



Illini Service Dogs

Puppy Raiser Expectations and Support Provided

What is a Puppy Raiser?

- Puppy raisers are volunteers who take in and foster a service dog in training until that dog is ready to transition to University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana campus.
- Our service dogs in training live in the homes of puppy raisers, which allows our dogs to get lots of one-on-one socialization and training time to practice basic commands and good behavior.
- The dog can be anywhere from 8 weeks old to 2.5 years old. The duration of the time spent puppy raising will be determined by the organization in collaboration with the puppy raiser. But the general time frame can be anticipated 2-6 months.
- Currently, we are limiting our puppy raisers to the Champaign-Urbana area

What are the Requirements?

- The puppy raiser must be 18 years or older
- Prior history working with dogs is strongly preferred
- Live in a home with approved housing for a service dog in training (i.e. landlord approval)
- Compliance with all of the ISD policies, protocols, training strategies, and training tools including providing regular updates via online communication platform Slack
- The puppy raiser cannot be volunteering or working with another service dog organization at the same time as raising for ISD

What are the Expectations of the Role?

- Focus on potty training, crate training, house manners, socialization, and basic obedience training
- Basic obedience shall include sit, down, stay, come, heel. Additional commands may be added at the discretion of the Training Advisor(s)
- Submit “Hot Topics” summary updates twice a week via Slack (online communication platform) and then a longer update once a month
- Be available for virtual touch bases with the Training Advisor(s) as needed
- Attend an in-person on campus training whenever possible

Illini Service Dogs

Mobilizing the world, four paws at a time



Illini Service Dogs

What Support is Provided?

- The Illini Service Dogs will be responsible for all veterinary and food expenses. Additional resources will be disseminated as needed (with prior approval) such as collar, leash, dog bowl, crate, etc.
- Training support with resources including a Training Advisor, tip sheets, videos, video chats, and much more will be available

Illini Service Dogs

Mobilizing the world, four paws at a time