



HELPING PAWS

## HELPING PAWS INC. Considering a Facility Dog

### **Requirements for Certification of a Facility Dog Team include:**

- The dog must complete the Helping Paws two year training curriculum that includes task skills, public training and exposure to various environments and situations.
- A trained, designated person is required to oversee and supervise the activities and care of the dog at all times.
- The dog must be able to perform basic obedience skills with voice commands and/or hand signals: walk on a loose leash on the right or left side, come, sit, sit stay, drop, drop stay, and retrieve dropped items. A Facility Dog should also have a basic understanding of additional service dog skills such as my lap, snuggle, rise, light, roll over, speak, etc.
- The dog must show appropriate public behavior at the highest level. Inappropriate behaviors such as barking, growling, jumping on or sniffing people are unacceptable and will cause withdrawal of the dog as a Facility Dog.
- The dog must be neutered or spayed and be current on all vaccinations. A medical evaluation will be completed to determine that the dog does not have any medical or physical problems that will affect its role as a Facility Dog.
- The designated handler and dog must complete and pass the ADI Public Access test. Facility Dogs will be retested at five years and ten years of age to renew their public access.
- Public access for a Facility Dog team is directed toward the team's work environment. Public access to maintain the dog's working ability in public situations or to participate in Helping Paws functions is allowed. The handler is expected to use diligence in their use of public access. Public access for the team is not transferable to anyone other than the handler of the dog.
- The dog will be issued a Helping Paws pack or other Helping Paws identification and will receive a Helping Paws ID card. The Helping Paws pack or Helping Paws identification is considered the property of Helping Paws and must be returned to Helping Paws if a Facility Dog is withdrawn from the Program.
- The handler must provide yearly follow up reports to Helping Paws regarding the dog's function as a Facility Dog.