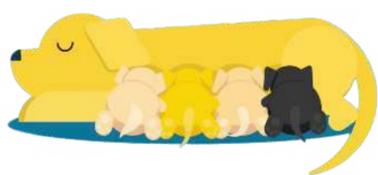


From Puppy To Service Dog

Every Canine Companions service dog and facility dog takes the same journey to change lives.



Specially bred Canine Companions puppies are born into the homes of loving volunteers

Newborn puppies get early exposure to different surfaces, sounds and lots of snuggles in the first eight weeks of life. Even at this age, they are learning critical social skills to be well mannered puppies.

Socialized and nurtured by volunteer puppy raisers for 16 months

Volunteers help puppies grow more confident by introducing them to new experiences the puppy may encounter as a working service dog. Puppy raisers also work on their skills with the puppy in real life situations.



Professional training starts at 16-18 months

Next, the dog comes to one of six Canine Companions training centers across the country and works with professional instructors for six months to learn 45 skills to help a person with a disability live more independently.

Matched with a person with a disability

During a two-week Team Training class, fully trained service and facility dogs are carefully matched with clients. Together, the dog and client get to know each other and learn to work as a team. Team Training ends with a graduation celebration!



Increasing independence for years to come

After graduation, clients head out into the world with their service dogs by their side. Canine Companions provides follow-up services for the life of the team. Every day, the bond grows and a life with greater independence is possible.

Learn more at
canine.org/servicedogmonth