

Canine Companions & You



Carol Hunsperger, Volunteer Recruiter

> Warm Up Activity



1. Who here has heard of Canine Companions?
2. Have you met anyone that uses a service dog?
3. Can you pet a Service Dog?

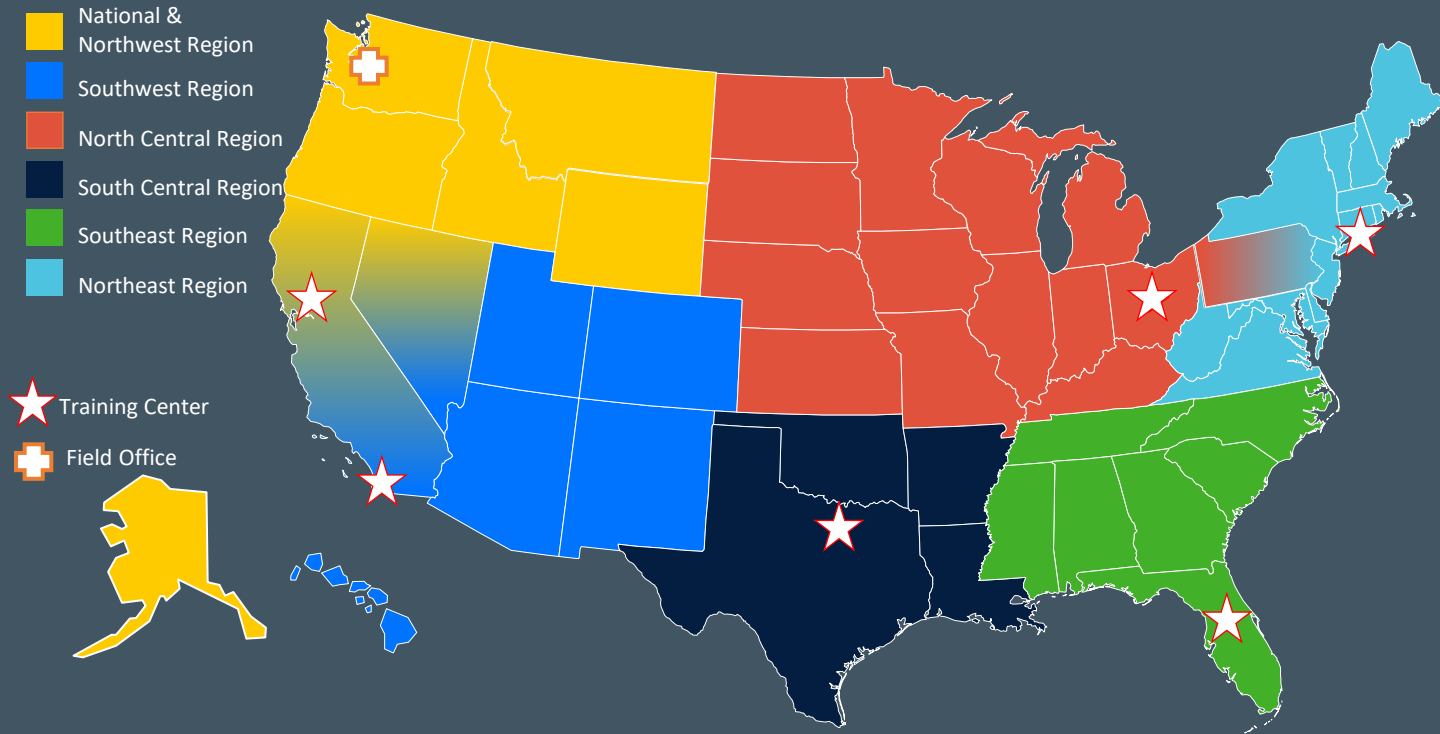
A photograph of a man and a young girl with red hair and glasses, both smiling and hugging a light-colored dog. The dog is wearing a blue harness with a logo. They are in a garden with various plants, including pink flowers in the foreground and green foliage in the background. The text "Together we become" is overlaid in white.

Together we become

Mission

Founded in 1975, Canine Companions is a non-profit organization that enhances the lives of people with disabilities by providing expertly trained service dogs and ongoing support to ensure quality partnerships, free of charge.





