



**Good Human Dog Training**  
**goodhumandogtraining.com**  
**336-283-7871**

Hi!

I'm so happy you're watching our video about starting the process of training your service dog. I hope that this video will provide you with the information you need to determine if owner training is right for you and for your dog if you have a dog.

I'm Jennifer. My pronouns are she/her.  
I am the owner and lead trainer at Good Human Dog Training.

I'm going to share a lot of information with you please feel free to pause the video if you need to. The slides and the transcript will be available for download below.

Let's get started!

### **WHAT'S A SERVICE DOG?**

Service animals are defined as dogs individually trained to do work or perform tasks for people with disabilities. These tasks must be directly related to the disability to qualify service dogs are not the same as emotional support animals or therapy dogs and ESA's qualifications are based on their owner's need for comfort alone. Therapy dogs or dogs who go with their owners to volunteer in facilities such as hospitals.

ESA's and therapy dogs are not trained for specific tasks or permitted in public places.

### **WHAT'S A DISABILITY?**

A physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities. I just want to highlight the major life activities can be learning, reading, concentrating, thinking, communicating, and working.

Often the handler appears to not have a disability. Some invisible disabilities are listed here.

### **TYPES OF SERVICE DOGS**

I'm just going to go through this quickly you can pause. If you'd like more information or you can download the slides.

- Guide dogs - We do not train guide dogs at Good Human; there's just a tremendous amount of training that goes into this, and it's really not appropriate for owner training.
- Hearing alert
- Medical alert - Diabetic alert dogs fall into this category.
- Mobility support
- Seizure response
- Psychiatric - Most of the dogs that we train are psychiatric service dogs.

## **HOW MUCH TRAINING IS REQUIRED?**

It takes a lot of training! The high level of training required to be a service dog may take more than two years to achieve. We start with socialization, we move on to foundations, then advanced skills, then we train the service tasks, and we put it all together for public access.

## **STANDARDS FOR TRAINING A SERVICE DOG**

They must be 100% house-trained, of course. They should be quiet and unobtrusive, polite and well-trained, and under their handler's control; they should not show any signs of aggression or fear of people, places, or things. They should be able to support their handler in public settings.

## **ARE SERVICE DOGS CERTIFIED?**

Although no formal certification or registration requirements exist, the service dog must be adequately trained to specific guidelines provided by the ADA.

Many organizations offer their own certification to recognize that the dog meets their standards. Falsely presenting a pet as a service animal in many states, including North Carolina, is illegal

## **WHAT MAKES A SERVICE DOG LEGAL?**

The ADA requires that the dog is under their handler's control and reliably trained to support their handler.

The community guidelines are: unobtrusive, clean, obedient, and mannerly

And then, it is recommended that the public access test is performed by a professional dog trainer.

## **PUBLIC ACCESS SETS SERVICE DOGS APART**

Service dogs have the honor of being welcomed into areas unavailable to other animals.

Access to these locations allows service dogs to carry out the essential duties of supporting their handlers.

Again, therapy dogs and ESAs do not have the same rights as service dogs.

## **IS A SERVICE DOG RIGHT FOR ME?**

How much support do you need? Your disability may make some aspects of exercising, training, and caring for your dog more difficult.

How much support do you have? Could you enlist your friends and family to help exercise, train, and care for the dog when you need it?

## **SERVICE DOGS GET A LOT OF ATTENTION**

This means you will get a lot of attention. When partnered with the service dog, people will engage you in long-winded conversations and ask tons of questions, many of which will be very intrusive and personal. Of course, we'll coach you on advocating for yourself when you're out in the world.

## **NO SUCH THING AS A FREE PUPPY**

Maintaining care for your dog is not cheap. A service dog is likely not the right solution for you if you aren't confident you can meet your dog's daily care needs, supplies, grooming, training, gear, vet care, and emergency medical needs for their entire life.

## **CAN I TRAIN MY OWN DOG TO ASSIST ME?**

Absolutely, you can! Benefits of training your own dog:

You can train the dog you already love.

You can start training your dog right away.

You will create a very strong bond with your dog.  
You can acquire the skills to train future service dogs if needed.  
The cost of training can be spread out over time.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SUCCESS**

Number one, you need to have an appropriate dog.  
You need to have some time to practice training.  
Ability to care for and train a dog  
Support and resources  
You really need to love dog training commitment to the program  
Finances for training  
And guidance from a professional

## **STEPS IN TRAINING YOUR SERVICE DOG**

We touched on this.  
Acquire an appropriate dog or puppy.  
Socialize and begin training those foundation skills.  
Train excellent manners at home and in class.  
Then we train excellent manners in public.  
Train service tasks at home  
Train service tasks in public  
And then you're a service dog team

## **THE RIGHT DOG FOR THE JOB**

It truly takes a special dog to be a service dog. The dog needs to have the right temperament, attitude, confidence, sociability, motivation, stability, and health.

## **UNFORTUNATELY, MOST DOGS WON'T COMPLETE THE PROGRAM**

These numbers are approximate, but what I typically see is about half the dogs are not eligible. Reasons they may not be eligible for this job are:  
They are worried in new situations  
Reactive to other dogs  
Maybe they are worried by people  
They may have a high prey drive, or they may have a health issue.  
Some dogs or some teams leave the program because there may be concerns with the dog. um The handler may have the inability to train, or they may have changing needs and just decide that a service dog is not for them. um  
About 30 percent complete the program and go on to be a service dog team.

## **WHAT WILL YOU DO IF THE DOG YOU ALREADY LOVE IS INAPPROPRIATE FOR SERVICE WORK?**

Will you keep them as a pet and train a new dog?  
Re-home them and start over with a new dog?  
Use them as an in-home-only assistance dog?  
Or apply for a program that is not owner training?

## **WORKING WITH GOOD HUMAN**

Hey, that's me! I strive to make training effective and enjoyable for dogs and their people, optimizing positive reinforcement techniques across species. Always, always. These are my professional qualifications.

## **BENEFITS OF WORKING WITH GOOD HUMAN DOG TRAINING**

You can learn at your own pace.

You can connect and learn with other teams.

We have check-ins to help you stay motivated.

Support, flexibility, and empathy

Experienced, professional guidance

Honesty and integrity throughout

Our comprehensive owner coaching program includes in-person lessons and classes. Those are for local clients local to Winston-Salem. Day training is also for local clients. Meetups and field trips, if you can come to our central location. We offer virtual lessons to everyone, and we have an online program for each phase of training.

## **COMMITMENT TO OWNER TRAINING**

Our core program is four phases; each expected to take three to six months with some overlap. The time to complete the program goals depends on the amount of time the team is practicing. It typically takes one to two years to complete the program, depending on the level of training.

um Money. The total cost depends on a number of variables such as prior training and age of the dog, your training goals, service tasks required, and your support needs. You can expect to allocate approximately \$5,000 for training a public access service dog with moderate task training.

## **NEXT STEPS**

Read our FAQ and website resources.

Take some time to consider your lifestyle, needs, etc.

Discuss with your providers, your support group, your family, and friends.

And if you have any questions, get in touch.

If you're ready to move forward, that's wonderful! You can complete our online application, and we'll be in touch soon.

Here are some ways you can connect with us, and we're looking forward to hearing from you soon!

Thanks!