



PUPPY PROGRAM

FOSTER OPPORTUNITIES



What Can Do Canines Provides

The items below are provided for all Puppy Program volunteers, regardless of their role within the program.

- Dog food, basic vet care, preventatives, and payment of pre-approved medical expenses
- Knowledgeable training staff supporting you
- Training equipment, such as leash, collar, and head collar
- 24-hour access to our emergency line
- Training opportunities, such as group outings, special-topic seminars, one-on-ones, and classes



What We Need From Our Fosters

Items with an asterisk apply only to volunteers fostering a dog longer than one month.

- Live near the Twin Cities or Eau Claire, WI, areas
- Provide food dish, water bowl, dog toys, and crate
- Bring dog to scheduled medical exams
- Submit written feedback on dog's behavior
- Take dog into public at least three times a week*
- Attend at least one Can Do Canines-led training class or outing per month*



Puppy Raiser

A Puppy Raiser takes a potential assistance dog into their home for 18-24 months, typically from the time the puppy leaves the weaning prison at 10 weeks old until they are ready to enter final training at 18-24 months of age.



Long-Term Foster

Long-Term Fosters care for a dog for three to 12 months at a time. These dogs are usually 1 year old or older and may have been trained in a prison program or with a Puppy Raiser before being placed with their Long-Term Foster.



Great Start Home

After our puppies leave the weaning prison around 10 weeks old, those bound for our prison programs will first need to go to a Great Start home for ten weeks to continue early socialization, basic obedience, potty training, and crate training.

Short-Term Foster

Short-Term Fosters care for a dog for one to three weeks at a time. These dogs are typically between 5 months and 2 years of age. These fosters are not required to attend trainings or outings led by Can Do Canines.

Puppy Sitter

Puppy Sitters care for a dog for one to seven days at a time. These dogs are typically between 5 months and 2 years of age. Sitters are not required to attend trainings or outings and do not take the puppy in public.

Prison Program Opportunities



Prison Program Opportunities

We operate puppy training programs in seven local prisons. Two carefully chosen inmates are assigned to each of our puppies. Together, the inmates provide round-the-clock care for the puppy, as well as basic obedience training and basic assistance dog training, such as opening doors and retrieving items. As important as this Prison Program experience is for the puppies, it is also crucial that they

learn good house manners and get exposed to as many social and public situations as possible during their first, formative year. Volunteers are asked to review and work on house manners, go on walks in a neighborhood, and socialize the puppy to things they would not encounter in prison. Examples are household noises, like dishwashers, vacuums, other pets, and children.



Prison Break Foster

Prison Break Fosters work with a dog for a two-week timeframe—either a Monday-to-Monday or a Friday-to-Friday. Pickup and drop-off is handled on prison grounds. Volunteers take the puppy in public to locations such as a grocery store, shopping mall, auto body shop, library, and more.



Weekend Prison Sitter

Weekend Prison Sitters commit to taking a dog twice a month. Pickup and drop-off is handled on prison grounds by the volunteer and a prison employee at the main entrance. Sitters must be available to pick up from the prison on Fridays and drop off on Mondays. Sitters do not take the dog in public.



Prison Locations

We partner with seven prisons, and four of them have outside fosters support the program. They include:

- Waseca, MN
- Rochester, MN
- Stanley, WI
- Black River Falls, WI

Frequently Asked Questions

I'm under 18 years old; can I volunteer?

Raising a foster puppy is a volunteer effort that can involve the whole family. However, the primary handler of the dog is required to be at least 16 years old. Volunteers ages 12-15 may be allowed to handle the dog with staff approval.

Is it okay to have other dogs in the home?

Yes, as long as the pet dogs are welcoming and accepting of other dogs in the home. We will bring one of our program dogs to your home visit to ensure that they get along. We do ask that no new, unapproved dogs enter your home while you have a foster dog in your care. This includes temporary foster dogs from rescue organizations.

Do I need to have a fenced yard?

Volunteers are not required to have a fenced yard. However, Can Do Canines dogs are not allowed off leash in unfenced areas. If you do not have a fenced yard, you can use a tie-out with supervision, or you can leash-walk the dog for exercise.

Can I go on vacation while fostering?

We have an extensive network of Short-Term Fosters and Puppy Sitters willing to take in your puppy when needed. You simply let us know ahead of time when you will need a foster, using our online portal system, and we will get to work finding a foster for the dog in your care.



Ready to apply?

Visit candocanines.org to apply, or contact our Volunteer Team. Call 763-331-3000 or email volunteer@candocanines.org.