



PUPPY PROGRAM

DOG HOSTING OPPORTUNITIES



What Can Do Canines provides

- 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 dog hosts

- Live near the Twin Cities, Rochester 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*

*This requirement only applies to Raisers.



Raisers

A Raiser takes a dog into their home for a time period of seven or more days. The puppies vary in age from 10 weeks to 2 years old. Raisers are required to attend training classes and take the dog in public.



Sitters

Sitters care for a dog for one to six days at a time. These dogs are typically between 8 weeks and 2 years of age. Sitters are not required to attend trainings or outings and do not take the dog 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 Raiser

Prison Break Raisers 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 dog hosts 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?

Hosting a dog 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 are hosting a dog. 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 hosting a dog?

We have an extensive network of Sitters willing to take in your puppy when needed. You simply let us know ahead of time when you will need a Sitter, using our online portal system, and we will get to work finding a home 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.