8,600+ Placements



~340 Employees

Seven training centers and 60+ volunteer chapters.
Graduate teams, puppy raisers, volunteers &
supporters in every state.



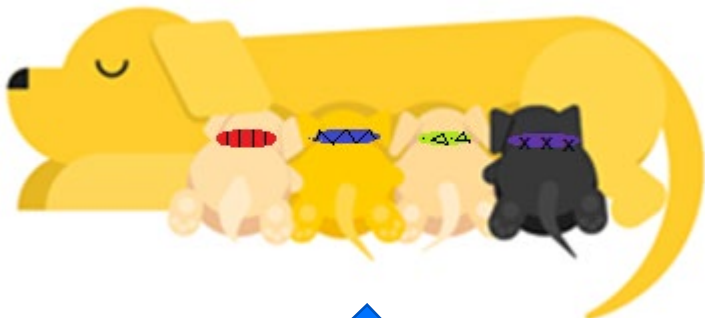
800+ Puppies born
each year



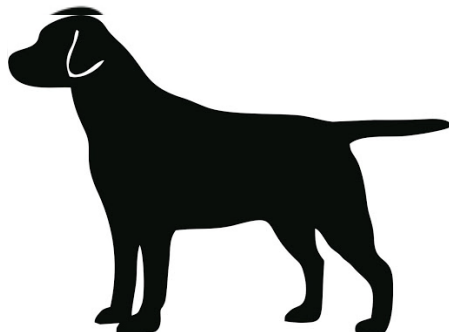
~6,000 volunteers

> Canine Companions' Career Path

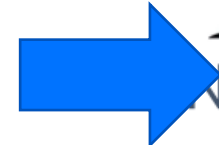
Breeder Caretaker



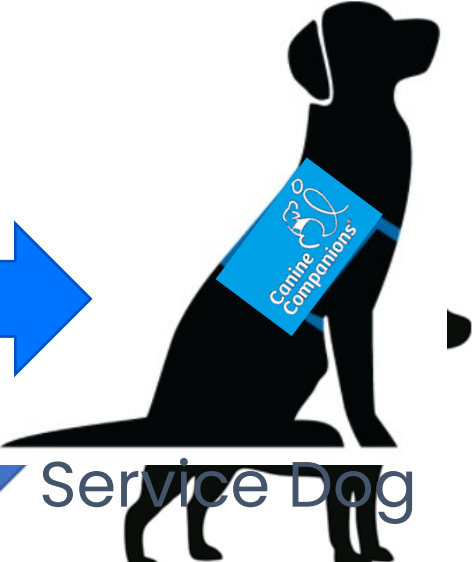
Puppy Raiser



Professional Training



New Breeder



Service Dog

Agency Transfer, Release, or Therapy Dog



> What is a service dog?



SERVICE DOGS

Service dogs are trained in specific tasks to assist a person with a disability.

> Allowed anywhere their handlers are permitted, like a movie theater, hospital or restaurant

> Highly trained and socialized to be safe in public

> What is NOT a service dog?

EMOTIONAL SUPPORT ANIMALS

Emotional support animals provide comfort to people with mental health conditions.

> Pets that are allowed in housing, even if the property has a no-pet policy

> Not allowed in public places



> What is NOT a service dog?



THERAPY DOGS

Therapy dogs are certified pet dogs that provide comfort to many people.

> Provide comfort to people in libraries, schools or other settings

> Only wear vests during approved visits and not allowed in public places

> What is NOT a service dog?



FACILITY DOGS

Facility dogs are trained in specific tasks to work alongside professionals .

> Clients include those in a healthcare, visitation or educational setting. Their skills help improve client outcomes

> Allowed in the handler's workplace, but not in other public places

> EXAMPLES OF SERVICE DOG TASKS

- Retrieving dropped cell phone
- Alerting to sounds in the environment
- Guiding a person who is blind or low vision
- Pulling a manual wheelchair
- Providing deep pressure and physical support after seizure
- Creating a physical barrier between handler with PTSD and other people
- Interrupting anxiety behaviors
- Alerting to changes in blood sugar



The need for
service dogs
is enormous...





