



Guide Dogs for the Blind

Dog Placements with Nonprofit Organizations

All dogs bred by Guide Dogs for the Blind go on to do wonderful things, whether by becoming a breeder, a guide dog, a K9 Buddy, a service dog for another organization, a GDB Ambassador dog with an Orientation & Mobility professional or other allied professional, a GDB Agency Placement, 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, a GDB Ambassador dog, 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 nonprofit 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 identify 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. Individuals who wish to adopt a dog for use as a therapy dog or companion will not be prioritized before puppy raisers.

Our Nonprofit Partners:

Guide Dogs for the Blind places its career change dogs with a select number of nonprofit 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 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. Though they vary in mission and size, these organizations all have training methods, veterinary care, and other practices that are consistent with our expectations.

Our Nonprofit Partners:

- Assistance Dogs Northwest: assistancedogsnorthwest.org
- Dogs for Better Lives (formerly Dogs for the Deaf): www.dogsforbetterlives.org
- National Institute of Canine Service and Training (NICST) Dogs4Diabetics: <https://ourdogssavelives.org/programs/d4d/>
- Early Alert Canines: www.earlyalertcanines.org
- Freedom Service Dogs: freedom servicedogs.org
- Next Step Service Dogs: www.nextstep servicedogs.org
- Paws Assisting Veterans (PAVE): www.paveusa.org
- Sam Simon Foundation: www.samsimonfoundation.com
- Service Dogs, Inc.: www.servicedogs.org
- Working Dogs for Conservation: wd4c.org

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 nonprofit 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 that 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 monthly updates to GDB puppy raisers on each dog's progress and invite the raiser to any graduation ceremony (if applicable)
- 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 at designated 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 slideshow 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 will 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.