



Service Dog Overview

Overview:

AZG dogs are trained in all of the essential house manners, as well as to pick up dropped items, carry packages, turn on the lights, open doors, get the phone, and steady their owners. They are trained to push or pull designated objects, pay for items in a store, and move to designated positions. Our dogs are trained to a “wide-range” of skills to help mobility, visually impaired, and hearing impaired individuals. We have trained dogs to take clothes from the dryer and put them in a basket or to go alert someone if you need assistance. We are happy to train a dog to learn cues specific to an individual’s need or to help the recipient teach their dog new tools.

All of our dogs are neutered/ spayed, vaccinated, x-rayed, micro-chipped, and heartworm-free. Individuals who are interested in acquiring a service dog are required to submit an application, a video of a “Day in Your Life,” along with a \$25, non-refundable application processing fee.

After the initial application is reviewed, a home visit will be scheduled. At that time, additional criteria will be discussed and potential recipients will be required to meet our recommendations to insure the dog will be safe, adequately cared for and help in the success of the team. For a detailed Application & boot camp process refer to the Service Dog FAQ Page located at:

<http://www.azgoldensllc.com/servicedogprogram.php>

After an individual is fully qualified for a dog, and a “match” is made, AZG expects that the client will attend a two week Boot Camp that will allow us to: teach him/her all of the cues that the dogs have learned; to work together as a team; to become comfortable working in public; to demonstrate how to teach the dog new behaviors; how to care for the dog; and to educate the client about the responsibilities associated with dog ownership and taking a dog out in public.

At the end of Boot Camp, teams will also be tested using the Assistance Dog International (ADI) test in addition to the Public Access Testing & our own testing standards. ADI is an international organization made up of member service dog programs and sets standards for the field. Their test focuses on the interaction and harmony between the person and their dog, the ability of the dog to work safely with his new handler, and the ability of the dog to behave appropriately in public. This test is a minimum requirement and individuals who cannot pass with a score of 80% or better will not receive a dog nor receive a refund. We expect our clients to pass this test and also demonstrate additional tasks their dog will perform to assist their independence.

Children will be required to have each parent attend part of the transfer camp. If the child uses an aide at school, the aide must also attend a portion of the camp and be willing to meet with AZG staff to learn the appropriate role of an aide helping a client with a service dog.



After completion of the boot camp and “graduation,” teams are phoned on their first night home, then again in at the end of the first week, then 2 weeks, one month, and six months. If locally based, these check-ins may be in person. If the client is located outside the Phoenix metropolitan area, we will do these check-ins via phone or video conferencing. At these intervals, AZG can trouble shoot any areas that need special attention.

If any of our clients need assistance. Clients are actively encouraged to return for help whenever the need arises.

During the first year after graduation, Arizona Goldens LLC retains full ownership of the dog. A one-year wait helps us know that the dogs are being cared for, treated properly, and are being used for their intended purpose. Nevertheless, if for any reason the handler is unable to care for the dog, the dog must be returned to AZG. Under no circumstances may the dog ever be given away to an unapproved home. If the handler should die the first three (3) years of placement with an AZG dog the dog must be returned to AZG. No refunds will be issues to client’s family or friends for the return of the dog.

AZG must also be notified if the dog or client (handler) should pass on even after the first 3 years of placement, the best interest of the dog must be served whether to remain with the family or be recalled to AZG. Also at the one-year mark, the team will be retested using the ADI test. If the team passes the first year evaluation period, they are invited to the next Graduation ceremony where they will receive ownership of their service dog. If the team does not pass their first year evaluation period, depending on the reason, we will wither extend the evaluation for another year or not certify the placement and the clients will have to return the serve dog with no refund of the service dog.

Criteria for Applicants:

An individual having a physical disability must meet the following criteria to apply for an AZG **Service Dog:**

1. The candidate must be able to meet the emotional, physical, and financial needs of the service dog, and offer a stable home environment. This includes exercise and grooming of the dog. Family members and/or aides are expected to assist where necessary.
2. The candidate must provide a safe, fenced enclosure adjacent to his or her home to exercise the dog off lead. Preference is for a home environment in which the service dog is the only dog living in the home, but exceptions will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.
3. The candidate must be mature enough and possess sufficient cognitive functioning to actively participate in the training and learning process required during the final training phase of the service dog. He must also be capable of managing the dog once they are living together.



4. The candidate must be actively pursuing the goal of independent living and seek to improve the quality of his life through the aid of a Service Dog.

5. The candidate's medical situation should enable the candidate to work with the dog for several years.

6. The candidate must be financially able to maintain his functional lifestyle during the boot camp (approximately two weeks). AZG cannot assist with attendant care, medications, transportation, etc., during the boot camp.

7. Candidates must be at least 10 years of age and have adequate support from parents and aides. Placements under the age of 10 are on a case by case basis. In the case of an autistic Service Dog, placements can be done for a child at 2 to 3 years of age.

8. AZG will give preference to clients living in the state of Arizona, followed by those outside of Arizona.

9. Applicants will be considered without regard to race, sex, religion, creed, sexual orientation, ethnic origin, or age.

Application Process:

For a detailed Application & boot camp process refer to the Service Dog FAQ Page located at:

<http://www.azgoldensllc.com/servicedogprogram.php>

Remember when submitting a completed application, also include:

- \$25 application Fee(check, or money order)
- Applicant Medical History Form(s) (include one form from each of your medical providers)
- Video tape "A Day in Your Life" video which shows what you normally do from the time you wake up to the time you go to bed. (Outside Phoenix Metro Area)

A \$500 non-refundable placement fee is due prior to the start of Boot Camp. The rest of the cost of the dog will be due before the start of Boot Camp unless other written arrangements have been made. For successful clients, after one year and passing of the re-certification test conditional ownership is granted at next formal graduation.

Candidates who are unable to complete/pass the Boot Camp, Working Final Test, subsequent Public Access Test, and or do not financial account paid in full with AZG prior to the start of Boot Camp paid will not be placed with a dog.



Estimate of Expenses:

Application Fee: \$25 (non-refundable)

Fundraising Bank Setup Fee: \$100 (Non-refundable and due at time of acceptance into the program if the client is to be fundraising, no fee applicable if the client is paying in full)

Boot Camp Fee: \$500 (non-refundable and due at time of acceptance into the program)

Fee for Service Dog (varies on skill level of dog you are applying for, and may be subject to change): \$10,000 - \$25,000 - Due prior to Boot Camp Starting

Outside the Phoenix Metropolitan Area: Additional travel expenses such as gas, rental car, flights, lodging, meals, etc. for AZG staff member to do a 2 to 3 week boot camp in client's own home/area may be assessed. There will be a 20% contingency factored into this expense to allocated possible fluctuations in travel & lodging costs at an unknown future timeframe for boot camp.

After Graduation:

- Dog food: approximately \$40/month; we are happy to recommend suitable, high quality foods, currently they are being feed Pro Plan large breed adult
 - Regular vet care: monthly heartworm, tick and flea preventatives and yearly immunizations. Your vet may offer a discount for a Service Dog. We estimate the cost of vet care to be approximately \$300/year for well dog maintenance.
 - Replacement equipment: including, but not limited to, packs, leashes, collars, and bowls. AZG can provide these items to you. Budget: \$30/year.
 - Toys and treats: approximately \$150/year.
- On average, it costs approximately \$800 per year to care for a Service Dog.