.S.C. § 1786
- Directors, coaches, assistant coaches, or athletic program personnel employed by private sports organizations or programs
- Persons registered as psychologist candidates, marriage and family therapist candidates or licensed professional counselor candidates
- Emergency medical service providers

Reporting by Other Persons Rev. Stat. § 19-3-304

- Any other person may report known or suspected child abuse or neglect

Inclusion of Reporter's Name in Report Rev. Stat. § 19-3-307

- The report shall include the name, address, and occupation of the person making the report

Disclosure of Reporter Identity Rev. Stat. § 19-1-307

- The identity of the reporter shall be protected

Idaho

Professionals Required to Report Idaho Code § 16-1605

The following persons are required to report:

- Physicians, residents on hospital staffs, interns, nurses, or coroners
- Teachers or daycare personnel
- Social workers or law enforcement personnel
- Other persons

Reporting by Other Persons Idaho Code § 16-1605

- Any person who has reason to believe that a child has been abused, abandoned, or neglected is required to report

Inclusion of Reporter's Name in Report

- The reporter is not specifically required by statute to provide his or her name in the report

Disclosure of Reporter Identity

- This issue is not addressed in the statutes reviewed

Nevada

Professionals Required to Report Rev. Stat. § 432B.220

Mandatory reporters include:

- Persons providing services licensed or certified in this State pursuant to, without limitation, hospitals, physicians and other medical personnel, psychologists, therapists, social workers, and counselors, as described in chapters 450B, 630, 630A, 631, 632, 633, 634, 634A, 635, 636, 637, 637A, 637B, 639, 640, 640A, 640B, 640C, 640D, 640E, 641, 641A, 641B, and 641C
- Any personnel of a licensed medical facility engaged in the admission, examination, care, or treatment of persons or an administrator, manager, or other person in charge of the medical facility upon notification of suspected abuse or neglect of a child by a member of the staff of the medical facility
- Coroners
- Members of the clergy, Christian Science practitioners, or religious healers
- Persons working in schools
- Persons who maintain or are employed by facilities that provide care for children, children's camps, or other public or private facilities, institutions, or agencies furnishing care to children
- Persons licensed to conduct foster homes

- Officers or employees of law enforcement agencies or adult or juvenile probation officers
- Except as otherwise provided below, attorneys
 - Person who maintain, are employed by, or serve as volunteers for agencies or services that advise persons regarding abuse or neglect of a child and refer them to persons and agencies where their requests and needs can be met
 - Persons who are employed by or serve as volunteers for a youth shelter
 - Any adult person who is employed by an entity that provides organized activities for children

Reporting by Other Persons Rev. Stat. § 432B.220

- Any other person may report

Inclusion of Reporter's Name in Report

- The reporter is not specifically required by statute to provide his or her name in the report

Disclosure of Reporter Identity Rev. Stat. § 432B.290

- Except as otherwise provided below, before releasing any information maintained by an agency that provides child welfare services, the agency shall take whatever precautions it determines are reasonably necessary to protect the identity and safety of any person who reports child abuse or neglect and to protect any other person if the agency reasonably believes that disclosure of the information would cause a specific and material harm to an investigation of the alleged abuse or neglect of a child or the life or safety of any person.
 - A person who is the subject of an unsubstantiated report of child abuse or neglect who believes that the report was made in bad faith or with malicious intent may petition a district court to order the agency that provides child welfare services to release information maintained by the agency. If the court finds that there is a reasonable cause to believe that the report was made in bad faith or with malicious intent and that the disclosure of the identity of the person who made the report would not be likely to endanger the life or safety of the person who made the report, the court shall provide a copy of the information to the petitioner.

New Mexico

Professionals Required to Report Ann. Stat. § 32A-4-3

Professionals required to report include:

- Physicians, residents, or interns
- Law enforcement officers or judges
- Nurses
- Teachers or school officials
- Social workers

- Members of the clergy

Reporting by Other Persons Ann. Stat. § 32A-4-3

- Every person who knows or has a reasonable suspicion that a child is an abused or a neglected child shall report the matter immediately

Ann. Stat. § 32A-4-5

- The identity of the mandated reporter will be verified before any investigation is initiated

Disclosure of Reporter Identity Ann. Stat. § 32A-4-33

- Any release of information to a parent, guardian, or legal custodian shall not include identifying information about the reporter

Oregon

Professionals Required to Report Rev. Stat. §§ 419B.005; 419B.010

A public or private official is mandated to report. Public or private officials include:

- Physicians, physician assistants, naturopathic physicians, interns, residents, optometrists, chiropractors, dentists, nurses, nurse practitioners, pharmacists, nurse's aides, home health aides, or employees of in-home health services
- School employees, including employees of higher education institutions (such as community colleges and public and private universities)
- Employees of the Department of Human Services, Oregon Health Authority, Early Learning Division, Youth Development Council, Office of Child Care, the Oregon Youth Authority, a county health department, a community mental health program, a community developmental disabilities program, a county juvenile department, a licensed child-caring agency, or an alcohol and drug treatment program
- Peace officers
- Members of the clergy
- Psychologists, social workers, professional counselors, marriage and family therapists
- Certified foster care or child care providers
- Attorneys or court-appointed special advocates
- Firefighters or emergency medical technicians
- Members of the Legislative Assembly
- Physical, speech, or occupational therapists
- Audiologists or speech-language pathologists
- Employees of the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission directly involved in investigations or discipline by the commission
- Operators of preschool or school-age recorded programs
- Employees of a private agency or organization facilitating the provision of respite services for parents pursuant to a properly executed power of attorney
- Employees of organizations providing child-related services or activities, including youth groups or centers, scout groups or camps, or summer or day camps

- Coaches, assistant coaches, or trainers of athletes, if compensated and if the athlete is a child

Reporting by Other Persons Rev. Stat. § 419B.015

- Any person may voluntarily make a report

Inclusion of Reporter's Name in Report

- The reporter is not specifically required by statute to provide his or her name in the report

Disclosure of Reporter Identity Rev. Stat. § 419B.015

- The name, address, and other identifying information about the person who made the report may not be disclosed

Texas

Professionals Required to Report Fam. Code § 261.101

Persons required to report include professionals, for purposes of the reporting laws, who are licensed or certified by the State or who are an employees of facilities licensed, certified, or operated by the State and who, in the normal course of official duties or duties for which licensure or certification is required, have direct contact with children.

Professionals include:

- Teachers or daycare employees
- Nurses, doctors, or employees of a clinic or health-care facility that provides reproductive services
- Juvenile probation officers or juvenile detention or correctional officers

Reporting by Other Persons Fam. Code § 261.101

- A person who has cause to believe that a child has been adversely affected by abuse or neglect shall immediately make a report

Inclusion of Reporter's Name in Report

- The reporter is not specifically required by statute to provide his or her name in the report

Disclosure of Reporter Identity Fam. Code §§ 261.101; 261.201

- Unless waived in writing by the person making the report, the identity of an individual making a report is confidential and may be disclosed only: as provided by § 261.201
- To a law enforcement officer for the purposes of conducting a criminal investigation of the report

- A report of alleged or suspected abuse or neglect and the identity of the person making the report are confidential. A court may order the disclosure of such confidential information, if after a hearing and an in camera review of the requested information, the court determines that the disclosure is:
- Essential to the administration of justice
- Not likely to endanger the life or safety of a child who is the subject of the report, a person who made the report, or any other person who participates in an investigation of reported abuse or neglect or who provides care for the child
- The Texas Youth Commission shall release a report of alleged or suspected abuse if the report relates to abuse or neglect involving a child committed to the commission. The commission shall edit any report disclosed under this section to protect the identity of:
 - A child who is the subject of the report
 - The person who made the report
 - Any other person whose life or safety may be endangered by the disclosure

Utah

Professionals Required to Report Ann. Code § 62A-4a-403

- Any person licensed under the Medical Practice Act or the Nurse Practice Act is required to report

Reporting by Other Persons Ann. Code § 62A-4a-403

- Any person who has reason to believe that a child has been subjected to abuse or neglect must report

Inclusion of Reporter's Name in Report

- The reporter is not specifically required by statute to provide his or her name in the report

Disclosure of Reporter Identity Ann. Code § 62A-4a-412(3)(b)

- The name and contact information of the reporter shall be deleted prior to any release of records to the subject of the report

Washington

Professionals Required to Report Rev. Code § 26.44.030

The following persons are required to report:

- Practitioners, county coroners, or medical examiners
- Law enforcement officers
- Professional school personnel
- Registered or licensed nurses, social service counselors, psychologists, or pharmacists
- Employees of the Department of Early Learning

- Licensed or certified child care providers or their employees
- Employees of the Department of Social and Health Services
- Juvenile probation officers
- Placement and liaison specialists, responsible living skills program staff, or HOPE center staff
- State family and children's ombudsman or any volunteer in the ombudsman's office
- Persons who supervise employees or volunteers who train, educate, coach, or counsel children or have regular unsupervised access to children
- Department of Corrections personnel
- Any adult with whom a child resides
- Guardians ad litem and court-appointed special advocates

The reporting requirement also applies to administrative and academic or athletic department employees, including student employees, of public and private institutions of higher education.

Reporting by Other Persons Rev. Code § 26.44.030

- Any person who has reasonable cause to believe that a child has suffered abuse or neglect may report

Inclusion of Reporter's Name in Report Rev. Code § 26.44.030

- The department shall make reasonable efforts to learn the name, address, and telephone number of the reporter

Disclosure of Reporter Identity Rev. Code § 26.44.030

- The department shall provide assurances of appropriate confidentiality of the identification of persons reporting under this section

Child Welfare Information Gateway. (2013). Mandatory Reporters of Child Abuse and Neglect. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Cataracts

What is a cataract?

A cataract is an opacity in the lens of the eye. The lens is normally a clear structure in the pupil. It allows light into the eye and focuses that light on the retina.

What causes a cataract?

Cataracts can form for several reasons. Breed typical, or hereditary cataracts, can be present at birth (congenital cataract) or form during the first year of life (juvenile cataracts). These are the most common types of cataracts found either during the puppy exams or ophthalmologist exams prior to training, and generally do not affect a dog's life as a pet.

