



OccuPaws

Guide Dog Association



Career Change Application

Return via mail, email or fax to:

The OccuPaws Guide Dog Association
Puppy Coordinator
PO Box 45857
Madison, WI 53744

E-Mail: info@occupaws.org • Fax: 866-854-3291 • Phone: 608-772-3787

Occasionally OccuPaws has labrador retrievers, golden retrievers, poodles or german shepherds that are available for adoptions as pets. These dogs, typically between the ages of ten weeks and two and a half years old, are physically or temperamentally unsuitable for guide work. Although these dogs do not qualify for a guide dog career, they often make wonderful pets. The following are some of the reasons dogs disqualify from our program: sensitive to noise/traffic, lack of confidence, uncomfortable with new surroundings, aggressive with other animals, orthopedic problems, allergies and eye irregularities.

Before we offer a dog to the public for placement, the dog may be offered to an assistance dog program, police/fire rescue dog program or the puppy raiser. The wait for a change of career dog can be relatively long. Although these dogs have been *raised* to be future guide dogs, the training at the time of disqualification will vary. **The majority of dogs disqualified from our program have not received formal guide dog training.**

All disqualified dogs, male and female, are spayed or neutered. We request a tax-deductible donation to defray expenses when you receive the dog. The **minimum** donation for a disqualified dog is \$800.00. In the event a dog becomes available with special needs, we may offer that dog without a donation request, taking into consideration the dog's temperament, medical history and extent of training. OccuPaws reserves the right to set donation requirements for all our change of career dogs.

We will hold applications for one year. All applications become void one year from the day of receipt. If you wish to remain on our disqualified dog waiting list after the one-year period, please send us a new completed application.



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Career Change Dog - Applicant(s) Information

Name(s)

Address

City, ST Zip

Phone

Home

Work

Mobile

Email

Breed Preference (if any)

Color Preference (if any)

Sex Preference (if any)

Age Preference (if any)

Are there any children and/or pets in the family? If yes, list ages/descriptions.

Describe your home, yard and living environment.

Describe your past and present experience with owning and maintaining a dog.

Would you consider adopting a dog with physical limitations?

**I understand if unable to continue raising or caring for the dog,
I will contact OccuPaws for placement into another home.**

Agreed Y/N



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Career Change Dog-continued

You have been informed that you will not use the dog for any purpose other than a pet and cannot be used for therapy work without proper additional training; you will not harm, sell, give away or otherwise convey the dog to any other person or persons or to be used for research or any illegal activity and must agree to always treat the dog humanely.

Occupaws reserves the right to take the necessary legal action on behalf of the dog placed in your home by Occupaws if we ever have reason to believe is being misused, mistreated, neglected or harmed.

Agreed - Y/N

Signature(s): _____

Date:

Please list any additional comments on the back of this application. Thank you!

Potential guide dogs are raised in a family environment, spending most of their time as house dogs. Problems may arise such as digging, excessive barking or chewing when left alone in a backyard for long periods of time. Please consider this factor when applying to adopt a disqualified dog from our program.

Home Visit Completed – Y/N

Date Completed -

Occupaws Representative : _____