

Service Dog Overview

AZG service dogs are custom trained to our client's specific needs and disabilities. We train service dogs for Adults and children for the following major conditions:

- Autism
- Guide Dogs
- Hearing Dogs
- Mobility Assistance (variety of disabilities such as para or quadriplegics, Cerebral Palsy, MS, etc.)
- Medical Alert (variety of disabilities such as Allergies, Epilepsy, P.O.T.S, Syncope, Diabetes, etc.)
- Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)
- And many other unique disabilities

Our dogs are trained to a “wide-range” of skills to help with the challenges of our client's conditions and can be specifically trained to tasks that help alleviate those challenges. They are also thoroughly evaluated for temperament, work ethic, and health.

These dogs go through 4 major stages of training prior to placement with a client.

- **Stage 1 (Birth through 17 weeks)** – The pups start handling exercises and exposure to different stimuli from birth until their eyes and ears open at approximately 3 weeks of age. From 3 weeks of age until they have all their shots at 17 weeks, the pups are exposed to different stimuli and taught basic commands, tasks, and to lay the groundwork on their work ethic.
- **Stage 2 (18 weeks to 12-14 months)** – The pups will typically be with our Puppy Raisers during this timeframe learning how to work in a variety of environmental situations, house manners, and the basic 30 commands and tasks that most service dogs need to learn. They will attend weekly Puppy Raiser Training Meeting also. At approximately 12-14 months old, the pup will be recalled to AZG for initial evaluation of the commands, work ethic, personality, and to undergo the initial medical screening.
- **Stage 3 (12-14 months to 16 months)** – After passing all working and medical screenings, the pups will go into their advanced training track depending on the proficiencies they have shown in their evaluations. In this track, they will be working with our team of advanced trainers to expand on their base skills and learn some of the advanced tasks and commands necessary for many of our clients. Depending on the demand, schedule, and the puppy's proficiency, some pups will advance directly into Stage 4.
- **Stage 4 (16 months to 18-24 months)** – This is the final stage of training that prepares the pup to the commands and tasks specifically necessary for the client's needs. Depending on the disability of the client as well as the needs specified in the application, this process typically takes 2 to 4 months to accomplish.



All of our dogs are neutered/ spayed, vaccinated, micro-chipped, and heartworm-free prior to placement with a client.

Individuals who are interested in acquiring a service dog are required to submit an application and social style profile sheets along with a \$45, non-refundable application processing fee. Client with Autism or Asperger's will also need to have the Autism Questionnaire also filled out and submitted. This questionnaire helps us understand the unique needs of the individual as well as where they are on the Autism Spectrum.

After the initial application is reviewed, and the prescription/letter from your doctor is verified, a home visit will be scheduled. For our clients outside the Phoenix metropolitan area, it will be necessary for one of our staff to fly out to you to conduct the home interview. This will require reimbursement for the travel expenses such as the flight, and possibly one night stay in a hotel (typically for our east coast clients because of the flight times).

Typically the home interview will take approximately 2-4 hours to complete. During this time we will be evaluating whether or not it's a safe environment for the dog to be in; the specific needs and personality of the client; and go over the contracts and placement process.

Depending on a variety of factors, such as safety conditions around the home; level of appropriate and safe interaction of the client with the service dog; the specific needs of the client; or other issues, we may not be able to place a dog with the client. We cannot help every person with a disability.

After we determine that the individual meets the requirements to get a service dog, then we go onto the contract stage. At this time there will be a non-refundable deposit of \$500. The contracts typically lock-in the price and options for the service dog up to a year. This way you know how much exactly you will have to fundraise for your particular service dog. Because of the complexities of customized training of the service dog for our client's specific needs, the costs can also be variable. Please give us a call at (480) 205-6810 to get a better range of pricing for your particular situation.

Once all the funds are deposited and cleared into the bank, we will schedule a boot camp date that works for both our schedule and the client's schedule and situation. At this time, the specific dog will be selected for the client and the final training process will start.

Boot camp is the 9-10 day timeframe that one of our staff will travel to the client and will:

- transition the bond with the service dog to the client;
- educate the client or the parents of the client on how to effectively utilize the service dog
- How to adapt the service dogs' training to future changes of the client's needs and disability.



- And complete all the testing and protocols for placing and certifying the team.

During the course of Boot Camp, the client, and or their parents/legal guardians will be required to pass 3 separate tests to complete boot camp. Each test will need to be passed with a score of 90% or better. These tests include:

- Written Exam
- Practical Exam
- 2-5-15 Minute Drills

For more detailed information on these tests and the application process you can visit the following link:

<http://www.azgoldensllc.com/app-process.html>

Placements for children under 18 years of age will be required to have a parent (ideally both) or legal guardian to attend the boot camp, complete all required tests, and sign all applicable documents or contracts.

We have placed service dogs with clients as young as 18 months old and up to 80+ years of age. Any placements of service dogs with children under 6 years of age will have to be done on a case-by-case basis.

We do place the following breeds of Service Dogs.

- Golden Retrievers
- Labrador Retrievers
- Goldendoodles
- Poodles
- German Sheperds

For more detailed information on our programs please refer to our website at:

www.AzGoldensLLC.com