Atypical cataracts can develop due to an injury to the eye, form later in life (age-related), or be a result of certain diseases, such as diabetes.

Does a cataract affect a dog's vision?

The degree to which a cataract will affect a dog's vision depends on the size and location of the cataract. Very small cataracts may cause a small blind spot in the dog's vision, but will not impact a pet dog's lifestyle. Small cataracts may or may not progress to larger cataracts during the dog's life. Larger cataracts will obscure more of the dog's visual field, and can cause blindness if both eyes are affected.

What other impact can cataracts have on a dog's health?

Cataracts can cause inflammation in the eye. Inflammation in the eye can also lead to glaucoma (elevated pressures in the eye). Symptoms such as increased redness on the whites of the eyes (the sclera) or squinting are possible signs of eye inflammation or pain. If these signs are observed it is important for a dog to be seen by a veterinarian. Breed typical cataracts usually do not cause secondary inflammation in the eye.

What treatment is needed for a cataract?

If a cataract is very small, typically treatment is not needed. Often we recommend having small cataracts rechecked by a veterinary Ophthalmologist who can then recommend how often the cataract should be monitored. For larger cataracts surgery is available, and a veterinary Ophthalmologist can remove the cataract. If inflammation or glaucoma develops, medical treatments are used to manage these conditions.

Dog Name: _____ ID Number: _____

Cataract observed in _____ eye(s) Cataract Size: _____

Breed typical Cataract: _____ Atypical Cataract _____

Any treatment currently needed: _____

Next recheck with veterinary Ophthalmologist recommended: _____

Grade 1 Patellar Luxation

What is patellar luxation?

The patella is a small bone often called the “knee cap”. Normally the patella sits in a groove in the knee joint, moving up and down as the back limbs bend and straighten. If the groove or anatomy of the knee joint is not ideal, the patella can move sideways outside of the normal groove. This is an abnormal position for the patella called patellar luxation.

For more information about patellar luxation and grading, please visit the American College of Veterinary Surgeons (ACVS) website:

<https://www.acvs.org/small-animal/patellar-luxations>

How does patellar luxation impact a dog’s health?

Repetitive abnormal side-to-side movement or luxation of the patella can lead to arthritis of the knee joint over time. The muscles of the affected limb can also experience strain from trying to stabilize patella against luxation. The degree to which arthritis and muscle strain occur is greatly influenced by the grade of the patellar luxation and the dog’s lifestyle.

Is surgery needed for patellar luxation?

Surgery is not recommended for Grade 1 Patellar Luxation. Surgical recommendations for Grades 2, 3, & 4 Patellar Luxation vary depending on the frequency and severity of luxation.

What lifestyle is recommended for a dog with patellar luxation?

Lifestyle is very important for helping to prevent arthritis and muscle strain in a dog with patellar luxation. It is crucial for the dog to maintain a lean body condition throughout his/her life, because being overweight strongly predisposes a dog to arthritis. Regularly performing exercises to strengthen the muscles of the rear is highly recommended. Keeping these muscles toned can help stabilize the patella and decrease the risk of injury.

Exercise can include:

1. **Sit to stand** - On a walk practice this regular behavior training. To increase difficulty perform on a slight incline or hill
2. **Stepping over poles** – Place 2-3 poles on the ground (half the dog’s body length apart), and use the leash to encourage the dog to walk over them without stepping on the poles
3. **Walking backwards** – while on leash position the dog between you and a wall (to create a “chute”). Place a toy or small treat into a corner. Encourage and reward the dog for taking a few steps backwards

These exercises can be performed daily for 2 weeks then tapered down to 2-3 times a week. If the dog becomes sore from doing these exercise please discuss this with your regular veterinarian.

Dog Name: _____

ID Number: _____

Patellar luxation observed in _____ stifles (knees)

Hip Dysplasia

What is a hip dysplasia?

The hip joint is a “ball and socket” type joint. The round head of the femur bone is the “ball” and part of the pelvic bone called the acetabulum is cup shaped, acting like a “socket”. In the normal hip joint there is a smooth, close fit between these two parts. In some dogs, the bones of the hip joint do not grow to achieve this ideal fit. This type of abnormal hip joint development is called hip dysplasia.

How does hip dysplasia impact a dog’s health?

Most young dogs with hip dysplasia do not show any symptoms. Occasionally, even young dogs with hip dysplasia can show signs of hip discomfort or muscle strain, because the hip muscles may have increased effort to stabilize the hips.

As dogs with hip dysplasia walk and exercise over their lifetime, the poor fit of the hips causes an increased risk of developing arthritis. Arthritis is the most common reason for mature or geriatric dogs with hip dysplasia to show signs of discomfort. Signs of hip discomfort can include reluctance to exercise, difficulty rising or laying down, difficulty with stairs, or “bunny hopping” while running.

Will surgery be needed for a dog with hip dysplasia?

The vast majority of dogs with hip dysplasia will not need surgery. Rarely, surgery may be indicated in a young adult dog if he is already showing significant lameness due to severe hip dysplasia. Total hip replacement is sometimes recommended for elderly dogs that have developed severe arthritis due to hip dysplasia. However, given this is a major surgical procedure it is reserved for cases where the potential benefit of the surgery greatly outweighs the recovery time, risks, and potential complications.

What lifestyle and treatments are recommended for hip dysplasia?

Lifestyle is very important for helping to prevent arthritis and muscle strain in a dog with hip dysplasia.

Maintaining a lean body weight throughout the dog’s life is the most important factor in helping to decrease arthritis formation and the symptoms of hip dysplasia. Also, low-impact exercise is recommended for joint health, such as leash-walking and muscle strengthening exercises.

Exercise can include:

1. ***Sit to stand*** - On a walk practice this regular behavior training. To increase difficulty perform on a slight incline or hill
2. ***Stepping over poles*** – Place 2-3 poles on the ground (half the dog’s body length apart), and use the leash to encourage the dog to walk over them without stepping on the poles
3. ***Walking backwards*** – while on leash position the dog between you and a wall (to create a “chute”). Place a toy or small treat into a corner. Encourage and reward the dog for taking a few steps backwards

These exercises can be performed daily for 2 weeks then tapered down to 2-3 times a week. If the dog becomes sore from doing these exercises please discuss this with your regular veterinarian.

If signs of hip discomfort develop (see the symptoms described above), there are a variety of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory medications, pain medications, and joint supplements available for treating the symptoms of arthritis. It is important to only give medications at the recommendation of a veterinarian and to give medications specifically designed for dogs.

Dog Name: _____ ID Number: _____

Hip Dysplasia observed in _____ hip(s)

Tracheal Sensitivity

What is tracheal sensitivity?

The trachea is the “windpipe” connecting the nose and mouth to the lungs. Tracheal sensitivity is identified when mild to moderate pressure from a normal neck collar causes a dog to cough. Some dogs with tracheal sensitivity will also start to cough when they are very excited. The cough is typically described as sounding dry, harsh, or “honking”.

What causes tracheal sensitivity?

Tracheal sensitivity can be seen when a dog gets a respiratory infection, commonly called kennel cough. This type of coughing and tracheal sensitivity typically resolves in a few days to weeks. Some dogs, however, cough with tracheal pressure without ever having a respiratory infection, or continue to cough long after the respiratory infection has resolved. If the trachea is sensitive, walking on a neck collar can cause a dog to cough.

Why is a dog with tracheal sensitivity career changed?

A guide dog must be able to work wearing both a harness and a neck collar. If a dog has tracheal sensitivity, he may have the urge to cough while working. Regularly coughing can be distracting to the dog, and takes his attention away from safely focusing on guide work. Additionally, this might draw concern about the dog’s health while working or traveling in public places.

What care does a dog with tracheal sensitivity need?

The most important part of caring for a dog with tracheal sensitivity is to avoid walking the dog on a neck collar or slip leash whenever possible. The less often pressure is applied to the trachea, the less likely the dog is to cough. **Causing a dog with tracheal sensitivity to frequently cough by using a neck collar can lead to inflammation and irritation in the trachea, which then in turn can make the trachea more sensitive. This is why walking on a dog with tracheal sensitivity on a gentle leader or chest harness is HIGHLY recommended.** Wearing a neck collar for identification tag purpose only is typically not a problem.

Does a dog with tracheal sensitivity need any special veterinary care?

With use of a gentle leader or chest harness, dogs with tracheal sensitivity typically cough infrequently, or only when pressure is accidentally applied to the neck. For these dogs no special veterinary care is needed. If the dog develops a more frequent cough, or if the coughing changes from its typical sound, then it is important to have the dog seen by a veterinarian.

Dog Name: _____

ID Number: _____

Allergies

What are canine allergies?

An allergy is an over-reaction of the immune system to a substance, or allergen. In dogs there are three typical types of allergies: 1) flea saliva allergy, 2) food allergies, and 3) environmental allergies (such as grasses, weeds, dust mites, etc.). Dogs can have allergies to one or more categories, and just like people, their allergy sensitivities may change as they age.

What are the symptoms of allergies?

Allergies in dogs will typically cause itchiness of the skin, ears, and paws. Symptoms can include excessive licking, scratching, hair loss, and redness of the skin. Allergies also make a dog more susceptible to skin and ear infections. Some dogs with food allergies may also experience diarrhea and vomiting.

What treatment is available for allergies?

As with people, allergies are a condition that is managed rather than cured. The amount of treatment and management that is needed depends on the type and severity of the individual dog's allergies. The most effective way to manage allergies is to prevent exposure to the allergen. If this is not possible, as in the case of some environmental allergies, then several options of oral and topical medications are available to decrease itching and help prevent skin or ear infections. Your veterinarian will tailor a management plan to your dog's individual needs, but here are some general recommendations for managing a dog with allergies:

- It is very important to use effective flea control every month on ALL the pets in the house to prevent flea bites.
- If food allergies are suspected, your veterinarian may suggest a hypoallergenic dog food trial. If the dog's allergy symptoms improve, then it may be recommended to continue feeding a hypoallergenic dog food long-term.
- If the allergy symptoms are mild or only occur seasonally, your veterinarian may prescribe anti-allergy medications, ear cleaners, and medicated shampoos to use as needed for symptomatic relief and prevention of infections.
- If the allergy symptoms are persistent despite the above treatments and recommendations, your veterinarian may recommend referral to a veterinary dermatologist for allergy testing and desensitization injections (immunotherapy)

What should I consider when adopting a dog with allergies?

