

## ***American Poodles At Work Frequently Asked Questions***

### **How long does each dog take to train?**

Our dogs learn most of their commands by around 9 months of age, but still need many months of practice, refinement, and real-world application. Our Poodles tend to mature mentally between 18-24 months of age, at which time they are paired with their new partner. Learning occurs with every experience our dogs encounter, so they have accumulated thousands of hours of training and socializing before they graduate.

### **What commands/tasks are they taught & how**

Our Service Dogs learn approximately 90 commands to increase their partner's independence (see a list of the commands [here](#)). We use positive methods, initially rewarding with food and weaning to verbal praise and petting. More information is available on our Training Philosophy page.

### **How much does an APAW dog cost?**

Our Service Dogs are \$10,000 dollars, though we don't deny a dog based on finances alone. Contact us for fundraising resources. Therapy Dogs range from \$2,000-5,000 depending on the amount of training they have received. The cost of a released dog varies depending on amount of training, age, and reason they are being released.

### **Do you have an adoption program for those who fail?**

Yes. When a dog doesn't make the cut for Service work, we analyze why that is and try to find another 'job' where they will succeed (generally through another program or individual). If we feel that a pet home will be best, than we offer the released dog up for adoption to carefully screened homes.

### **Who qualifies for a therapy dog & how?**

Anyone with a strong interest in volunteering their time at a social or therapy establishment may qualify. We also place dogs in facilities (full-time), or with human therapists as an aid during their sessions.

### **If we receive a dog from APAW and a year later we need some follow up training will you be available to us?**

Absolutely! The process of getting one of our Service Dogs is not a simple one and there are many requirements that we will help you through, including working exams to be sure that we have matched you with the right helpmate. We ask for frequent feedback during the first 6 months, again at a year, and then regularly after that. We always are available to answer questions, give advice, and help problem-solve for as long as you have your dog.

## **Do you train dogs so that they may live in any situation like apartments or condos?**

Yes. We will place our dogs in any size home if it is the right match. Regardless of home size, our dogs need to work regularly in public for the physical and mental stimulation – that is what they have been raised for.

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