

# PAWS

Guide Dog puppy raising club

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## Welcome to Pups at Work for Sight!

We are a puppy raising club for Guide Dogs for the Blind (GDB). We are a non-profit organization.

Puppy raisers are volunteers given the privilege of training and socializing puppies with the intent for them to grow to be happy, competent, and well behaved guide dogs.

### Getting Started

If you are interested in raising a guide dog puppy with the PAWS club, you will be required to follow our application process:

- 1) Attend 3 Guide Dog puppy raising events (meetings, outings, graduation)
- 2) Receive a Puppy Raising Manual & application and schedule a home/fence check
- 3) Successfully complete home/fence check and application
- 4) Puppy sit for a minimum of 5 days (does not need to be consecutive)
- 5) Demonstrate an acceptable level of dog handling skills
- 6) Receive your own puppy (when one is available)

### Attendance

PAWS typically has 4 club events per month. **All** club events are considered mandatory. Club events include both meetings and outings. When club dogs graduate, graduation is considered mandatory, and counts as an outing. Prospective raisers may count graduation attendance towards their 3 required events. However, current raisers may not count graduation as a “make-up” for absences. Your club

leaders recognize that sometimes you may have other events that conflict with club events. In such instances, it is required that you contact Roxie prior to your absence. GDB requires 80% attendance. An inability to meet this expectation is grounds for having your puppy transferred.

## **Supplies**

New puppies (off the puppy truck) arrive with the following items:

- small bag of **Purina Pro Plan Large Breed Puppy** food
- 2 collars
- 2 leashes (one nylon, one leather Guide Dog style)
- Tie-down
- Advantage
- Heartguard
- Ear flush
- Toothbrush & toothpaste

You will need to provide your puppy with the following (by the time of his/her arrival):

- more **Purina Pro Plan Large Breed Puppy** food
- stainless steel dishes
- GDB approved toys
- dog bed (optional)
- grooming supplies
- clean-up supplies
- crate

PAWS will provide you with:

- Puppy Raising Manual

- puppy jacket
- FIR treat bag

All GDB and club issued items are the property of GDB and/or PAWS. The following items must be returned to Roxie upon recall of each dog:

- puppy jacket
- head collar/training collar
- FIR treat bag
- left over Heartguard
- left over Advantage

The following items must be returned to Roxie upon the completion of your puppy raising experience:

- Puppy Raising Manual

*Damaged/lost GDB/club issued items:* It is your responsibility to keep all GDB/club items in good condition. Some items may be replaced at your cost.

- Puppy jackets
  - *New jackets (replacements or larger sizes) will only be issued with the return of your current jacket unable to socialize your pup.*
- FIR bags
  - Damaged FIR bags are your responsibility to replace. You are required to replace it with the same brand, style, and color. The replacement bag becomes the property of PAWS.
- Leashes
  - Damaged leather leashes are your responsibility to replace. You may purchase one from another club for approximately \$20. You are required to use a Guide Dog style leash with your puppy

**Puppy sitter forms** are to be completed each time your puppy is sat, and is to be turned in with your monthly for the month during which your puppy was sat.

When your puppy is 6 and 12 months old, you will receive an email from GDB asking you to complete your puppy's **CBARQ**. This is done online, and may replace your monthly for that month.

A completed **project record** is required on the first of the month, the month *prior* to your dog's recall. You must complete the document thoroughly, including writing additional information that would be helpful for GDB to know regarding your pup's health and/or behavior.

### **Puppy Sitting/Trading**

Once you have your puppy, you will be required to trade on occasion, and will likely need a sitter on occasion (such as when you have an event/vacation to attend that is not appropriate for your puppy).

Puppy sitting/trading is valuable for our pups, as it provides them with different experiences, and serves as an evaluation process to determine how your puppy behaves with different people and in different environments. GDB requires that all puppies are traded/puppy sat at least 6 times per year (average of every 2 months). If your own puppy sitting needs do not satisfy this requirement, you will be required to puppy trade with other raisers needing to meet the requirement.

When your puppy goes to a sitter, you must send the following with your puppy:

- 1) Completed puppy sitter form (may be done electronically)
- 2) Toys (may not need to send if trading with another current raiser)
- 3) Food & dish
- 4) Training aids (puppy jacket, leash, tie-down, treat bag, etc.)

## **Communicating With Your Leaders**

Your Puppy Raising Manual serves as your “instructions” for raising your puppy. Most of the questions that you have can be answered by reading the manual. Raisers should always refer to their manual first, before contacting their leaders (with the exception of true emergencies).

If the answer for your question is *not* in the manual, then you should contact your leaders. For non-urgent questions, it is preferable that you email your leaders. Both leaders have work and home email addresses that you are welcome to use.

For urgent matters (not answered by your manual), you should phone one of your leaders, and may need to call both until you get a hold of one.

You *must* contact your leader for all health related issues. Pups may not go to the vet without approval from your leader. If your puppy has an emergency health issue (hit by a car, temperature of 103 or more, etc.), then you should take your dog directly to the vet and call your leaders on the way to inform them.

## **Fundraising**

PAWS depends on fundraising to cover our financial costs. Club funds are used to donate money towards harnesses for our graduates and towards the breeding department for our breeders. Club funds are also used to purchase supplies for the club, i.e. training aids. On occasion, club funds are used to pay for outings. Funds are also used for door prizes, parties, etc for raisers.

I have received, read, and agree to the terms outlined in the PAWS orientation letter. I understand that these are PAWS and Guide Dogs for the Blind policies, that it is my responsibility to follow these policies, along with those in the Puppy Raising Manual, and that failure to meet such expectations may result in my puppy being transferred.

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