A dog with allergies can make a wonderful part of the family; however, he/she does need someone willing to be proactive about allergy management. At a minimum this means year-round flea prevention and regularly monitoring the condition of the skin, ears, and paws. For some dogs this may also mean feeding a specific diet, regular bathing, or giving anti-allergy medications. Working with your veterinarian to prevent allergy symptoms is important in preventing secondary skin and ear infections, and helping to keep your dog happy and healthy.

Dog Name: _____ ID Number: _____

Current allergy treatments: _____

GDB LOGO USAGE GUIDELINES FOR PUPPY RAISERS

Thank you for your ongoing support of GDB. We love that our puppy raisers are helping us build our brand and we want to make sure we all work together to do that in the most consistent and compelling fashion possible. As such, the following are guidelines for using our name and logo in design projects such as t-shirts, banners, and the like.

GDB Logo

It is definitely ok to use the new, updated GDB logo in projects for your club. The following versions of the GDB logo are available for your use:



Guide Dogs for the Blind



Guide Dogs for the Blind



Guide Dogs for the Blind

Logo Files

We have made JPG, PNG and EPS files of the approved logos available for you to download from this Dropbox address: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/qxbfopohw53eve1/-FaVtAyqp4>



Guide Dogs for the Blind

guidedogs.com

National Headquarters: P.O. Box 151200, San Rafael, CA 94915-1200 | 800.295.4050

California Campus: 350 Los Ranchitos Road, San Rafael, CA 94903 | 415.499.4000

Oregon Campus: 32901 S.E. Kelso Road, Boring, OR 97009 | 503.668.2100

When using the GDB logo in your materials, we ask that you please adhere to the following:

- The GDB logo must be used in tandem with your own puppy club branding/logo – not on its own – so that the materials or products you produce are not misrepresented as official GDB-produced materials or products.
- It is our preference that you use the phrase “Proud puppy raiser(s) for” in front or beside the GDB logo so that the affiliation with our organization is clear. Example:

PROUD PUPPY RAISERS FOR



- Logo must be used in its entirety e.g., include both the team icon and the text (it's not ok to just use one or the other as standalone elements).
- Logo must be reproduced in either black or white.
- Please observe the white space around the logo to maximize visual effectiveness. Nothing should ever encroach on the white space specified below. The clear space minimum is equivalent to the upper case type within the logo, such as the "G" shown, regardless of the size at which the logo is produced.



- The GDB logo needs to be separated from other graphic elements in your design, such as your club logo, illustrations (paw prints and the like), typography, etc. We suggest using two imprint areas if required to ensure that GDB's logo remains clear and distinct.



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Older versions of the GDB logo

IF THE LOGO YOU ARE USING HAS A DOT IN THE NAME, IT IS INCORRECT! PLEASE UPDATE YOUR FILES AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.



We know clubs may have relatively recently purchased items with an older version of the GDB logo. We understand that club finances or other considerations may prevent you from immediately replacing those items. Moving forward, please retire the usage of the previous version of the logo as you create new items, and replace the outdated items with the new logo as soon as finances or other conditions allow.

If you are using any even older versions of our logos in your materials (person/dog in a circle, German Shepherd), please discontinue distribution or use of the items at this time.



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Explanation of logo file types:

- JPG FILES – Best all-around file type for most business-related needs, like Word documents and Excel spreadsheets. Also appropriate for web-based needs. Available in BLACK.
- PNG FILES – Best to use when you need a transparent background, like in Powerpoint presentations or Publisher documents. Also appropriate for web-based needs, and can be used in Word/Excel as well. Available in BLACK and WHITE.
- EPS FILES – For professional printing only (unless you have vector illustration editing software, like Adobe Illustrator, you will not be able to open these files). They are the best file type to send to print vendors for projects like banners, promotional items, commercial print projects. Available in BLACK and WHITE.

Finally, if you do use our logo, please share your design with us before it gets produced. We are excited to see what you come up with. Please send your designs to Morry Angell: mangell@guidedogs.com.

Our Name

As you probably know, there is a ton of clutter in the guide dog school category: 10 out of 12 schools in the US have “guide dogs” in their names! As such, we ask you follow these guidelines:

- If you use our full name, please use initial caps as follows: Guide Dogs for the Blind.
- If you abbreviate, use GDB, not Guide Dogs (that’s easier to say and write, but creates confusion for the reason mentioned above).
- If you are referring to our wonderful puppies and dogs use lower case as this is the more general use of the word, not our proper name e.g., guide dogs in training, guide dogs are awesome, GDB guide dogs rock...

Design Guidelines

We want clubs to be able to express their own personalities in their materials. We do have a few guidelines to keep in mind:

- Please use your best judgment about product branding. Items should be both relevant and appropriate to represent Guide Dogs for the Blind.
- If you are using photos to produce items, make sure you are using high-resolution images and that they feature breeds we are currently working with – Labrador Retrievers, Golden Retrievers, and crosses.
- If you are using graphics or illustrations, we’d prefer that you use realistic looking artwork – line drawings are ok, but no stick figures. As with photos, images need to accurately include/depict current GDB breeds – Labrador Retrievers, Golden Retrievers, and crosses. No German Shepherds please.

Please let us know if you have any questions about brand and design guidelines. Thanks again for all that you do!



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Guide Dogs for the Blind Fact Sheet

Who we are:

Since 1942, [Guide Dogs for the Blind](#) (GDB) has empowered lives by creating exceptional partnerships between people, dogs and communities. GDB is the largest Guide Dog school in the country and is dedicated to providing high quality student training services and extensive follow-up support for graduates. Our programs are made possible through the teamwork of staff, volunteers and generous donors. Services are provided to students from the United States and Canada at no cost to them.

We operate two training facilities (one is headquartered in San Rafael, California—20 miles north of San Francisco, another in Boring, Oregon—25 miles east of Portland), and have more than 2,000 puppy raising volunteers throughout the Western states and Texas. More than 14,000 teams have graduated since our founding, and there are approximately 2,200 active guide dog teams currently in the field.

Whom we serve:

Any person who is blind or visually impaired desiring enhanced mobility and independence can benefit from the skills a Guide Dog provides. The person must be legally blind, able to travel independently and suited to work with a dog. Typically, 6-8 students take part in each of our 2-week training classes. 98% of graduates surveyed in 2014 reported they were satisfied with our overall program and 97% would recommend our program to others.

How we are funded:

We are a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization supported entirely by private donations. We receive no government funding. Donors contribute through general contributions, bequests, grants, memorial and honor donations, charitable remainder trusts and other planned giving options.

Our Dogs:

Guide Dogs for the Blind breeds Labrador Retrievers, Golden Retrievers and Lab/Golden crosses from our own purebred stock, specially selected for excellent temperament, intelligence and health. Advances in research and technology help make it possible for us to continue to improve the quality and health of our dogs and ensure their success as guides.

Our Community:

Guide Dogs for the Blind has one of the nation's largest volunteer networks with thousands of volunteers assisting in the success of our mission. The human/animal bond creates a ripple that adds meaning and enrichment to each of our lives and strengthens our communities.



Guide Dogs for the Blind

(800) 295-4050 | www.guidedogs.com

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is the best way to describe Guide Dogs for the Blind (GDB)?

A: Since 1942, GDB has empowered lives by creating exceptional partnerships between people, dogs and communities. GDB is the largest Guide Dog school in the country and is dedicated to providing high quality student training services and extensive follow-up support for graduates. Our programs are made possible through the teamwork of staff, volunteers and generous donors. Services are provided to students from the United States and Canada at no cost to them.

Q: Where is GDB located?

A: GDB has two campuses: one is headquartered in San Rafael, California — 20 miles north of San Francisco, another in Boring, Oregon — 25 miles east of Portland.

Q: Who does GDB serve?

A: Any person who is blind or visually impaired living in the United States or Canada desiring enhanced mobility and independence. The person must be legally blind, able to travel independently (good orientation and mobility skills), and well-suited to work with a dog. All of our services are provided completely free of charge to our clients.

Q: Where does GDB receive its funding?

A: GDB is a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization supported entirely by private donations. We receive no government funding. Donors contribute through general contributions, bequests, grants, memorial and honor donations, charitable remainder trusts and other planned giving options.

Q: Do you have to be totally blind to use a guide dog?

A: No. Many of our graduates do have some vision; you do, however, need to be legally blind. Good orientation and mobility skills are also essential prior to getting a guide dog.

Q: How old do you have to be to train with a guide dog?

A: Because it takes a level of maturity, discipline, and commitment to work with a guide dog, the majority of our students are 18 and older, but there is no age requirement.

Q: How long is GDB's training program?

A: Our classes are two weeks long, minimizing disruption to your personal and professional commitments. We provide highly customized instruction; classes generally have 4-6 students and the ratio of students to instructors is 2:1. GDB also provides graduates with a lifetime of support.

Q: Are guide dogs allowed to go everywhere a person can go?

A: Yes. According to the Americans with Disabilities Act, a guide dog is allowed any place a person can go.

Q: How many guide dog teams have graduated from GDB?

A: More than 14,000 teams have graduated since our founding in 1942, and there are approximately 2,200 active guide dog teams currently in the field across North America.

Q: What does Guide Dogs for the Blind do differently than other schools?

A: Guide Dogs for the Blind is recognized worldwide as a model for innovative training, unprecedented support of guide dog partnerships after graduation, and the success rate of its graduates via a world-class alumni association and veterinary financial assistance, as needed. There is no other guide dog school in the country that offers the level of training and the degree of hands-on support for the partnership after graduation.

Q: Do the guide dogs ever get to play?

A: Yes! When a guide dog is not working and out of harness, playing and relaxing is definitely encouraged. It's also a great way for a handler and guide to bond and strengthen their partnership.

Q: Is it okay to pet a working guide dog?

A: It's important for a working dog to stay focused for the safety of the team and maintenance of training standards. It's an essential courtesy to first ask for permission from the handler before petting a guide dog.

