



Out-of-State Client Information And Application Packet



Out-of-State Clients

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Introduction

TOP DOG is pleased to be able to offer certification for people with disabilities and their dogs from outside the Tucson area. You must understand, however, that it is a process. TOP DOG certification is not something you buy; it’s something you earn.

If you are just beginning the training process with your dog, we recommend that you take the Service Dogs Online Training Course. This will give you the proper foundation for training, and will also allow us to have email contact with you throughout the training process. We can help you work out any problems and prepare you for the certification test. When you have completed the two courses, if you wish to try for TOP DOG certification, we will work with you on the arrangements. You would need to pay to bring two evaluators to your location, or come to Tucson to take the test.

If you feel that you and your dog are already working together as a team and you are ready for certification, you would need to come to Tucson for 5-7 days. During the first three or four days, we would meet with you daily to offer education and training and to observe you and your dog in several different locations. We would then administer the certification test.

In either case, you must understand that there is a non-refundable fee involved, and no guarantee is made of passing the test. You will have a copy of the test prior to taking it, and will understand each exercise required. Every effort is made to thoroughly prepare you to pass the test and achieve the status of a certified TOP DOG team.





Introduction Continued

What we're looking for in certification is a team—person and dog working together with understanding. The dog must be under good control both at home and out in public, and must perform several exercises that are of use to his owner. Some of the things that would keep a team from certifying include a dog showing any kind of aggression towards people or other dogs; a dog that was too shy or fearful in public; and rough handling by the owner. A certified team is representing TOP DOG every time they are in public, and we must be certain the image is a positive one.

WE WILL NOT CERTIFY A DOG THAT IS NOT SPAYED OR NEUTERED. WE MAKE ABSOLUTELY NO EXCEPTIONS!

Training a dog for service work does require a true commitment. It cannot be accomplished quickly, and we stress the need to go slow and do it right. Most people find the whole process fun and very rewarding. It also builds a tremendous bond between you and your dog.

If you would like to continue with this process, please fill out the applications below. Upon receipt of the applications, we will work with you to make necessary arrangements.



**TOP DOG, Inc.
350 S Williams Blvd Suite 150
Tucson, AZ 85711
(520) 323-6677**



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What is **TOP DOG**?

TOP DOG is a Tucson non-profit organization, which teaches people who have a physical disability to train their own dogs to help them. Unlike many service dog groups, which raise and train service dogs professionally, TOP DOG challenges the person with the disability to do all of the training himself.

TOP DOG uses positive, gentle training methods to achieve its goals. The end product is a team—a person and dog working together happily, and understanding each other completely. TOP DOG teaches the students in the program to appreciate how a dog thinks. We don't just teach them how to get their dogs to sit; we also teach canine behavior, body language, bonding, breed characteristics, pack relationships—all of the different factors that make up a dog. We try to dispel myths about the dog—that he is spiteful or that "he did that on purpose." We limit our beginner class to five owner/dog teams so that we can give each team the individual attention they need all the way through the program. Each team is assigned a "personal training assistant," a volunteer helper who meets weekly with the student all the way through the program to offer advice and encouragement.

There is a three-month session for beginners, during which they learn the basics of obedience and some of the rudiments of canine behavior. Teams then move into the intermediate three-month session, in which they perfect the basic obedience, with distractions, begin to take their dogs out in public, under supervision, and start to learn the service exercises, such as "take it." Teams must then pass the Assistance Dogs International (ADI) Public Access Test in order to move up to the advanced class. All future three-month sessions (for up to a total of 2 years) are spent working toward certification as a TOP DOG team. To achieve this goal, owner and dog must display competence as a team; the dog must show good behavior at home and in public; and the dog must perform several service exercises that help his owner in everyday life.

There are many different skills that the dogs can be taught. Because we teach the disabled person to teach his own dog, he will teach his dog only the skills he needs and wants. The dogs are taught to pick up anything, from a penny to a crutch. Some will carry things from one person to another. Some will turn lights on and off. Others will open and close doors. Some will help their owners get dressed and un-dressed. Others will pull or push wheelchairs. Some will help their owners get up out of a chair, or climb up stairs, curbs or ramps.





What is TOP DOG? [continued]

Whatever need a particular student has, we put our heads together to come up with a way for the dog to help. We try not to be limited by the idea that a dog has never done that; we just think of a way to make it possible. Some things, of course, dogs cannot do. They don't do windows, but they can help with some household chores. They don't do homework, but they can be quiet company as a student studies. They don't answer the telephone, but they can bring it to their owner whenever they receive a call, or need to make one. For someone with a disability, it can be a wonderfully liberating experience to have his dog do something for him instead of having to rely on others for help. And it is even more enriching when he has trained the dog himself. That's the purpose of TOP DOG.

Stewart Nordensson and Lydia Kelley, two of TOP DOG's founders, have written a two-book training manual entitled **TEAMWORK I** and **TEAMWORK II**. The books impart the TOP DOG philosophy and training methods. **TEAMWORK I** teaches basic obedience and canine behavior. **TEAMWORK II** concentrates on service training by using our step-by-step approach utilizing positive training techniques based on TOP DOG's philosophy.

