



***Dear Potential Puppy Raiser,***

***We appreciate your interest in the Volunteer Puppy Raising Program at Canine Companions for Independence (CCI). Our pups have a very special destiny--to assist a person with a disability in leading a more fulfilling and independent life.***

***For puppies to become Canine Companions, they must grow up in a loving environment and be exposed to a variety of stimulating experiences. That is why we need you!***

***Volunteer puppy raisers provide the foundation necessary for the development of a future assistance dog. By providing a controlled environment, attending obedience classes and carefully socializing a CCI puppy you are supporting our mission of providing exceptional dogs for people with disabilities.***

***The application process consists of three steps:***

- 1) Application: print and mail the completed application to the nearest CCI Regional Center.***
- 2) Phone interview: scheduled by CCI upon review of your application.***
- 3) Home interview/site visit: conducted by designated volunteer or staff person.***
- 4) Approval: if approved, you will be contacted about puppies available and may be asked to attend a puppy raiser orientation.***

***This careful application process allows us to select the most suitable homes and individuals who can best fulfill our program requirements. We will contact you at the end of the application process to inform you of your approval status. In the meantime we encourage you to prepare yourself for puppy raising by visiting CCI puppy classes (if available in your area), inquiring about foster sitting or other volunteer opportunities and events.***

***Thank you for your interest in helping Canine Companions for Independence create a meaningful change in the lives of individuals with disabilities.***

***Puppy Program Staff***

**Please visit our website to find your regional center (copy and past link into browser)**  
**<http://www.cci.org/site/c.cdKGIRNqEmG/b.4010985/k.C63D/Regions.htm>**



# CANINE COMPANIONS FOR INDEPENDENCE VOLUNTEER PUPPY RAISING PROGRAM

**VOLUNTEER POSITION:** Puppy Raiser  
**REPORTS TO:** Regional Puppy Program Manager  
**COMMITMENT:** Approximately 16-18 months

## OVERVIEW:

The volunteer puppy raising program is of extreme importance to the CCI program; it establishes the foundation of early experiences, which are critical in preparing the puppy for Advanced Training. This project involves four major areas of personal and financial responsibility:

- 1) Providing for the care and well-being of a CCI puppy:
  - a) A safe home environment
  - b) Food and other supplies required for puppy raising
  - c) Healthcare - preventative healthcare, spay or neuter at 6 months of age (when requested by the puppy program), and any other incidental healthcare requirements.
- 2) Enrollment and participation in CCI or CCI-approved obedience classes for the duration of the project. Volunteer puppy raisers are also required to submit a progress report each month for the duration of the project as well as report behavioral or medical problems to the regional puppy program manager.
- 3) Socialization, which involves systematically exposing the puppy to a variety of environmental and situational experiences. Volunteer puppy raisers agree to follow CCI approved socialization guidelines and handling techniques when working with the CCI puppy.
- 4) Transportation, which may include shipping costs (for puppies flying directly to the puppy raisers) as well as the costs associated with returning the puppy to one of CCI's regional training centers for Advanced Training.

## REQUIREMENTS:

Willingness and ability to commit to the outlined responsibilities; Volunteer puppy raisers must have the ability to safely house and care for a puppy from eight weeks of age until the required turn-in date (approximately 16-18 months). Volunteer puppy raisers must be willing and able to devote time each day to oversee the complete care of the puppy: feeding, grooming, socialization, and exercise as recommended by CCI Puppy Program staff.

## TRAINING PROVIDED:

Orientation to the CCI Puppy Program, CCI puppy obedience classes (limited availability)

## REFERENCE MATERIALS:

Puppy Raiser Orientation Folder and Puppy Raiser Manual

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I have read and understand the above guidelines required for participation in the Volunteer Puppy Raising Program for Canine Companions for Independence.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Volunteer Name (Print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Volunteer Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Volunteer Name (Print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Volunteer Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



# VOLUNTEER PUPPY RAISER APPLICATION

## APPLICANT

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone Number: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  Work  Cell  Home

Evening Phone Number: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  Work  Cell  Home

Alternate Phone Number: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  Work  Cell  Home

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Gender:  Male  Female Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Nearest Relative/Friend: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Co-Applicant (required for persons under 18 yrs of age)**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone Number: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  Work  Cell  Home

Evening Phone Number: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  Work  Cell  Home

Alternate Phone Number: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  Work  Cell  Home

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Gender:  Male  Female Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Nearest Relative/Friend: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

## **OTHER MEMBERS OF HOUSEHOLD**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

## **HOUSEHOLD**

How long at present address? \_\_\_\_\_ Do you own or rent?  Rent  Own

If renting have you received permission to have a puppy in the house?  Yes  No

Landlord's name and phone:

Do you have an enclosed yard:  Yes  No

If not are you willing to adapt your yard to make it safe for a puppy?  Yes  No

Do you understand CCI puppies cannot be off leash unless in an enclosed area?  Yes  No

Please briefly describe your home, yard and living environment:

Will you be able to take the CCI pup to your workplace?  Yes  No  
If yes, how often?

If yes, please describe your work environment:

If no, what are your plans for the puppy during the day?

If you raise a CCI puppy, where do you plan to have it sleep at night?