Q: Is it okay for a pet dog to greet a guide dog?

A: Before you consider allowing your dog to greet a working guide dog, please understand the importance of asking permission first, so the handler can be prepared. Your dog should also be on leash and under control. Guide dogs are also not trained to be protection dogs - they are busy safely guiding their partners when out in public.

Q: What should drivers do when they see a guide dog in training or a blind person using a dog?

A: We encourage drivers to be attentive, as you would with any other pedestrians, especially when turning right-on-red. GDB trains its guide dogs in real-world situations, so it's helpful that you continue going on about your business. Please don't stop and honk, yell out your window, or otherwise distract someone using a guide dog. The person is listening for traffic flow to determine when it is safe to give the command to go forward and cross the street.

Q. What unique skills does a guide dog have?

A: Leading a person in a straight line from point A to point B, stopping for all changes in elevation (including curbs and stairs), stopping for overhead obstacles (such as tree limbs), and avoiding obstacles in their path.

Q. What are some things guide dogs cannot do?

A. Read traffic signals and determine the route to a new destination.

Q: How does GDB's Puppy Raising program work?

A: Our Puppy Raising program is made up of more than 2,000 puppy raising volunteer families in the following states: Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Texas, Utah and Washington.

Puppy raisers receive their guide dog puppy at approximately eight weeks old, and he/she will return for formal training between 15 and 17 months old. Puppy raisers are responsible for teaching their puppies good manners and basic obedience. You can have other pets in your home and if you are not able to commit to raising a puppy fulltime, there are still other ways to get involved with your local puppy club, such as puppy sitting. And, GDB's puppy raising program complements many FFA, 4H, home schooling, high school, and college programs.

Q: What costs are covered for GDB's Puppy Raising program?

A: GDB provides equipment, dog transportation, training, support and basic veterinary care.

Q: What is GDB's volunteer community like?

GDB has one of the nation's largest most diverse volunteer networks with thousands of volunteers assisting in the success of our mission.

Q: How can I support GDB?

A: There are a lot of ways to support Guide Dogs for the Blind. You can volunteer on a GDB campus, help raise guide dog puppies, become a breeding stock custodian, provide a home to a retired dog, donate funds and services, or fundraise in your community. You can also introduce us to your friends, follow us on our social media channels, and if you know someone who is blind, please be sure to tell them about our program and free services.

Q: Do you train other types of service dogs?

A: We only provide highly trained guide dogs and are focused exclusively on working with people with vision loss. We do consult with, and donate selected career change dogs to a number of other service organizations.

Q: What is GDB's position on fraudulent service dogs?

A: Guide Dogs for the Blind does not agree with, nor does it support the training or use of fraudulent service dogs. Personal testimonies from many of our clients demonstrate that fraudulent service dogs pose a variety of challenges for people with disabilities who travel with properly trained service dogs. Some of these challenges include safety, health, and dog attack risks, as well as the erosion of the positive image of a formally trained service dog in the eyes of business owners and the public. Fraudulent service dogs pose a fundamental threat to the access, independence, and mobility that service dogs enable.

Guide Dogs for the Blind is aware of the hazards and complications fraudulent service dogs pose to an officially designated working dog. A "fraudulent service dog," is any dog that is not formally trained to perform a specific service to assist a person with a disability. The three major laws that give access to a service dog and a person with a disability are the Americans with Disabilities Act; Fair Housing Act; and The Air Carrier Access Act. There is a lack of consistency between these major pieces of legislation, which provide incentives for people to train and use fraudulent service dogs. Apart from the California State Board of Guide Dog Schools, there is no established federal or state administration to set and enforce rules pertaining to service dog regulations.

Q. Why does GDB breed their own dogs and why don't they use shelter dogs?

A. In the past, GDB attempted to source dogs from local shelter and animal rescue organizations. We did this for several years and it was met with very minimal success. Many dogs did not qualify from the get go because they must be free from orthopedic and eye disease. It also took an enormous amount of manpower resources for our staff to find them. Many of the few dogs who did pass the basic health screen did not have the level of confidence for work in the environments that a guide travels. The temperamental traits that cause a guide to be suitable (high confidence, high manageability, low distraction, biddable, adaptable, friendly) are not always found in dogs at a shelter or rescue organization (especially given the unknown factor of their background and what they might have been exposed to). We also rely greatly on our puppy raisers' time and dedication they put in to create the best possible guide dogs that are socialized early on in life.

Q. What breeds does GDB use?

A. GDB currently only uses LABs, GLDs, and LAB x GLD crosses (as is common throughout the world). In the past GDB used other breeds but found these the most suitable due to health, temperament, size, coat type and adaptability.

Q. Why doesn't GDB actively breed for chocolate Labs?

A. While most Labradors from GDB are either black or yellow, GDB does have dogs in our breeding colony that carry the gene for chocolate, and occasionally chocolate puppies are born. Chocolate puppies follow the same raising and training process as all other puppies and have the same opportunity to become successful working guides. To put it simply, the genes that determine if a puppy will be chocolate are recessive, which means both parents must have the gene to have a chance to produce chocolate offspring. Because GDB focuses primarily on choosing parents who will have puppies with the highest temperament and health qualities to succeed as working guides, GDB does not deliberately match up parents who carry the chocolate gene. On occasions where mate selection factors indicate that an ideal match would be between two parents carrying for the chocolate color there is still no guarantee that any puppies born will be chocolate, which is why it is so rare in the GDB population. For anyone wanting more information about coat color genetics you can visit the breeding department's favorite and informative website <http://doggenetics.co.uk/>



Guide Dogs for the Blind

GDB HARASSMENT POLICY

Sexual and Other Unlawful Harassment

Guide Dogs for the Blind's policy prohibits harassment, and we are committed to providing a work environment free of sexual harassment or other unlawful harassment based on the following characteristics, or the perception of these characteristics:

- Age (40 and over)
- Ancestry
- Color
- Religious Creed (including religious dress and grooming practices)
- Denial of Family and Medical Care Leave
- Disability (mental and physical) including HIV and AIDS
- Marital Status
- Medical Condition
- Genetic Information
- Military and Veteran Status
- National Origin (including language use restrictions)
- Race
- Sex (which includes pregnancy, childbirth, breastfeeding and medical conditions related to pregnancy, childbirth or breastfeeding)
- Gender, Gender Identity, and Gender Expression
- Sexual Orientation

This anti-harassment policy applies to all persons involved in the operation of Guide Dogs for the Blind, including employees, volunteers, and students; regardless of whether the harassment involves co-workers, supervisors, managers or third parties with whom an employee comes into contact. Prohibited unlawful harassment includes, but is not limited to, the following behavior:

Verbal conduct such as epithets, derogatory jokes or comments, slurs based on any protected characteristic;

Visual displays such as derogatory posters, photography, cartoons, drawings or gestures;

Physical conduct including unwanted touching, assault, impeding or blocking movement or any physical interference with normal work or movement because of any protected basis; and,

Unwanted sexual advances which condition an employment benefit in exchange for sexual favors.

Abusive Conduct Prevention

It is expected that the Company and persons in the workplace perform their jobs productively as assigned, and in a manner that meets all of managements' expectations, during working times, and that they and refrain from any malicious, patently offensive or abusive conduct including but not limited to conduct that a reasonable person would find offensive based on any of the protected characteristics described above. Examples of abusive conduct include repeated infliction of verbal abuse, such as the use of malicious, derogatory remarks, insults, and epithets, verbal or physical conduct that a reasonable person would find threatening, intimidating, or humiliating, or the intentional sabotage or undermining of a person's work performance.

Complaint Procedure

If you believe that you have been unlawfully harassed or subject to abusive conduct, submit a verbal or written complaint to your department manager or, if they were involved, to their manager, the Human Resources Department and/or the CEO. Employees are strongly encouraged to report any incidents or complaints of harassment forbidden by this policy immediately. Supervisors are required to report any complaints of misconduct to the Human Resources Department. Guide Dogs for the Blind will maintain confidentiality to the extent possible.

All complaints will be followed by an impartial, fair, thorough and timely investigation by qualified personnel, which will be documented and tracked for reasonable progress. The investigation will provide all parties appropriate due process and reach reasonable conclusions based on the evidence collected. Remedial action will be taken if any misconduct is found, up to and including discharge.

The Federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, the California Department of Fair Employment and Housing, and the Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industries investigate and prosecute complaints of prohibited harassment in employment. An employee who feels they have been harassed or retaliated against for resisting or complaining may file a complaint with the appropriate agency. Information may be located by visiting the agency website at www.eeoc.gov, www.dfeh.ca.gov, or www.oregon.gov/boli.

Prohibition Against Retaliation

Guide Dogs for the Blind will not retaliate against an individual for filing a complaint and will not tolerate or permit retaliation by management, employees, or co-workers against any person by another employee or by Guide Dogs for the Blind for using this complaint procedure, reporting harassment, or for filing, testifying, assisting or participating in any manner in any investigation, proceeding or hearing conducted by a governmental enforcement agency. Prohibited retaliation includes, but is not limited to, termination, demotion, suspension, failure to hire or consider for hire, failure to give equal consideration in making employment decisions, failure to make employment recommendations impartially, adversely affecting working conditions or otherwise denying any employment benefit.

Please report any retaliation to your supervisor or the Human Resources Department. Any report of retaliatory conduct will be investigated promptly in a thorough and objective

manner. If a report of retaliation is substantiated, appropriate disciplinary action, up to and including discharge, will be taken.



Guide Dogs for the Blind

PUPPY RAISING NUTRITIONAL POLICY

We appreciate the cooperation of all raisers and leaders in complying with the following puppy raising nutritional policy.

Research has shown, and GDB experience concurs, that effective weight management of puppies and mature dogs through the feeding of large breed diets or proper management of feeding amounts helps limit certain canine orthopedic maladies and promotes general health and longevity. Puppy club leaders and Community Field Representatives (CFRs) will educate raisers on feeding puppies, and proper weight and body conditioning.

At the GDB puppy kennel, prior to placement in a raiser home, puppies are fed Pro Plan Focus Puppy Large Breed Formula.

