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<http://www.guidedogsofthedesert.org>

APPLICATION TO APPLY FOR A CHANGE OF CAREER DOG

Occasionally Guide Dogs of the Desert has Labrador retrievers, golden retrievers, standard poodles and crosses of the above breeds, that are available for adoption 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 guide work, 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 \$500. 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, Guide Dogs of the Desert reserves the right to set donation requirements for all of our change of career dogs.

NOTE: 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.

NAME _____ DATE _____
 Address, City, State, Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____
 Cell Phone _____ Email _____

BREED PREFERENCE (if any) _____
 MALE/FEMALE _____ AGE PREFERENCE (IF ANY) _____
 Are there children in the family? _____ If yes, explain _____
 Pets? _____ If yes, explain _____

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

Potential guide dogs are raised in a family environment spending all of their time as house dogs. We do not recommend that our dogs be left unattended in the yard for long periods of time. The dog could become bored and be destructive; in addition, leaving a dog unattended outside poses a health risk to the dog. If you are unable to keep the dog that you have adopted, GDD requests that we be told, so we can rehome the dog. Updated: June 2008

