

Our Dog Programs

Guide Dogs

Guide dogs are trained to find and follow a clear path, maneuver around obstacles, and stop at curbs.

Service Dogs

Service dogs are trained to help people who have disabilities other than visual impairment. They may provide balance, retrieve dropped items, open doors, turn light switches on and off, aid an amputee getting in and out of a chair, or respond to seizures. PTSD service dogs are trained to perform tasks, as well as provide a calming effect and sense of security for those with post-traumatic stress.

Hearing Dogs

Hearing dogs are trained to respond to sounds such as alarm clocks, door knocks or doorbells, telephones, or smoke alarms, and then alert their hearing-impaired partners that these sounds have occurred.

Specialized Facility Dogs

These dogs are trained to provide physical and occupational therapy assistance at military or VA hospitals for wounded service members. They may also make visits to VA nursing homes or hospices. Combat Operational Stress Control dogs are deployed to offer emotional support for active duty servicemen and women dealing with combat stress and home front issues.

Prison Puppy Program

We work with select correctional institutions to place puppies with inmates who train the pups on the fundamentals of service dog work. Weekend puppy raisers socialize the dogs to experiences they can't get in prison. The prison puppy programs help us reduce training costs and increase capacity while allowing inmates to give back to society.

How You Can Help

All of our services are provided at no cost to the veteran. America's VetDogs relies on voluntary public contributions to fund its efforts. With your help, VetDogs can continue to answer the call for our disabled heroes.

Here's What You Can Do

- ★ Spread the word about our services.
- ★ Invite a VetDogs speaker to your next meeting or event.
- ★ Make a financial contribution and/or encourage your employer, club, or congregation to contribute or raise funds.
- ★ Make a donation in memory or honor of your fallen comrades, friends, or loved ones.
- ★ Sponsor a puppy, a class, or a team.
- ★ Include VetDogs in your bequests, legacies, and planned gifts.
- ★ Consider a charitable gift annuity. You make a gift to us, and in exchange, we guarantee you an income for the rest of your life. There are also tax advantages for you.

CFC# 81344



GUIDE DOG
FOUNDATION
EST. 1946

America's VetDogs was founded by the Guide Dog Foundation for the Blind. Since 1946, the Guide Dog Foundation has provided guide dogs and training free of charge to people who are blind or visually impaired, including blind veterans of all eras.

GuideDog.org • 1-800-548-4337



371 E. Jericho Turnpike, Smithtown, NY 11787

America's VetDogs® – The Veteran's K-9 Corps, Inc.® provides assistance dogs free of charge to those who have served our country honorably and who now seek the enhanced mobility and independence of an assistance dog.

Your contributions are tax deductible to the extent provided by law. For a copy of the annual reports of America's VetDogs or the Guide Dog Foundation, registration in your state, or other financial information, please visit VetDogs.org or call 1-866-838-3647.

VetDogs.org ★ 866-838-3647



**Committed
to Serve**



VetDogs.org ★ 1-866-VETDOGS



America's VetDogs® changes the lives of veterans and active duty service members, first responders, and others who have served our country honorably, by training assistance dogs to mitigate their disabilities. Our goal is to team each individual with the dog that's right for them, allowing them to live without boundaries.

Answering the Call

The Guide Dog Foundation created America's VetDogs in 2003 in response to the increased need for specially trained dogs that would assist disabled veterans, no matter when or where they served.

In 2015, we expanded our services to first responders and those who had otherwise honorably served our country or their communities.

Our Commitment

In 2013, VetDogs became the second assistance dog school in the United States to be accredited by both the International Guide Dog Federation and Assistance Dogs International. (The Guide Dog Foundation was the first.)



This international recognition demonstrates that we consistently follow the highest standards for the humane and ethical treatment of our dogs, maintain educational benchmarks for trainers and apprentices, and have procedures in place to address consumers' concerns.

We strive to use wisely the funds donors entrust to us. By keeping fundraising and administrative costs low, we can devote more money to our programs.

A New Partner

An assistance dog provides help with daily life activities and serves as a bridge between disabled veterans and those around them by shifting focus to the dog rather than the disability. These special dogs give people with disabilities the motivation to conquer the new challenges they face.

Building a Team

The process begins even before the dogs are born. We breed Labrador and Golden Retrievers, and first-generation Lab/Golden crosses to ensure they possess excellent health, intelligence, and temperament, as well as the drive to work and thrive on praise and rewards.

Our dogs must meet our health, safety, and training standards before they can become a guide, service, or hearing dog for a person with disabilities.



Most individuals train at our headquarters in Smithtown, New York. Classes are kept small for personalized attention and to allow students and their dogs time to bond and learn how to work together as a unit.

Instruction is also available at locations across the country, including certain military hospitals and VA medical centers. The team at VetDogs works with applicants to determine where they will be best served while trying to accommodate their preferences.

A person who graduates from VetDogs receives a lifetime of aftercare, including home visits and refresher training as required, from our team of field representatives.

We recommend our graduates who are veterans enroll with the Department of Veterans Affairs, because there are certain benefits available from the VA for the care of guide, service, and hearing dogs.