Raisers will feed a puppy formula from the list below until the puppy reaches a year of age. Foods are listed alphabetically. Preferred foods are in bold italics; alternative foods are in standard font.

At a year of age, or when the CFR recommends, raisers will transition to an approved adult formula. Natural Balance Lamb Meal and Brown Rice LID (Limited Ingredient Diets) is fed to dogs in training on campus.

Approved Puppy Diets

- *Eukanuba Large Breed Puppy*
- *Hills Science Diet Puppy Large Breed Lamb Meal and Rice*
- *Iams Proactive Health Smart Puppy Large Breed*
- *Natural Balance Lamb Meal and Rice Puppy LID (Limited Ingredient Diets)*
- Nutro MAX Natural Chicken Meal & Rice Recipe Large Breed Puppy Food
- Nutro Natural Choice Chicken Whole Brown Rice and Oatmeal Large Breed Puppy Food
- Nutro Ultra Dry Puppy Food
- Pedigree Complete Nutrition Puppy Crunchy Bites
- *Purina One Smartblend Large Breed Puppy Formula*
- *Purina Pro Plan Focus Puppy Large Breed Formula*
- Purina Puppy Chow

Approved Adult Diets

- *Eukanuba Large Breed Adult*
- *Hills Science Diet Adult Large Breed Lamb Meal and Rice*
- *Iams Proactive Health Adult Large Breed*
- *Natural Balance Lamb Meal and Rice Adult LID (Limited Ingredient Diets)*
- Nutro MAX Natural Chicken Meal & Rice Recipe Large Breed Adult Food

- Nutro Ultra Large Breed Adult Dry Dog Food
- Nutro Natural Choice Chicken Whole Brown Rice and Oatmeal Large Breed Young Adult Dog Food
- Pedigree Large Breed Nutrition
- Purina Dog Chow
- ***Purina One Smartblend Large Breed Adult Formula***
- ***Purina Pro Plan Focus Adult Large Breed Formula***

In selecting these foods, GDB has attempted to provide raisers with a wide selection based on cost and availability. GDB believes that these foods meet our nutritional expectations. Puppy raisers may find, though, that each food may yield different results in attributes such as amount fed and stool number, firmness, and volume.

If your puppy is not doing well on one of the approved formulas, have your leader speak to your CFR, who can evaluate your puppy's individual needs and make additional suggestions in feeding schedules, home behavior monitoring, feeding amounts, and diets. Whenever a puppy's diet is changed, raisers should gradually transition to the new diet over a period of 5 - 7 days, gradually replacing the previous food with the new one.

Raisers will start feeding 8-week-old pups 1 cup, 3 times a day and then slowly increase the amount of food following instructions given by their leaders. At your first puppy meeting, ask your leader when and how much to increase your puppy's food. Because each puppy is different, it may require different feeding amounts than what is listed on the puppy food bag or in this policy. At four months of age your puppy should be weaned off his midday meal and fed twice per day. Continue feeding twice per day until your puppy returns to campus for formal training.

At GDB's determination, variations may occur in the above policy guidelines for a variety of reasons, including:

- The special needs of individual dogs under the supervision of or in consultation with the GDB Veterinary Clinic
- Future research in canine nutrition
- Further knowledge gained by GDB through GDB conducted food trials or other research



Guide Dogs for the Blind

DOG PLACEMENTS WITH NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

All dogs bred by Guide Dogs for the Blind go on to do wonderful things, whether by becoming a guide dog, a breeder, a K9 Buddy, a service dog for another organization, a therapy dog, or a beloved pet. The gifts of love, companionship and service are invaluable in any situation.

Upon being career changed, some dogs will be identified as candidates to become a K9 Buddy or a dog that provides a service for people through one of our partner organizations. To facilitate these placements, Dog Placement staff has developed relationships with a number of non-profit organizations that wish to receive these well-bred and trained dogs into their programs. With the recommendation of puppy raising and training staff, GDB will attempt to find a placement with one of these organizations within approximately thirty days. If no match is found, these dogs will be placed in another role by GDB, returned to their puppy raisers for adoption or placement if the raiser requests, or adopted to another loving, caring home.

Our Non-profit Partners:

Guide Dogs for the Blind places its career change dogs with a select number of non-profit organizations that have been evaluated and screened by GDB. These organizations will primarily consist of service dog organizations, but may also include organizations such as agencies for the blind, canine search and rescue organizations, and others that GDB believes enhance people's lives. GDB will offer dogs to these designated organizations for adoption prior to the dogs' puppy raisers being offered the option to adopt the dogs. Individuals who wish to adopt a dog for use as a therapy dog, a personal service dog, or a companion will not be prioritized before puppy raisers. Though they vary in mission and size, these organizations all have training methods, veterinary care, and other practices that are consistent with our expectations. Currently, GDB places dogs with:

- Dogs For Diabetics www.dogs4diabetics.com
- Oregon Dogs for the Deaf www.dogsforthedeaf.org
- Paws'itive Teams www.pawsteams.org
- Discovery Dogs www.discoverydogs.org
- Pacific Assistance Dogs www.pads.ca
- Early Alert Canines www.earlyalertcanines.org
- Paws Assisting Veterans (PAVE) www.paveusa.org

- Paws With a Cause www.pawswithacause.org
- Ronald McDonald House Charities, Lubbock, Texas
- Ronald McDonald House, Dallas, Texas

GDB staff has a very thorough application and review process for organizations that wish to receive career change dogs for their programs. To qualify for consideration, all applicants must be non-profit organizations and, when applicable, members of Assistance Dogs International (ADI). In addition, each organization must have a minimum of three years of successful operation and submit three years of financial statements or other evidence which demonstrate its ability to maintain operations and adequately care for its dogs and constituents. Finally, all organizations that wish to receive dogs from GDB, must:

- Provide indoor/outdoor sheltered housing for its dogs
- Practice primarily R+ training methods
- Provide periodic updates to GDB puppy raisers on each dog's progress and invite the raiser to any graduation ceremony
- Return to Guide Dogs for the Blind any career change dog that is not successful in its training with them

Career change dogs that become K9 Buddies and those that are placed with another organization are recognized quarterly at GDB graduations. This includes:

- Invitation to the puppy raisers of each dog to attend and participate in an upcoming graduation
- Announcing the name of the dog, the name of its raiser(s), and the name of the recipient organization during the ceremony
- A slide show of photos showing each dog in its new placement
- Inclusion of the name of the dog, the name of its raiser(s), and the name of the recipient organization in the graduation program

Please note that dogs placed with another organization may not be able to attend the graduation, as they will be in training with that organization or client. K9 Buddy recipients may be able attend the graduation, depending on the distance they live from campus.

GDB knows that puppy raisers love the dogs they have worked so hard to develop, and appreciates the trust puppy raising volunteers have for GDB staff to place dogs as K9 Buddies, as companions, or in other roles that benefit people. GDB is committed to finding high quality placements for all dogs to have comfortable and meaningful lives.



Guide Dogs for the Blind

TRAINING PHASE DESCRIPTIONS

Formal Guidework Training Phases

In an effort to keep raisers and leaders informed about the progress of dogs in formal training, Guide Dogs for the Blind (GDB) provides weekly reports with the training phase of each dog. There are currently eight phases of training.

Descriptions of activities included in each phase are attached. Puppy raisers can track the dog they raised by the phase number and then refer to the matching phase narrative to better understand GDB's training process and the individual dog's role in it.

Guide dog training is a systematic and often seamless process; each dog is treated as an individual and progresses at their own pace from one phase to the other as skills are learned.

Phases generally last a week or so, depending on the individual dog. At times, it may seem like some dogs advance quickly through phases and others linger. Neither situation necessarily indicates success or failure in the program. If a dog remains in a certain phase longer than average, it may mean that the dog is working on proficiency in one area, or training or veterinary staff are investigating potential chronic behavioral or health issues. Puppy raisers ought not to feel discouraged if progress seems slow. Likewise, puppy raisers are advised to refrain from becoming too eager if progress seems quick.

Puppy raisers are also cautioned against plotting out on a calendar an anticipated graduation date. Once a dog begins formal training, it can last two to four months, and some dogs may be at GDB longer. If a dog stays a long time in training, raisers ought not to be discouraged. GDB's training model allows Guide Dog Mobility Instructors (GDMI's) to spend comprehensive, one-on-one time, every day, developing each dog. Extra time spent in training likely means that GDB training staff like the dog very much and they are doing their best to give the dog all the love, care, and training that it needs to become a guide dog prospect.

In some ways, today's guide dog needs to be "*Super Dog*." In the last few decades, the world has become an increasingly more demanding environment for guide dogs. Cars are potentially more dangerous (faster and quieter); noise has increased (construction equipment, concerts, movie theaters); intersections are varied with different designs of intersecting paths, slopes, and angles. Take a walk on a busy city street and study it from the perspective of a guide dog needing to travel it safely, calmly and confidently. Quite amazing, isn't it?

At times, dogs that may have been ideal guides in the more slowly-paced, straightforward world of yesteryear might be career changed today. GDB believes in the breeding of better dogs, having high screening standards for both health and temperament, and having raisers and instructors that are working harder than ever to prepare each dog... all in an attempt to keep up with a world that seems to be getting more complex.

In the following phase descriptions, GDB shares training exercises and verbal cues that are not taught in the raiser homes. The success of the GDB program depends on all raisers' support. It is important for puppy raisers to refrain from using these words and teaching these exercises in their homes. Raisers who attempt to give their dogs "a head start" by teaching the guidework discussed in this package may, in fact, negatively impact the dog's potential to become a guide. Raisers are expected to *only* teach the behaviors outlined by their leader, CFR and GDB puppy raising materials.

Dogs recalled intact (not spayed or altered) will be evaluated for breeding. These dogs will not show up on the weekly phase reports. The breeding evaluation process can take up to two months (or longer, depending on the circumstances). Any dogs on the breeder evaluation list that have mild health or temperament issues that preclude them from being breeding stock, may still be eligible for training; if so, they are then neutered or spayed and prepared for a training string.