TEAMWORK I and **TEAMWORK II** are also available in videos, both DVD and VHS format, as an accompaniment to the **TEAMWORK** series. Our [Service Dogs Online](#) training courses were implemented to allow people with disabilities the opportunity to benefit from our TOP DOG classes at home.

TOP DOG does offer out-of-state certification, for people who have trained their own dogs and are looking for a place to certify them. But you must understand: TOP DOG certification is not something you buy; it's something you earn. More information on certification is available on our website.

TOP DOG has been very successful in promoting public understanding of people with disabilities and their service dogs. We have performed hundreds of educational demonstrations for thousands of children and adults in schools, hospitals, and civic organizations throughout Tucson.

TOP DOG is always looking for qualified students and good volunteer help. Because we keep our class size small, classes fill up quickly. Sessions begin in January, May and September. So if you have a disability and the desire to train a dog to help, you are invited to get in touch with us right away.



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Client Application Continued

Why do you need a service dog? _____

What does your dog do for you? _____

List Service Exercises your dog will perform for certification; explain why each is helpful to you:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Any specific object(s) you do NOT want your dog to pick up (e.g. eyeglasses) _____

- For the “in public” part of the test we must have a restaurant available
- Written proof of the up-to-date registration of your dog will be required before the certification test.
- In case of failure, after 3 months one retry of the test is permitted, unless the dog has shown aggression.



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INFORMATION ON DOG

Dog's Name _____

Breed _____ Size _____

Date of birth or age _____ Sex _____

Date Neutered/Spayed (TOP DOG will NOT accept a dog that has not been spayed/neutered) _____

Description (color, etc.) _____

Latest date for the following vaccinations:

DHLPP _____ Rabies _____ Corona _____ Other _____

Health History _____

When your dog misbehaves, what does it do? _____

How much of the training did you do yourself? _____

How long did it take you to train your dog? _____

How do you play with your dog? _____

Veterinarian's Name _____

Mailing Address _____



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CLIENT HEALTH FORM

PLEASE ASK YOUR PHYSICIAN TO COMPLETE & RETURN TO:

**TOP DOG, Inc.
350 S Williams Blvd Suite 150
Tucson, AZ 85711**

TOP DOG is a non-profit organization that teaches people with physical disabilities, not including sight or hearing losses, to train their own service dogs.

Our clients and certified teams include, but are not limited to, people with Juvenile Rheumatoid Arthritis, Cerebral Palsy, Muscular Dystrophy, Spina Bifida, Multiple Sclerosis, Arthritis, spinal cord injuries, and other bone, joint, and muscle deficiencies. *We are not qualified to train dogs for clients who have sight or hearing impairments or whose primary disability is emotional or stress-related (e.g., post-traumatic stress syndrome, panic attacks, etc.), or is of a nature that seriously affects memory, retention, concentration, or understanding.*

We would appreciate your answers to these questions regarding _____
_____, who has applied to become a TOP DOG client.

1. The client has the permanent physical disability or conditions described below:

2. Is this a progressive condition? Yes _____ No _____

3. May we contact you in the future if we are concerned about the degree of progression? _____

4. The client is taking the following medications (if there are any pertinent side-effects, please list:

5. Are there any symptoms or special considerations we should be aware of in this patient's case?

Physician's Name: _____

Physician's Signature: _____

Medical Facility's Phone: _____

Medical Facility's Address: _____

You may make additional comments on the reverse side of this form.

We cannot finish processing the client's application without this completed Physician's Health Form

TRAINER'S FORM (If Applicable)

PLEASE ASK YOUR TRAINER TO COMPLETE & RETURN TO:

TOP DOG, Inc.
350 S Williams Blvd Suite 150
Tucson, AZ 85711

Trainer's Name: _____

Address: _____

Client's Name: _____ Dog's Name: _____

How long have you been training dogs? _____

Service dogs? _____

What is your other dog training experience?

____ Group Instructor _____ Private Lessons _____ Guard Dogs
____ Trained own dog _____ Obedience
____ Other (Please explain)

How long have you been working with this team? _____

What types of reinforcement were used to train this dog? _____

Have you treated this dog for any chronic problems? _____ Yes _____ No

What type of correction do you consider effective? _____

What methods have you found helpful in your training? _____

What do you do when the dog misbehaves? _____

How much of the training did the client do? _____



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VETERINARIAN'S FORM

PLEASE ASK YOUR VETERINARIAN TO COMPLETE & RETURN TO:

TOP DOG, Inc.
350 S Williams Blvd Suite 150
Tucson, AZ 85711

Veterinarian's Name: _____

Address: _____

Client's Name: _____

Dog's Name: _____ Age: _____

Date of spay/neuter: _____

How long have you been seeing this dog? _____

How often has this dog been in? _____

Dog's general health: _____

Have you treated this dog for any chronic problems? _____ Yes _____ No

If Yes, would you please specify? _____

Are vaccinations current? _____ Date of last DHLPP _____ Corona _____

Rabies _____

Have the dog's hips been x-rayed? _____ Yes _____ No

Date/Results _____

Have you examined this dog's eyes for Pannus: _____ PRA: _____ Cataracts: _____

Date/Results _____

Have you had any problems treating this dog?

_____ Health _____ Allergies _____ Behavioral

If Yes, would you please specify? _____
