

The Canine Companions for Independence®
Puppy & Foster Sitter Application



**It All Starts With a Puppy
...And You.**



Introduction

Thank you for your interest in supporting Canine Companions for Independence® through puppy sitting or fostering. Enclosed you will find the form and instructions for the application process.

About our Puppies

Our puppies 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 assistance dogs, they must grow up in a loving environment and be exposed to a variety of stimulating experiences. Thus, our puppy raisers dedicate a year and a half to working with a puppy in their home and preparing it for professional training. (If you would like to become a full-time, volunteer puppy raiser for Canine Companions, please contact the Puppy Program Department for an application or visit www.cci.org/puppyraiser.)

Why We Need Puppy and Foster Sitters

New puppies arrive at each region throughout the year and are immediately transferred to their puppy raisers. Occasionally, a puppy will arrive that is not able to be picked up immediately by their puppy raiser, or is not yet assigned to a puppy raiser. In these cases, a **foster sitter** provide a short-term, safe and loving home for this young puppy (typically 8 weeks old). **Puppy sitters** provide safe, loving care for puppies who already have a puppy raiser while that volunteer is out of town or is busy with activities not suitable for the puppy's age. Sporadically, assistance dogs also need a sitter if their partner is away and unable to have their assistance dog with them.

Your Role

Puppy sitting and fostering opportunities may last overnight, over a weekend or up to several weeks. We are happy to work around your availability. All supplies needed will be supplied by Canine Companions or the puppy raiser. We ask that you follow Canine Companions guidelines in caring for the puppy, and provide lots of love and attention!

The application process:

1. Complete and return the enclosed application along with several photos of your home and yard, showing all areas a puppy would have access to. Return by email to scrpuppy@cci.org, fax to 214-764-8400 or mail to PO Box 630919, Irving, TX 75063.
2. Attend a puppy sitting and fostering orientation.
3. You will be contacted by the puppy program staff and invited to observe puppy class. We recommend you attend a minimum of two puppy classes if you have not already raised a Canine Companions puppy.

If approved, you will be added to the list of approved puppy and foster sitters. If you foster through a Canine Companion volunteer chapter, you may be contacted by a volunteer puppy sitting coordinator who manages a list of local puppy sitters. Otherwise, a designated staff person will notify you when there is a need. The staff person or volunteer puppy sitter coordinator will contact everyone on their list when a sitting or fostering need arises to see who is available.

If you have any questions please contact the Puppy Program Manager **Becca Bell** at 214-259-4650 or bbell@cci.org.

Thank you very much for your interest. Puppy and foster sitters are a valuable part of our Canine Companions mission.



“It’s amazing how safe and secure he makes me feel. He is my constant partner and serves as my ears.”

-Jean with Hearing Dog Chanler

Puppy and Foster Sitter Guidelines

The following guidelines are provided in order to make your time with the Canine Companions dog easier and more enjoyable, as well as to ensure that they maintain (or learn) appropriate behavior while in your care. These guidelines apply to all Canine Companions dogs and puppies, regardless of age or training status. If you have any questions or concerns while the puppy is in your care, please call Canine Companions immediately.

1. All Canine Companions puppies must remain on leash unless in a secure, fenced in area. Safety is our biggest priority.
2. Puppies under 6 months of age should be kept on a leash inside the house (under supervision) at all times except in the crate; this allows you to control the puppy’s behavior and prevent problems and bad habits.
3. All dogs need close supervision whenever they are not in the crate. They should be crated whenever you are too busy to supervise closely, when you leave them home alone and at night. Puppies must sleep in the crate.
4. Puppies are not allowed on any furniture.
5. Please follow feeding guidelines closely. Remember that Canine Companions puppies are not allowed any human food except peanut butter in a Kong toy or bone. They should not be given leftovers or any other people food.
6. Puppies should only have approved toys (see list).
7. Canine Companions puppies and dogs should never eat off the floor. They are only allowed food that is in a bowl or in your hand.
8. Canine Companions puppies and dogs should not be allowed to pull on the leash. If the puppy pulls towards something, stop moving and wait for the puppy to slacken the leash. Then you can move forward again. (You will probably have to repeat this many times). For older puppies, or if you will be keeping a young puppy longer than one week, please use the Gentle Leader head-collar whenever you walk the puppy.
9. Please teach the puppy how to greet people appropriately, by sitting to be petted. If the puppy jumps, instruct the person to ignore the puppy and take a step back until the puppy is sitting again.
10. Please also teach the puppy to be gentle with its teeth when playing with you or taking food or treats from your hand. The puppy should not be allowed to place its teeth on people’s hands, clothes, etc. Licking should also be discouraged, as many of our graduates dislike it.
11. Please feel free to socialize the puppy in your neighborhood, by visiting friends and family or having people visit the puppy in your home. Puppies should be kept away from any dog that you do not know personally or that is not vaccinated.
12. Have fun! Take pictures! And thank you for taking good care of our dogs.