Dogs that are released from the program for temperament, behavioral, work or health reasons are referred to as "career change" dogs. Many dogs that are placed as pets go on to do activities such as agility, tracking, or pet therapy with their adoptive families. Additionally, there are many different formal career paths open to these dogs than ever before! Some dogs go on to do search and rescue work, support law enforcement, help people with diabetes or hearing deficits, and others are taught to alert for cancer. Other dogs are placed as K9 Buddy dogs for blind or vision-impaired young people not yet ready to work with a guide dog.

GDB facilitates the aforementioned strategic placements of career change dogs as well as placement into loving, caring adoptive pet homes. Dogs can be career changed for many factors not in a raiser's control. A raiser's success is measured by the amount of love, effort, and time spent with their puppy, not whether the pup becomes guide or not.

GDB is successful due in large part to its puppy raising volunteers. Puppy raisers teach basic, yet crucial, aspects that are the foundation for a compatible guide dog. Mature puppies come into formal training reliable in the home, relieving on command, responsive to obedience verbal cues, are socialized and comfortable in the environment, and loving and trusting of people. Puppy raisers are commended for their valuable contributions to GDB's mission!

Phase Zero: Arrival Period

Before formal training begins, the new dog is introduced to the GDB kennels, campus walks and the formal training program.

Health Screening and Kennel Socialization

During this important transitional period, each dog receives a preliminary physical exam, performed by a Canine Welfare Technician (CWT). The CWT thoroughly inspects each dog from head to tail and checks the nose, teeth, eyes, ears, coat, skin and feet. Any ailments, abnormalities or concerns are noted and brought to the attention of GDB's veterinary staff. Most dogs that enter training are in excellent condition, although some may require medication for minor ailments such as an ear or eye infections.

During the first week on campus, dogs receive the following:

- Orthopedic x-rays
- A formal in-for-training physical by a GDB veterinarian
- An eye exam by a veterinary ophthalmology specialist
- An accurate weight

During the veterinary physical examination, each dog also receives any needed vaccines based on the veterinary records submitted by puppy raisers.

Once physical examinations are finished, each dog is formally assigned to a group of dogs (called a “string”) and a specific training kennel. Instructors train four dogs at a time, which enables them to get the dogs out approximately twice a day, every day. A string can range from 8 to 20 dogs, depending on the campus, staffing capabilities and overall class matching needs.

During this introductory period, each dog’s personality and manageability are evaluated to help prepare instructors in how to motivate and teach each dog most effectively.

Phase Zero normally coincides with the team of instructors returning from a session in class followed by visits to clients in their home areas. Prior to the team’s return, Canine Welfare Training Technicians (CWTTs), float instructor staff, and qualified volunteers care for the new dogs helping them adapt to the kennel environment in an engaging and positive manner. Dogs are initially put into a kennel by themselves, which is conducive to cuddling and ice cube enrichment. Once x-rays and physicals are done, dogs are often paired (“doubled”) together in a kennel.

Week Zero Activities

- Walks on campus and playtime in an enclosed grass paddock
- Doubling kennelmates that play well together
- Daily grooming
- Medication administration, as needed
- Human and dog interactive play or cuddle sessions
- Introduction to community run playtime
- Kennel enrichment activities

Kennel enrichment is anything that stimulates the senses and puts the dogs at ease in a kennel environment. The primary focus of the CWTTs is to care for and provide kennel enrichment for the dogs. Some enrichment activities take place daily for every dog, other activities are done intermittently, and others still are targeted towards specific dogs (for example, dogs that are slow to adjust to kennel life; boarding or retired guides; career change dogs, and breeding stock dogs waiting for homes). Kennel enrichment activities are continuously evolving and the CWTT staff is always coming up with ways to entertain and stimulate the dogs. Enrichment activities are many, including:

- Bones and chewable toys; food stuffed Kongs and ice cubes
- Hanging toys with or without food in them
- Plush and squeaky toys – closely monitored (not recommended for raisers or clients)

- Interactive toys (rings, etc.)
- Baby pools filled with water or a toy and/or playground equipment
- Scents: vanilla, peppermint, anise, lemon, almond, etc sprayed in the kennel
- Bubbles, mirrors, wind catchers, sound machines, music
- T-Touch, Pilates, massage and Reiki
- Behavior training for dogs that need additional socialization, or for career change dogs or breeder dogs awaiting placement.
- Exercise: walks, treadmill, enclosed grass paddocks
- Cuddle time

Training staff carefully observes each new string of dogs to make sure that each dog makes as smooth an adjustment to the kennels as possible.

Selected dogs may receive any additional attention in the following areas as needed:

- Agility programs
- Extra play sessions in community run
- Frequent walks on campus
- Consistent, supervised time in offices
- Nights spent supervised in the dormitory
- Any specialized programs specific to the needs of that dog (vet care, extra time in the office, etc.)

PHASE 1: Formal Training Begins – On Campus and In Town

Food Reward and Clicker Techniques

Food rewards are used in the GDB training program as a powerful motivation and reinforcement tool for learning and maintaining desired behavior.

Clicker training is the popular term to describe a training method that uses operant conditioning -- the animal intentionally performs a behavior in order to gain a desired reward. GDB uses clicker training as a tool for teaching various aspects of guidework and obedience responses. The clicker serves as a “marker” for the exact behavior the instructor would like to see the dog perform and repeat (e.g. targeting a curb, stair, escalator, elevator, crosswalk button, seat, etc.). It is a positive reinforcement-based system that associates high value rewards (food) with desired behaviors. The use of the clicker in guidework training encourages the dog to be an active participant in the learning process.

Enjoyable consequences (“rewards”) and the entire reward process is called “reinforcement.” Clicker trained dogs will actively try to learn new behaviors and will remember those behaviors years later. Clicker trained behaviors are performed by the dog with confidence and enthusiasm because the dog plays an active role and has control over when it receives rewards. They are enthusiastic because they understand that their performance will be rewarded with something very pleasurable.

With these training techniques, dogs in training demonstrate higher levels of confidence in the work, and clients experience quick and encouraging results with food use as a supplement to praise.

NOTE: Unless otherwise indicated, puppy raisers do not use the clicker with their puppies. This allows dog to enter training with a 'clean slate' regarding clicker associations.

Obedience Responses and Teaching Focus around Distractions

In order to both successfully teach guidework and for the client to easily manage their guide, collar response is important. Collar response means that a dog readily follows or yields to even slight tension on the collar. For example, it is a useful tool that allows the instructor to physically cue the dog from its following position to move left or right in guidework. Alternatively, it discourages a guide from pulling in the collar on leash with a client.

Formal Obedience

The verbal cues "sit," "down," "heel" (both moving and stationary), and "stay" are introduced as precise positions in relation to the handler. Precision is important so the dog does not interfere with or disorient the client. The "come" recall is practiced on leash in a variety of areas and off leash in enclosed areas,

Focus is taught before and during basic obedience work. Distractions are used to teach focus and concentration toward the job. Distractions may include: other dogs, food, overly friendly people, scents, and balls. Any dog that demonstrates below average ability to progress around distractions may receive additional attention in the following areas: different types of play sessions; higher value food reward to increase the dog's motivation to work for the handler; extra time relaxing with their instructor to develop a closer relationship; extra abbreviated obedience sessions without distractions to improve collar response.

Food Refusal Protocol

All dogs learn how to politely accept food rewards and how to refuse food in all other situations. This specialized food protocol training is designed to handle the delicate balance of using food as a motivator while ensuring that no negative behaviors develop around food. In addition, the dogs are taught how to avoid and refuse food on the ground or offered by others.

Socialization

Dogs are introduced to riding in the van crates prior to actually riding in the training vans. A configuration of crates, identical to those in the vans, is located in the kennel complex. All dogs are introduced to jumping in and out of this "mock" crate set before being put in an actual training van. Dogs then experience loading and unloading from crates in the van, riding comfortably and quietly, and waiting quietly in the van for their turn at a training route. If a dog makes a slow adjustment to the van crates, they are given additional or specialized socialization programs for either fear or distraction.

Body Handling Acceptance

Dogs are exposed to comprehensive, hands-on body handling, which includes grooming, pilling, bathing, ear cleaning, teeth cleaning, feeding, and play sessions that are conducive to interaction with a handler who is visually impaired (e.g. no excessive vocalization, no jumping up or running into a person). Any issues with body handling are evaluated and programs developed to improve issues are implemented as needed.

Introduction to the Harness

Dogs are given a calm introduction to being harnessed. They initially stand, then walk around in harness as well as wear it in relaxed settings. Dogs with above average sensitivity to wearing the harness are put on a socialization program to improve their response and comfort level while wearing the harness.

Treadmill Training

Treadmill work introduces the dogs to the biomechanics of pulling into the harness and how to maintain a lead. Dogs are introduced to the verbal cues of “forward,” “halt,” and “hopp-up” as they learn to pull with a straight body position. A comfortable gait and speed are identified for each dog. Most dogs adjust quickly to the treadmill through a systematic and careful introduction, food reward use and lots of support and praise. Staff ensure the dogs are not only safe, but also enjoy their time on the treadmill. The introduction techniques are so successful that it’s common to see dogs trying to get on the treadmill whenever they walk past one!

Dogs receive two treadmill sessions before beginning harness workouts (pattern training) downtown with their instructors.

NOTE: Puppy raisers should never put pups on treadmills or escalators.

Pattern Training

Pattern training is a method of introducing guidework behaviors to the young dog in a very positive manner. The instructor cues the correct guiding behavior to the dog, allowing the dog to complete the exercise without any mistakes. In this way the instructor keeps all guidework-related learning very upbeat for the dog. Obedience is used during guidework to regain attention on the work as needed. Once the dog is attentive, guidework pattern training resumes. Pattern training lasts for several sessions (approximately two weeks) and is gradually weaned off as the dog gains a better understanding of its responsibility. During pattern training, dogs are worked in a variety of environments, even challenging areas. However, advanced environments, such as heavy urban area with crowds, loud noise, etc., are avoided.

