

# PAWS™ Service Dog Foundations

## Application Process

PAWS™ Service Dog Foundations begins long before task training. This application process is designed to ensure alignment, readiness, and long-term suitability for both dog and handler.

This is not a fast-track or performance-driven model. It is a regulation-first, ethically paced developmental approach intended to reduce washout, burnout, and placement failure.

### **Step 1: Review the Foundations Model**

Before applying, applicants are asked to review the PAWS™ Service Dog Foundations framework in full. This program prioritizes nervous-system regulation before task demands, emotional resilience before public performance, orientation to the handler before independence, structure before freedom, and recovery before repetition. Dogs are prepared to carry responsibility — not rushed into it.

### **Step 2: Complete the Application**

The application helps assess alignment with the PAWS™ philosophy, readiness for a development timeline guided by regulation and recovery, and expectations around structure, pacing, and long-term commitment. This is not a screening for perfection, but for clarity, stability, and shared values. All information is kept confidential.

### **Step 3: Review & Conversation**

Applications are reviewed carefully and intentionally. When alignment appears strong, a private conversation is scheduled to clarify goals, discuss timelines, and ensure ethical placement and long-term success. This process begins with dialogue — not a transaction.

### **Step 4: Selective Acceptance & Next Steps**

Because this work is resource-intensive and relationship-driven, PAWS™ Service Dog Foundations is offered selectively. When accepted, next steps may include developmental planning, placement timelines, and partnership or organizational coordination when applicable. Not all applications move forward — and that is intentional.

### **Who This Program Is For**

This program is designed for individuals seeking ethically prepared service dogs, organizations focused on durability over optics, foundations and sponsors invested in washout prevention, and professionals who value long-term outcomes over speed. This is not a rapid-training or early-performance model.

### **Ready to Begin?**

If this approach resonates with your values and expectations, you are invited to begin the application process.