The need for
service dogs
is enormous...
1 in 4

people in the
U.S. have a
disability.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention



4.7M

veterans have a
service-connected
disability.

Bureau of Labor Statistics



8%

of children in the
United States under
age 15 have a
disability.

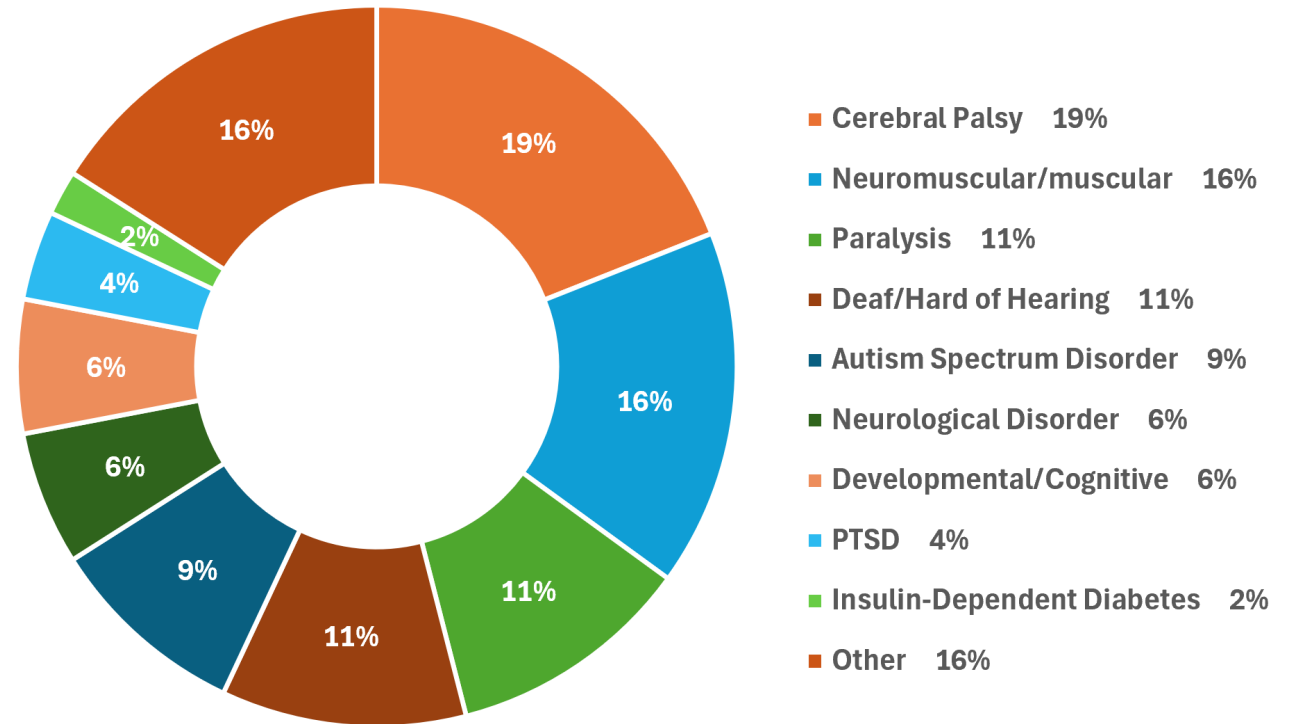
Census Bureau



People We Serve

The people we serve live with more than **65 different disabilities** — including insulin-dependent diabetes — and Canine Companions service dogs can meet their diverse needs and impact their lives in powerful ways.

Most Common Disabilities Served Since 1975



> Accomplishing our Mission



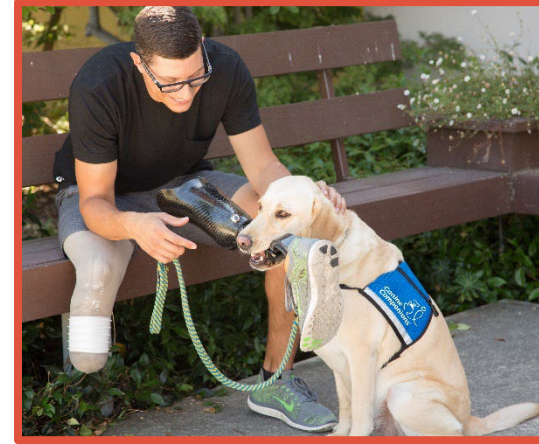
CHILDREN

- Assist with physical tasks
- Provide deep calming pressure
- Interrupt or redirect a behavior
- Insulin-dependent diabetes medical detection