Dogs are introduced to the following guidework behaviors during patterning:

- Stopping at streets, regardless of the type of curb or wheelchair ramp
- Clearing for the handler on the right and left sides as well as above dog’s head
- Crossing streets on a line that efficiently reaches the up curb on the other side
- Maintaining consistent pace and drive with the verbal cue “forward”
- How to respond to the various uses of the ‘hopp-up’ verbal cue - resuming or increasing pace; moving closer to a stopping point; or for re-focus
- Stopping and standing calmly after the verbal cue “halt”
- Leading the handler in a 90 degree turn to the right and picking up the new travel line on “right”
- Leading the handler in a 90 degree turn to the left and picking up the new travel line on “left”

Up Curb Exercise # 1

Dogs are taught to target up curbs via clicker training and food reward by placing their front feet on the curb. The first up curb exercise is done on campus, and subsequent exercises are done on route.

Developing Physical Agility

Dog Agility Walk - Dogs are introduced to a low height agility obstacle in a controlled and measured way to promote confidence on unusual surfaces and develop coordination for stair and escalator work. This work teaches the dogs to carefully place their feet on the obstacles at slow speeds, which is very different from methods of teaching pet dog agility.

Back Up Chute - Dogs do not know how to naturally move backwards. Coordination training in how to physically back up is introduced at this time and continues for several weeks to prepare the dogs for future traffic avoidance training. In traffic avoidance, dogs are taught to speed up or stop, hold, and back up (if needed) in a straight line while facing the oncoming vehicle. The backup chute activity teaches dogs the mechanics of backing up in a very positive and fun way.

Obstacle Course - On campus obstacle courses are convenient opportunities for the dog to learn how to safely navigate past objects. The instructor patterns the dog to move past the obstacles with caution. Dogs are encouraged to walk slightly ahead of the instructor. Early on, the courses are designed so that new dogs do not need to stop on the course.

Phase 2: In Town and Responsible Lead

Obedience and Distraction Training

General collar responses and formal obedience responses continue to develop. More challenging distractions are introduced at a closer proximity, including: various dog breeds, food, solicitous people, and unusual scents.

The verbal cue “over here” is introduced. This cues the dog to move from heel position, behind the handler’s back, to the right side of the handler in order to walk safely through a door that opens to the left (hinge on left). This is also helpful when going through revolving doors and store turnstiles.

Body Handling Acceptance

Body handling acceptance continues to be developed and improved. Grooming, pilling, bathing, ear cleaning, teeth cleaning, feeding, and playing are done to simulate client handling. The dog is taught to lie down and roll over in a variety of settings for inspection and care as needed.

Kennel Adjustment and Routine

CWTTs continue to focus on kennel enrichment activities, relaxing time in community run, grooming and campus walks. Specialized programs continue, such as kennel enrichment, harness socialization, etc.

Wearing the Harness

By now, the dogs are comfortable wearing and working in the harness. Any dogs with sensitivity to wearing the harness are put on specialized programs.

Pattern Training Progression

Instructors now allow the dog more freedom to make decisions and make some mistakes. When errors begin to occur, instructors show the dog the correct answer before the dog gets confused. Basic level guidework responses are directed as a client might do. The dog experiences all guidework behaviors and the instructor still patterns any advanced responses.

Guidework responses progress to the extent that the dog can respond to each verbal cue consistently with minimal leash gestures or leash use, and maintain a straight line of travel with the instructor under blindfold. The dog learns to ignore the handler's body position or movements, and to compensate for same as needed.

Planned Distraction Route NEW!

While everyday routes in town present natural distractions to the dogs in training, these distractions are variable and often unpredictable. Also, not all dogs may have the opportunity to encounter that same distraction nor have the ability to use it in a productive manner. For example, if a pet dog comes around the corner suddenly yet also leaves suddenly, the dog in training does not have an opportunity to either make a choice to ignore the distraction or re-focus in the midst of that distraction. To afford all dogs in training the opportunity to develop this important skill, instructors work a route that includes two or three "set up distractions" – staff-held pet dogs in pre-determined areas on a route. These distractions can be seen from a distance, and the dog in training learns to remain focused both leading up to and passing the distraction.

Up Curb Exercise #2

The second up curb exercise is incorporated into a route in town. This exercise teaches and reinforces the "curb" verbal cue, which is used only in the street to indicate to the dog to move to the up curb as efficiently as possible.

Physical Agility

Programs continue as in Phase 1.

Responsible Lead Session NEW!

In order to reinforce what the dog has learned, responsible lead lessons for each dog occur at the end of pattern training. This session occurs on a long straight path. As in the planned distraction route, responsible lead involves "set-ups" as a means to reinforce a dog's good focus past distractions or remind a dog how to achieve the same.

Obstacle Course Progression

Most dogs are ready to guide through the clearance course, and are leash cued by the instructor to move as a finished guide might move. If not ready to work in harness, dogs continue to walk through the obstacle course on leash. NEW! Course design becomes more difficult, requiring more angled clearance moves by the dogs but not requiring a stop.

Phase 3: Preliminary Testing

Notable Accomplishment - Preliminary Obedience Testing

Focus and responses of the following are assessed and documented by a training supervisor:

- Dogs are expected to understand and respond to “sit”, “down”, “heel”, “come”, and “stay” amid mild distractions with consistency and a single verbal cue
- Demonstration of food refusal
- General ease of body handling

Obedience and Distraction Training

Collar and praise responses continue to develop. Reliable responses and focus continue to develop in various environments (formal, informal and during guidework). Dogs generally require minimal repeat verbal or leash cues. Instructor starts to mimic client handling more.

Notable Accomplishment - Preliminary Blindfold Testing

The instructor works a dog under blindfold on an urban/suburban area route, a distance of approximately 10 blocks. In order to pass preliminary guidework testing, a dog must demonstrate an understanding of safe guidework skills and focus on work and handler. Obedience exercises are done at some point on route, usually when distraction is present.

Dogs that pass preliminary blindfold testing progress to advanced guidework training. Dogs that do not pass receive further training and are re-tested when ready. Dogs that demonstrate major weaknesses in the basic fundamentals oftentimes are given additional training time with another string.

Difficult Distractions

Continues as in Phase 2.

Body Handling Acceptance

Continues as in Phase 2.

Guidework Training

The dogs are comfortable wearing and working in the harness. Individual dogs that still have problems wearing a harness would be a concern, but are still kept on socialization programs to improve behavior.

Pattern Training

Most dogs assume the majority of the basic responsibilities of guidework at this point and no longer need patterning. The dogs generally respond to “forward,” and lead out and maintain drive on their own or with an occasional leash or verbal prompt as needed. They respond to turn cues; pivot and drive out of turns; and they maintain line during movement. Responsibility in work responses is gradually increased and tested.

Up Curb Exercise #3

The third up curb exercise is incorporated into a route in town.

Physical Agility Programs

Continues as in Phase 2.

Obstacle Course Progression

All dogs guide in harness through the obstacle course with leash cues as necessary. Course design becomes more difficult, requiring even more angled clearance moves by the dogs.

CWTTs continue to focus on kennel enrichment, relaxing time in community run, grooming and campus walks.

Phase 4: Intelligent Disobedience

Formal Harness Training

The dogs now have full freedom to make decisions and some mistakes with normal guidework responses. When errors occur, instructors continue to show the dog the correct answer before confusion sets in. Instructors still pattern challenging and advanced guiding decisions and responses. Dogs are worked past open parking lot areas and difficult travel lines to further establish responsible line stability. Working past challenging animal and food distractions continues.

Instructors often “spot” each other (for safety), and practice short blindfold sessions with their respective dogs. This gives them information regarding what guidework behaviors are strong and weak in an individual dog. Practice routes that follow these blindfold sessions focus on development of needed areas and reinforcement of established responses.

NEW! After preliminary testing, more extensive work inside buildings begins.

Notable Accomplishment - Traffic Conditioning (Exposure)

Dogs are introduced to traffic safety problems and shown how to respond to them via leash cues. Dogs learn to stop, hold their line when stopped, and back up on their line when a vehicle gets too close. They are also introduced to increasing their pace for any vehicle that approaches too close to the rear of the team.

Body Handling Acceptance

Continues as in Phase 3. NEW! New handlers are added to assess the dog’s comfort and willingness with strangers.

Physical Agility Programs

Continues as in Phase 3.

Obstacle Course Progression - Intelligent Disobedience Training Begins

All dogs guide in harness through a challenging obstacle clearance course with leash cues as necessary to move as a finished guide. Course design becomes increasingly more difficult, requiring problem solving skills.

NEW! Some clearances now require a stop. **Intelligent disobedience** responses are introduced after successful preliminary testing. Intelligent disobedience is when a guide dog purposely does not respond to a handler’s guidework verbal cue because it is either unsafe or impossible to follow through with the response.

NEW! Addressing errors is now introduced for basic clearance work. Dogs are given an opportunity to re-do the area (“re-work”) after being shown the error.

NEW! An **overhead clearance** is any obstacle that is above the dog’s head. Dogs are initially taught to target this type of clearance. The dogs are then taught to look up for overhead clearances through a graduated approach (teaching bar starts low, and is gradually raised as dog gains proficiency).

Socialization

Extra socialization assignments are done with individual dogs as needed. Some examples: harness or surface sensitive dogs; dogs that are reluctant to relieve on leash; or dogs that have questionable kennel behavior that needs “proofing” or further development in a “house” (office or dorm) setting (dogs that vocalize on tie down or crate, chewing propensities, etc.).

CWTTs focus on additional relaxation sessions for all dogs as training progresses. These sessions could include one or several of the following activities: community run time, kennel enrichment programs, grooming, individual play sessions, office time at staff desks, and relaxing campus walks.

PHASE 5 –Traffic Training & City Work

Advanced Obedience and Distraction Training

New animal and common dog interest distractions (scent, cat, etc.) are sought out and responses are evaluated.

Distraction interests for individual dogs are worked on separately (i.e. squirrels for some, birds for others).

Advanced Guidework Training

Routes continue in suburban areas and may progress to downtown urban areas. Building exposure continues (stair work, elevators, tight clearance work on slick floors, etc.)

Focus on improving any weak responses noted at preliminary blindfold testing and working the dogs at a pace and pull that is appropriate for a client.

City Routes (San Francisco/Portland)

New work areas include difficult crossings, clearances, and challenging line and curb approaches, animal distractions, surface issues, and pedestrian islands.

