



Canine Partners for Life

HOME COMPANION DOG APPLICATION

SECTION 1

Applicant's Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Thank you for requesting a home companion dog application. Our home companion dogs are generally between one and two years of age. While they have learned their basic obedience skills and "house manners," home companion dogs do not have the advanced skills of a full service dog. Additionally, the home companion dog team is not afforded the rights of public access under the American with Disabilities Act, like a full service dog team would be afforded.

Home companion dogs spend their time in the home setting, and generally provide unconditional love and therapeutic value for their recipients. Companion dogs are also placed as "Therapy" dogs with health care professionals to provide the therapeutic benefits to help the needs of their client. In most cases, home companion dogs will not be placed in a household or environment where another dog is present. Home companion dogs are generally placed with individuals who would have difficulty raising and/or training a dog for their personal situation. Home companion dogs will not be placed outside of 250 miles from our facilities in Cochranville, PA.

There is a \$25 non-refundable processing fee that must be included with the application. After we receive your completed application we will meet with you for an interview. If accepted into the program, your name will be placed on our waiting list until a dog is matched with you.

Once the dog is placed, your responsibilities will include completing a written report every six months, keeping veterinary care current (including heartworm and flea/tick preventive), and ensuring the dog is in a loving and caring environment. We do request a \$600 donation at time of placement.

Canine Partners for Life is an accredited member of Assistance Dogs International. CPL respects the privacy of its applicants and recipients and all information is kept confidential although files may be periodically reviewed by accreditation agencies to ensure CPL's commitment to the highest standards of excellence in the assistance dog industry.

Canine Partners for Life conducts its business and acceptance process in a manner that will not discriminate against anyone on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, national origin, age, the presence of mental or physical disability, sexual preference, life expectancy, or whether the individual is a disabled veteran or veteran of any era. It is Canine Partners for Life's policy to treat everyone who comes in contact with the organization with respect and dignity at all times.

At no time will Canine Partners for Life require applicants, students, or graduates to participate in fundraising or marketing activities.

I have read, understand, and agree to SECTION 1 of this application (please initial): _____
(parent/guardian please initial if applicant is under the age of 18 years): _____

SECTION 2

Applicant's Name: _____ Date: _____

What to expect when you apply for a home companion dog:

- To travel, at your expense, to CPL for an interview. All members of the immediate family must attend the interview.

What to expect if accepted to waiting list:

- To wait approximately one to three years to be matched with a dog.

What to expect when a dog is selected:

- To purchase basic supplies for dog - cost approximately \$200.
- To travel, at your expense, to CPL to meet your dog, receive instructions on training and dog care, and for a training session. Any questions that you have can be answered at this time.
- To provide a requested \$600 donation to CPL at the time of placement.

What to expect after your placement:

- Follow-up with a CPL trainer via phone or email - daily for the first week, weekly for the first month, and monthly for the first 6 months of the partnership.
- To allow an adjustment of approximately one to two months for your dog to become acclimated to your home.
- To attend a mandatory CPL graduation ceremony so that the volunteers and donors involved in your dog's training may be acknowledged. Graduation is held three times annually on Sunday afternoons in March, June, and November. Your dog should wear any training aids provided at the time of placement to graduation.
- To complete and return 6 Month Follow Up Report forms, with dog's health records and applicable state or local licenses, every six months for the life of the dog.
- Follow up training is always available from CPL staff.
- To maintain current veterinary health care according to CPL guidelines. Food will cost approximately \$60 per month. Other health responsibilities/expenses include monthly heartworm preventives, flea preventives, necessary vaccinations, grooming and emergency veterinary care.
- To join the CPL family for life!

What to expect from your dog:

- Home companions are well socialized pets with reliable housebreaking and good basic obedience. They are not trained to perform physical tasks such as retrieval.
- Home companion dogs do not have public access under the Americans with Disabilities Act and may not be represented as service dogs for access to public facilities and housing.
- Home companion dogs must always be held on leash or kept in a securely fenced area with direct supervision when outdoors.
- While a home companion dog can provide emotional benefits and companionship to children with disabilities, a dog should not be expected to take the place of an adult caretaker. Dogs and young children should always be supervised.

I have read, understand, and agree to comply with SECTION 2 of this application

(please initial): _____

(parent/guardian please initial if applicant is under the age of 18 years): _____

SECTION 3

Applicant's Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Contact person (if not applicant) and phone number:

All Parents/Guardian's names if Applicant is under the age of 18:

Phone numbers of Parents/Guardians:

Applicant's Address: _____

County: _____

Phone: (Home) _____ (Work) _____ (Cell) _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Birth Date: _____ Weight: _____ Height: _____

Presently: _____ Student _____ Employed _____ Unemployed _____ Retired _____ Other

Are you a veteran? _____ Yes _____ No

Emergency Contact Person/Telephone: _____

Please list current grade and school or current occupation & employer:

Please note type of disability and add age of onset: _____

Do you currently own and operate a motor vehicle? _____

SECTION 3 CONTINUED

Applicant's Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Do you have any pets? Please list type, breed and ages. **Please note – In most cases a Home Companion dog will not be placed in a household with another dog.**

Please list your sources of income and monthly amount:

Please list all the people residing in your home and their ages:

Do you own or rent your home? _____

If you rent, do you have a pet policy? If so, please include a copy of the policy or a letter from your landlord permitting the dog to be present.

