



OccuPaws

Guide Dog Association



Career Change Form

Return via mail, email or fax to:

The OccuPaws Guide Dog Association
Nicole Meadowcroft
6610 Fieldwood Road
Madison, WI 53718

E-Mail: nicole@occupaws.org • Fax: 608-834-1700 • Phone: 608-444-9555

Occasionally OccuPaws has Labrador retrievers, golden retrievers, poodles or German Shepherds that are available for adoptions as pets. These dogs, typically between the ages of ten weeks and two and a half years old, are physically or temperamentally unsuitable for guide work. Although these dogs do not qualify for a guide dog career, they often make wonderful pets. The following are some of the reasons dogs disqualify from our program: sensitive to noise/traffic, lack of confidence, uncomfortable with new surroundings, aggressive with other animals, orthopedic problems, allergies and eye irregularities.

Before we offer a dog to the public for placement, the dog may be offered to an assistance dog program, police/fire rescue dog program or the puppy raiser. The wait for a change of career dog can be relatively long. Although these dogs have been raised to be future guide dogs, the training at the time of disqualification will vary. **The majority of dogs disqualified from our program have not received formal guide dog training.**

All disqualified dogs, male and female, are spayed or neutered. We request a tax-deductible donation to defray expenses when you receive the dog. The **minimum** donation for a disqualified dog is \$800.00. In the event a dog becomes available with special needs, we may offer that dog without a donation request, taking into consideration the dog's temperament, medical history and extent of training. OccuPaws reserves the right to set donation requirements for all our change of career dogs.

We will hold applications for one year. All applications become void one year from the day of receipt. If you wish to remain on our disqualified dog waiting list after the one-year period, please send us a new completed application.



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Name(s): _____

Address: _____
Number City State Zip

Phone: _____
Home Work Mobile

Email: _____

Breed Preference (if any) _____

Color Preference (if any) _____

Sex Preference (if any) : M/F

Age Preference (if any) : _____

Are there any children and/or pets in the family? If yes, list ages/descriptions _____

Signature(s): _____

Date: _____

Please list any additional comments on the back of this application. Thank you!

Potential guide dogs are raised in a family environment, spending most of their time as house dogs. Problems may arise such as digging, excessive barking or chewing when left alone in a backyard for long periods of time. Please consider this factor when applying to adopt a disqualified dog from our program.