- Heavy urban environment: crowded sidewalks, heavy/close traffic, different pedestrian climates
- Large government and business building work
- City bus ride

Intensive Indoor Mall and Store Training

- Slower pace for more cautious work past store displays and shoppers

- Crowded aisles
- Elevators
- Multiple stairways (up and down)
- Various colors and textures of slick, shiny floors
- Patience is reinforced for standing in line, working with a cashier, etc.
- Work past food held low, on seats/benches, or on ground (food court)

NEW! Escalator Introductions and Training - Boarding/Riding/Exiting

Dogs are taught how to safely step onto moving stairs (escalators), acquire a safe stance, ride the escalator without moving, and exit safely with the appropriate energy.

NOTE: Puppies are NOT to ride escalators.

Notable Accomplishment - Formal Traffic Training

Dogs are taught responsibility in making emergency decisions with traffic problems. Dogs learn to decide when to stop, hold their line, back up or even move forward on their travel line for safety of the team. Dogs learn to maintain position, face the vehicle, and to proceed on the original line when danger has passed. Lots of support, praise and food reward are used to reinforce the decisions and instill confidence in the dogs.

For dogs that need to either build confidence or create more of a buffer from the vehicle, supplemental training in backing away from a slow-moving vehicle is done on campus.

NEW! Total Barricade Training

Dogs are taught to show the handler any objects (most often parked vehicles in driveways) that completely block the travel path (sidewalk), and are then taught how to work safely around them.

Obstacle Course Progression

Dogs guide through challenging clearance courses as more finished guides. Course design becomes increasingly more difficult and requires continued development of problem solving skills and intelligent disobedience responses.

Advanced clearance problems that were first introduced to the dogs on the campus obstacle course are now sought out on real environment routes. Situations continue to be set up to reinforce both cautious navigation and intelligent disobedience.

Body Handling Acceptance

New handlers are regularly added to body handling sessions. Any issues that are still present at this stage are concerning and may interfere with a dog's viability as a guide dog.

Socialization Programs

As training progresses, individual dogs may require supervisor-directed specialized socialization programs to overcome any fear, distractive, or other type of reaction as needed.

CWTTs continue to focus on kennel enrichment, relaxing time in community run, grooming and campus walks during the progressively more challenging stages of formal guide dog training.

Vet Meeting – Review of Health

Each dog's health history to date is reviewed by the staff vet. Viability for care by a client is assessed. Health release decisions may be made for individual cases on some dogs; however, most dogs have timelines for improvement or other medical procedures/testing prior to such a decision.

Phase 6 - Urban Challenges

Obedience and Distraction Training

Continues as in phase 5.

Advanced Guidework Training

Dogs work in both residential area without sidewalks and downtown urban areas with challenging environments. Focus on working the dogs at a pace and pull that is appropriate for a client.

Instructors commonly work each others' dogs to continue to develop and monitor consistent responses of each dog in various environments (formal, casual and during guidework).

NEW! Sidewalkless Technique Introduction

Dogs learn how to work in areas without sidewalks or a reasonable shoulder on which to walk. The travel line is the left side of the street facing oncoming traffic. Dogs learn how to respond to intersecting streets and parked cars along their travel line.

NEW! Platform Edge Intro and Exposure Work

Dogs learn to avoid significant drop-offs that mimic subway and rail platform edges.

NEW! Light Rail, Subway systems

Dogs practice edge avoidance when train is absent, and boarding/riding on available trains.

Obstacle Course Progression

Continues as in phase 5.

Pre-Matches for Select Clients

Dogs are identified for applicants with special needs or requirements in a guide.

Socialization Programs

CWTTs continue to focus on kennel enrichment and relaxing time away from guidework lessons (community run, grooming, play sessions, campus walks, dog massage, Reiki).

Phase 7 – Advanced Training

Obedience and Distraction Training

Continues as in phase 6. Dogs are handled by different instructors to teach them good responses are expected with new handlers.

Guidework Training

Advanced training includes work in both suburban and urban areas, and requires forward-looking decision-making (initiative).

These routes can consist of:

- City traffic patterns
- Difficult crossings
- Difficult clearance situation
- Areas with a challenging line
- Animal distractions
- Surface issues
- Curb approach challenges
- Pedestrian islands
- Crowded sidewalks
- Different pedestrian climate
- Additional city bus exposure
- Additional rapid transit ride exposure
- Additional and multiple escalators
- Rounded corners

Escalator Training Continues

Dogs now independently board, ride and exit.

Platform Training Continues

Avoidance of drop-off edges on pedestrian platforms of subway and rail systems and boarding and exiting trains.

Overhead Obstacle Clearance Training

Advanced overhead training occurs both on campus and in town, when available.

Socialization

Continue as in previous phases, as needed.

Phase 8 - Final Testing, Finishing and Pre-Matching

Notable Accomplishments - Final Testing

Final Obedience Test

The instructor is under blindfold, and performs a series of obedience exercises with the dog, which includes an off-leash recall as well as a down stay with the instructor out of the dog's sight.

Final Blindfold Test

Instructor works a route under blindfold on an urban street and sidewalk route of 40 to 50 minutes in a challenging work area. Dog performs sits and downs in harness at any point on route.

Final Building Test

Instructor works a dog under blindfold through a mall setting. Each dog is tested on their overall caution and work on escalators, elevators, stairs and focus past food court areas.

Final Traffic Test

Instructor is under blindfold on a guidework route, and encounters several staged traffic checks that require the dog to demonstrate all types of traffic avoidance responses. Instructor is spotted by a teammate, but is not cued to the traffic situations in order to simulate client travel.

NOTE: Dogs that pass these tests are considered “class ready.” These dogs are fully qualified and ready to be issued to a client.

“Finishing” Routes

Dogs work on relaxing residential or country routes, sidewalkless areas, and less difficult/more straightforward routes for confidence building before class. Obedience responses are maintained and practiced in a variety of areas with a variety of handlers.

Practice with Less Experienced Handlers

With either supervisory and/or instructor oversight, unfamiliar (and often novice) handlers (O&M seminar or lifestyle workshop participants, mock student instruction practice for apprentices, etc.) work dogs that are (or nearly) at class ready status. This serves two purposes: it gives the handler an opportunity to experience what it feels like to work a guide dog and it gives staff a chance to assess the dogs’ abilities to successfully and reliably transfer to a new handler both from a work performance and manageability perspective.

NEW! Specialized Training

All dogs are introduced to hand and chair targeting. Instructors introduce pole targeting (for crosswalk buttons) on a few different routes.

If needed, select dogs may do custom work for identified clients (slower pace or fast pace, compromised balance -- client who travels with a support cane, toed-out gait, etc.)

Pre Class Physicals

All class ready dogs receive pre-class vet physicals, which includes a height measurement at the withers (ground to shoulders).

Final Class Preparations

Instructors size all dogs for new class collars, boots, head collars and harnesses. Pre-matches are done based on information gathered from home interview and pre-class phone call meeting.

Student Residence Exposure

Dogs are walked through the Student Residence building in preparation for their in-residence training.

Socialization

All specialized programs are complete for class ready dogs. CWTTs focus primarily on relaxing walks, kennel enrichment and play sessions for the dogs.

Class

By the time the dogs finish their final exams in Phase 8, blind and vision-impaired clients have already been scheduled to arrive for the next class. Instructors conduct pre-class phone meetings to begin the matching process between client and dog. Matches are finalized once students arrive at campus and class training has begun. To make the best matches possible, GDB has more dogs than clients. This means that there are always a handful of dogs remaining for placement in a future class. These dogs continue in training with the next group of instructors and dogs.

There are different class-training program options available to clients. GDB offers two week classes for in-residence client training.

On occasion, for either health or other compelling personal reasons, some clients do best with training in their own home area. In these instances, the client does not train at a GDB campus. This is called an in-home training. Most in-home training clients do not participate in a formal graduation ceremony, unless they live close to one of our campuses and are able to attend.

Accepted applicants receive their instructional lectures prior to their class instruction. These lectures include the following topics:

- Creating a Safe Environment for Your Guide Dog
- Equipment
- Promoting Independence
- Transitioning to a Successor Guide (for returning students, also called 'retrains')
- Welcome and Dormitory Orientation
- Communicating with Your Guide Dog
- Managing Your Guide Dog, Obedience
- Guidework
- Class Feeding, Watering and Relieving
- Street Crossings
- Playing with Your Guide Dog
- Addressing Guidework Errors
- Orientation and Learning Routes
- Advanced Management
- Working in Buildings
- Total Barricades and Traffic Encounters
- Dog Encounters
- Leaving Your Guide Dog Alone
- The General Public
- Customizing Your Dog's Vocabulary
- Special Travel Conditions
- Working on Platforms
- Working without Sidewalks
- Transitioning from Our Campus to Your Home
- Care of Your Guide Dog
- Going on a Trip with Your Guide Dog

- Working Rounded Corners

GDB also has additional lectures that discuss graduate services; veterinary information – both care and veterinary financial assistance; alumni association and donation information.

Depending on whether they are training in California or Oregon, clients begin training with their new guide dogs in residential areas of San Rafael or Gresham, respectively, and transition to routes in San Francisco or Portland. The new teams encounter many different situations together: public transportation (cars, city buses, subway systems, and ferries), heavy traffic, construction, escalators, areas with no sidewalks, etc.

GDB clients come from many different geographical areas and walks of life. Clients customize their training and do routes that are similar to their home areas. The lecture titled “Special Travel Conditions” offers tips to help prepare clients and their new guides to travel in extreme climates (snow travel or hot temperatures).

Class instruction and graduation are a culmination of a lot of hard work by many people. From staff who breed these special dogs, to the volunteers who love and house the breeder dogs, to the volunteers that socialize the young puppies and work in other areas on campus, to the immense efforts and commitment of the puppy raising community, to the dedicated and talented training and graduate service staff, and to our generous donors... it takes an involved community to create and support, a guide dog team. All of these efforts provide the foundation to shape a wonderful dog into a highly trained guide dog and companion, and then pair that dog with a partner to become an effective team. This is the mission of Guide Dogs for the Blind.

Graduation and more – see *Beyond Puppy Raising* in the *Puppy Raising Volunteer Policies and Procedures Manual*.