ADULTS

- Pick up dropped items
- Help propel a manual wheelchair
- Alert d/Deaf or hard of hearing handlers to important sounds
- Insulin-dependent diabetes medical detection



VETERANS

- Create space in crowded environments
- Interrupt anxiety or nightmares
- Assist with physical tasks



PROFESSIONALS

- Assist in health facilities with rehabilitation goals
- Assist students in special education classrooms
- Work in criminal justice supporting survivors of abuse and/or violence

> Impact – Lives Touched



Our 1,300+ **puppy raisers** **interact with 2.5 million people**, bringing the value of the human-canine bond to the communities where they are raised.



Our 2,800+ active **graduate teams impact every person they meet**, bringing the mission of Canine Companions and awareness to the amazing work our service dogs can do to enhance independence.



Our task-trained **facility dog teams reach more than five million people** each year through hospital and rehabilitation centers, courthouses, schools and more.



Canine Companions' Therapy Dog Program enables dogs that don't graduate to **perform meaningful work, currently reaching 60,000 people** each year.

Help us
reduce the
wait!



Future Service Dogs Start with Volunteers





**They bring the
next generation
of service dogs into
the world.**

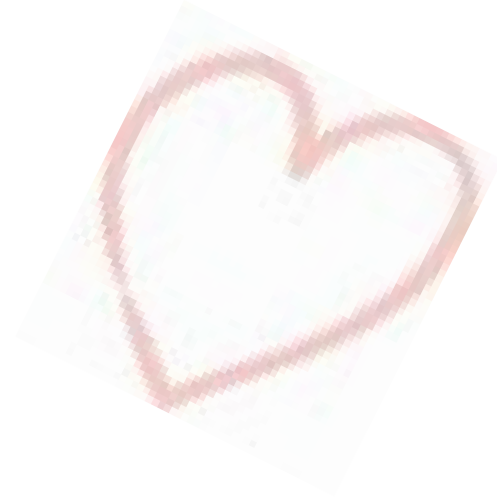


They're



"Where are the nipples on this thing?" On another note, the babies got some new toys today and their pen grew!

Litter Turn-in





Retirement

Caretaker Volunteering Summary





Puppy Raiser Volunteers





> Puppy Raising Overview

- 500 new puppy raisers needed!
- Care for puppy from 8 weeks to 20 months
- Socialization, socialization, socialization—and training
- No dog experience necessary.
 - **Structured program with lots of support**



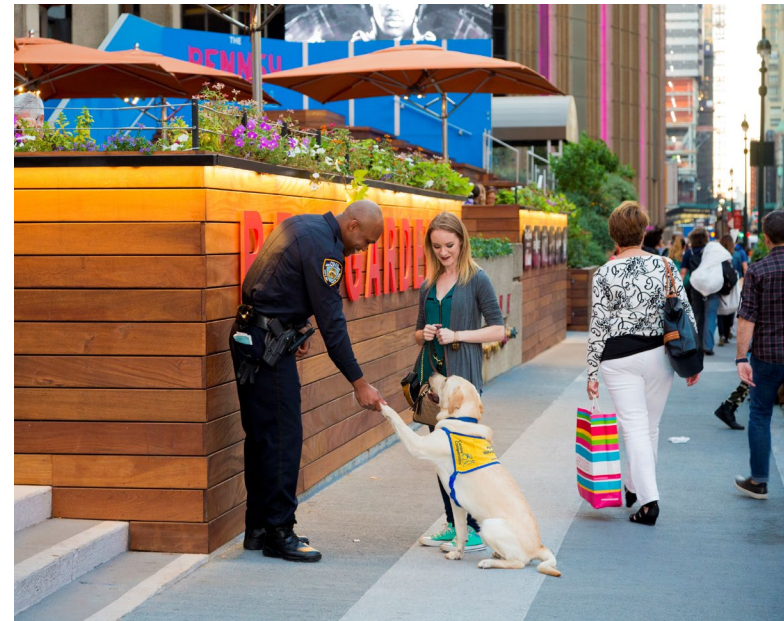
What do Puppy Raisers Provide?