Do you have any experience working with animals? If yes please explain:

Have you ever been convicted of a misdemeanor, summary offense, or felony related to the abuse, mistreatment, neglect or harm to animals? _____ Yes _____ No

If yes, describe in detail including the state and date in which the conviction was made: _____

SECTION 3 CONTINUED

Applicant's Name: _____ **Date:** _____

In order to select an appropriate canine companion for you we ask that you complete the following questions with as much information as you feel is necessary for use to get to know you.

Please describe your home/family and general schedule: _____

Do you have a fenced in yard? _____

If no, are you willing to always walk the dog on a leash? _____

Approximately what percentage of the day are you away from home? _____

Do you travel? If so, where and how often? _____

Who referred you to CPL? _____

I have completed SECTION 3 of this application to the best of my knowledge and with information that is true and correct.

Applicant's Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian's Signature if Applicant is under the age of 18 years: _____

SECTION 4

Applicant's Name: _____ Date: _____

Please include with your application the following:

1. A PHOTO OF THE APPLICANT

2. A LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

This letter must be written by someone outside of your immediate family.

3. A LETTER FROM A LOCAL VETERINARIAN OF YOUR CHOICE saying that they will be caring for the dog's health and will cooperate with CPL's follow up when we ask to review the dog's records. We will make arrangements to have the dog's health history sent to your vet.

4. A DESCRIPTION OF RECIPIENT ESSAY

The purpose of this essay is to enable CPL to understand your physical traits, lifestyle, disability, activities and personality. Through a detailed description of yourself, your home, your family and your activities, we can better establish the type of dog most suited for you. Also describe how you feel a home companion dog would be beneficial to you and how you see yourself caring and giving back to the dog. Please be as precise and comprehensive as possible!

5. A FLASH DRIVE OF THE APPLICANT'S HOME

Please show us around your home and introduce all family members and pets. You may also want to include your school, workplace, and other places where you spend a lot of time.

6. \$25 NON-REFUNDABLE APPLICATION PROCESSING FEE

Please read the following paragraph carefully:

I understand the term "companion dog" refers to a dog that has been trained in basic obedience skills and that while the home companion dog has learned "house manners", he/she has not received the more advanced training of a full service dog. Unlike the full service dog/recipient teams who are permitted public access under the Americans with Disabilities Act, the home companion/recipient teams do not have public access rights. Under no circumstances is the home companion dog allowed to go into any public facility where pets are not routinely allowed unless given special permission. In no way is the home companion dog to be represented as a full service dog.

All adults residing in the applicant's household must sign below to acknowledge that each understands the term "home companion dog", and understands and agrees to follow the public access guidelines as noted above.

Name

Date

Name

Date

SECTION 5

Applicant's Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Canine Partners for Life

Complaint Policy for Non-employees

Any non-employee (volunteer/applicant/student/recipient/donor) who has a grievance concerning CPL practices has the right to file a complaint according to procedures outlined in this policy. Grievances may include, but are not limited to, a perception of violation of rights; quality of service; discrimination based on category of race, age, disability, etc.; or other matter.

Complainants are treated with dignity and respect at all times, regardless of the nature of their complaint. They will not be discriminated against, harassed, intimidated, or suffer any reprisal as a result of filing a complaint or participating in an investigation of a complaint. If an individual feels that he or she is being subjected to any of the above, that person has the right to appeal directly to the Executive Director.

Affected parties should attempt to resolve the problem informally as soon as possible. Volunteers should discuss issues with the Volunteer Coordinator, donors with the Director of Development, and applicants/students/recipients with their trainer. If a solution cannot be reached, the person may present a formal complaint, in writing, to the Executive Director. Following the same protocol, complaints about the Executive Director should first be brought to her attention and then to the Board President if necessary. The President may be reached through CPL's mailing address. Formal complaints and responses to them will be documented and kept on file.

All complaints are handled in a timely manner. As a goal, CPL attempts to resolve a complaint within 20 working days from the time of its initiation. If an extension of the time limit becomes necessary, all involved parties will be notified.

I have read, understand, and agree to SECTION 5 of this application.

Applicant's Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian's Signature if Applicant is under the age of 18 years: _____

Return this complete application along with the items listed on page 6 to the address noted below. Please allow 2-3 weeks for processing. If you have further questions regarding the Canine Partners for Life application or home companion program, please call (610) 869-4902 x 212.

Canine Partners for Life, P. O. Box 170, Cochranville, PA 19330
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