Please describe a typical day for you:

**How much time per day are you able to spend socializing and working with the CCI puppy?**  
**Explain:**

**PETS**

**Please list all dogs currently in your home and/or *that you have had in the past*:**

Breed	Age	Sex	Spayed/Neutered? (If no, why not?)	What became of this dog?

**Please list behavior exhibited by one or more of the dogs in your home:**  Alert barking at door knock  
 Protects food or toys (from people or dogs)  Aggression (people or dogs)  Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Describe:

Have you received any formal obedience training with your dog(s)?  Yes  No

Please list any other pets living in your home:

Can you provide proof of vaccination for the animals listed above?  Yes  No

**VETERINARY CARE**

**Please list the name and address of your veterinarian or the veterinarian you have selected for the CCI puppy.**

**What are your primary reasons for wanting to raise a CCI puppy?**

How did you hear about the CCI puppy raising program?  Booth/Event  Friend  Puppy raiser  Other  
Please list:

Do you belong to a service club organization?  Yes  No  
If so, what is the name of your club?

Have you ever applied to raise a CCI puppy before?  Yes  No  
If yes, when?  
Have you previously raised a CCI puppy?  Yes  No  
If yes, list name(s):  
Have you raised any non-CCI puppies?  Yes  No  
If yes, how many?

Do you have any experience working with people with disabilities?  Yes  No  
If yes, please describe:

Please describe your feelings about returning the puppy to CCI for advanced training and then placement with a person with a disability:

Is there anything else you would like us to know about you?

Other Comments:

Are you willing to raise any puppy, regardless of breed, color, or sex?  Yes  No  
Are you willing and able to pay for all veterinary care of the CCI puppy?  Yes  No  
Are you willing and able to pay for feeding and other basic care of the CCI puppy?  Yes  No  
Are you willing and able to pay for all transportation expenses for the CCI puppy to and from the training center?  Yes  No  
Do you have the physical ability to lift, correct, or restrain a 75 pound dog?  Yes  No

If your application is accepted, when will you be ready to raise a puppy? \_\_\_\_\_

***To the best of my knowledge, the above information is true and accurate. I agree to provide additional information upon request.***

Applicant name (print): \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Co-applicant name (print): \_\_\_\_\_

Parent signature if under 18 years of age: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please read and sign the Agreement to Terms of Service (page four below) before returning this application.**

## AGREEMENT TO TERMS OF SERVICE

**EVERY PERSONS APPLYING TO RAISE A CCI PUPPY MUST COMPLETE THIS AGREEMENT AND RETURN WITH THE PUPPY RAISER APPLICATION.**

1. I understand that the dog I am raising belongs to CCI.
2. I am required to follow the training and socializing guidelines presented to me by CCI.
3. I am required to attend regular obedience classes either at CCI or privately or both if deemed necessary.
4. I am required to submit monthly progress reports and to promptly report behavioral, medical or training issues to CCI.
5. I am responsible for and assume financial responsibility for the puppy's general and veterinary care.
6. I agree to follow CCI's recommended vaccine schedule, treatment protocols and preventative care guidelines.
7. The puppy is to remain intact unless otherwise determined by CCI staff.
8. I will notify CCI when the female is in heat and agree to board the intact female at a CCI approved facility for the duration of every heat cycle. I will be reimbursed for the actual daily net kennel charge.
9. I will send all veterinary records incurred during the time that I am raising the CCI puppy including proof of vaccinations, rabies and sterilization (if applicable) before the puppy returns for advanced training.
10. I may be required to have hip and elbow x-rays taken at my expense.
11. The puppy must eat a quality dog food recommended and approved by CCI. The puppy must not be allowed to become overweight.
12. The puppy must be well versed in being handled for grooming, teeth brushing, and nail trimming.
13. I am required to teach the puppy to be well mannered, crate trained and friendly to people and animals.
14. I will not allow the puppy to be off leash unless in an enclosed safe area. Long lines and flexi-leashes may be used.
15. The dog may be placed with a graduate in any of the 50 United States or in any country that CCI serves. Additionally, I may be asked to return the puppy to any one of CCI regional centers for advanced training.
16. I understand that any decision about the dog's placement is to be made by CCI staff.
17. The dog may be placed at any time as determined by CCI staff and, as a result, might not participate in a graduation ceremony.
18. If the dog is not placed as a CCI graduate, the dog may be offered to another assistance dog school or alternative agency (such as search & rescue/drug detection) solely at the discretion of the regional program staff prior to its release back to the puppy raiser.
19. If I choose not to adopt the dog that I raise back as my personal pet, I may not take him/her back and/or place or transfer it to any other person or agency. All decisions regarding final placement will be made by CCI staff.
20. If this agreement is not maintained, the dog will be placed with someone else and/or I will not be eligible to puppy raise for CCI.
21. CCI puppy program staff is available to assist me with any concerns or problems I encounter during my puppy raising experience.

***I have read and understand the above requirements to be a CCI Puppy Raiser. My signature signifies acceptance of all the terms stated above.***

Applicant signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Co-Applicant signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent signature if under 18 years of age: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send completed application to the nearest CCI regional center or call 1-800-572-2275 for assistance.