- Vaccinations and preventatives
- Routine medical care
- Healthy diet & exercise
- Reporting any health or behavior changes



What do Puppy Raisers Provide?

- House manners
- Public outings to places a working service dog could go
- Ongoing socialization and training



What do Puppy Raisers Provide?

- Canine Companions puppy class or approved community class
- Teach the basics
- Build confidence
- Fun for both puppy and raiser
- Low stress and high reward build drive to work



> Supporting puppy raisers

- Eukanuba Pro feeding program
- VCA discount Program
- Puppy Overview session
- Puppy Pal mentor



> Supporting puppy raisers

- Experienced, supportive community
- In-person & virtual puppy classes
- Workshops
- Canine Community
 - **Videos**
 - **Guides and supportive materials**



Matriculation (turn-In the dog)



> Professional Training and Beyond

- Monthly training reports
- Notifications on status changes



> Puppy Raiser Summary



Other Volunteer Opportunities





•Canine Transport– Currently seeking volunteers near:

- Seattle • San Diego • San Francisco
- Santa Rosa • Los Angeles • Denver
- Dallas • Houston
- Kansas City •Baton Rouge •
- Chicago • Columbus • Cleveland •
- NYC • Washington D.C. • Boston •
- Baltimore • Orlando • Tampa •
- Nashville • Atlanta

Remote & Nationwide Opportunities

- **Without Dogs**

- Join a chapter
- Fundraising Events (DogFest)
- Outreach & presentations
- Advocacy

- **On Campus**

- Dog Walking
- Dog Bathing
- Litter Sitter
- Administrative Support
- And more!



Canine.org/getinvolved



Next Steps

To learn more:

- Complete a volunteer application
- More training & support provided based on volunteer role.



Naomi and Inga

Naomi was born with schizencephaly, a congenital brain malformation, and relies on a power wheelchair to get around. Despite these incredible technologies, Naomi has been dependent on caregivers to meet all her needs. That began to change when she was matched with Service Dog Inga.

Inga plays board games to encourage Naomi's engagement in therapy, retrieves items that are frequently dropped due to dexterity issues and helps Naomi contribute to family chores. When Naomi is hospitalized, Inga comforts, entertains and provides a social bridge with doctors because she's there.

But Service Dog Inga's most valuable skill wasn't even trained – when Naomi becomes anxious in public, Inga has the uncanny ability to interrupt a panic attack before it happens and draw Naomi back into the moment. Because of Inga, Naomi can live with more independence.



"It was truly love at first sight – Naomi burst into joyful tears the moment they met," says Naomi's mom Stephanie.

Leigh and Nerf

Leigh was born with osteogenesis imperfecta, or brittle bone disease, which makes her bones weaker than normal and more prone to fractures. When it was time for her to apply for college, she knew that she would need physical help. That's where Service Dog Nerf enters the picture.

"Nerf was the perfect match for me and now, with him by side, I am able to attend The University of Tampa and achieve my college dream. This wouldn't have happened without Canine Companions," shares Leigh.

When Leigh is at school or running errands, she needs some physical assistance. Nerf assists by retrieving dropped items, pulling Leigh's manual wheelchair and other tasks that enable Leigh to be more independent and involved around campus and in life.



Victor and Violet

Victor was matched with Service Dog Violet, who is trained in commands specifically designed to help mitigate the symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

As a result of Victor's service, he has a traumatic brain injury and PTSD and is a Purple Heart recipient. Expertly trained in over 40 commands, Violet wakes Victor from nightmares, interrupts his panic attacks, turns on and off lights, picks up dropped items and provides constant companionship.

Victor shares, **"She's the best thing that ever happened to me. Violet is amazing and so well trained. Since I've had her, I've been calmer and more relaxed."**

Violet has helped Victor work through PTSD flashbacks and panic attacks and allows Victor to be more comfortable in his everyday life.



Questions?



Thank You