Foster Sitter Application

Are you applying to be a puppy sitter? Yes No

Are you applying to be a foster sitter? Yes No

Applicant's Name: _____

Address: _____

County: _____

City: _____

State: _____

Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____

Work Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Email: _____

Applicant's age: _____

Employer: _____

Occupation: _____

How did you hear about the Canine Companions foster sitting program? _____

What are your reasons for wanting to foster a Canine Companions dog or puppy? _____

Please list any other members of your household, their ages, and relationship to you: _____

Have you previously fostered a Canine Companions puppy? Yes No

Have you ever applied to raise or foster a Canine Companions puppy? Yes No

Have you ever raised a non-Canine Companions puppy? Yes No

If yes, describe: _____

Dogs in Your Home

List the breed, age and sex of all dogs currently living with you: _____

Please list behavior exhibited by one or more of the dogs in your home:

___Aggression (people or dogs)

___Protects food or toys (from people or dogs)

___Alert barking at door knock or ring Other: _____

Do your dog(s) get along with young puppies? Yes No

Are your dogs spayed or neutered? Yes No

Are your dogs up to date on vaccinations? Yes No

If yes, please attach copy of spay/neuter certificate and proof of current vaccinations for all dogs living in your home.

Please list any other pets living in your home: _____

Your Home Environment

Do you: ___Own ___Rent ___Apartment ___House

If renting, do you have permission from your landlord to house a dog or puppy? Yes No

Do you have a fenced yard? Yes No If yes, how high is the fence?: _____

Do you understand that the puppy must be on leash at all times unless in a safely fenced area? Yes No

Canine Companions dogs and puppies should NOT be left home alone for more than about 4 hours at one time. Are you or another member of your household home during the daytime? Yes No

If yes, who is home and for how many hours? _____

If no, how will you care for a dog/puppy during the day: _____

If Fostering a Puppy

Are you willing to take the puppy to Canine Companions puppy classes? Yes No

Are you willing to bring the puppy to a veterinary clinic for care? Yes No

Are you willing to take the puppy to work with you (if applicable)? Yes No

Canine Companions requires that puppies sleep in a crate in the bedroom (Canine Companions or the puppy raiser will provide a crate). Are you able and willing to comply with this guideline? Yes No

Your Availability

I am able and willing to foster (check all that apply):

___Puppies under 6 months ___Puppies over 6 months ___Either

___On weekends only ___Any day of the week ___Long term (more than a week)

Please list 2 personal references, not living with you, that we could contact:

Name: _____ Relationship: _____ Phone: _____

Name: _____ Relationship: _____ Phone: _____

Please list the name, address and phone number of your veterinarian:

Dr. _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

To the best of my knowledge, the above information is true and accurate. If I am selected as a Canine Companions foster sitter, I agree to adhere to all requirements of Canine Companions for Independence and to be responsible for the care, feeding and socialization of the Canine Companions dog during the period that the dog is in my home. I will follow all veterinary care schedules as requested by Canine Companions staff. I agree to be available and to return the dog to Canine Companions upon request. In the instance of a medical issue while the puppy is in the care of a Canine Companions puppy sitter, the puppy raiser is responsible for the cost unless the medical issue is a result of neglect or negligence by the puppy sitter (such as lack of puppy proofing or supervision). In the instance of a dispute over an issue of fault or the cost of a medical fee, Canine Companions will arbitrate the dispute.

Applicant's signature: _____ Date: _____

Please remember to attach copies of spay/neuter certificate and proof of vaccinations.