



Canine Partners for Life

RELEASED DOG APPLICATION

SECTION 1

Applicant's Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Thank you for your interest in a released dog from Canine Partners for Life (CPL). The dogs in our program may be released for a variety of reasons. Most commonly, we determine during the course of the dog's training that he or she is simply not appropriate to be trained with the skills necessary for service dog work, but will still make an excellent pet. Unfortunately for those wanting to adopt our released dogs, only a few are released each year. Since the wait for a released dog may therefore be fairly long, we do encourage applicants to seek additional sources of adoption besides CPL if you are hoping to add a new dog to your family in the near future.

Once your application is received, it will be reviewed for completeness, your veterinary reference will be checked (if applicable), and we will contact you if we have any questions. If you meet the eligibility guidelines* and qualifications for adoption, your name will be placed on our waiting list for released dogs. (*See Eligibility Policies at end of this document.)

In most cases, when a released dog becomes available, the dog's puppy raiser is given first option to adopt the dog if they so desire. If the puppy raiser chooses not to adopt, we then contact the next applicant on the waiting list that we feel would be the best potential match for the dog. While length of time on the list is a key factor, it is not the only factor taken into consideration. (For example, a cat-focused dog would not be placed in a home with cats; an insecure dog would not be placed in a busy household, etc.) The applicant and family members are then invited to come to the CPL to meet and interact with the dog. Any other resident dogs in the family must also be brought along to ensure compatibility. Following the meeting, a mutual decision will be made between the applicant and CPL as to whether the adoption will be finalized.

We ask for a \$1,000 donation to adopt a released dog from our program. All dogs are microchipped, spayed or neutered, up to date on their vaccinations, and have received basic obedience training. The extent of training, as well as any health or behavior challenges, will be reviewed with the applicant at the time of placement.

Canine Partners for Life is an accredited member of Assistance Dogs International. CPL respects the privacy of its applicants and recipients and all information is kept confidential although files may be periodically reviewed by accreditation agencies to ensure CPL's commitment to the highest standards of excellence in the assistance dog industry.

Canine Partners for Life conducts its business and acceptance process in a manner that will not discriminate against anyone on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, national origin, age, the presence of mental or physical disability, sexual preference, life expectancy, or whether the individual is a disabled veteran or veteran of any era. It is Canine Partners for Life's policy to treat everyone who comes in contact with the organization with respect and dignity at all times. At no time will Canine Partners for Life require applicants, students, or graduates to participate in fundraising or marketing activities.

I have read, understand, and agree to SECTION 1 of this application (please initial): _____

SECTION 2**Applicant's Name:** _____ **Date:** _____

Co-Applicant's Name (if applicable): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email: _____

Do you have any previous involvement with Canine Partners for Life? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, in what way(s)? _____

If no, who referred you to CPL? _____

A. HOUSEHOLD STRUCTURE

1. Please list all members of the household in which the adopted dog will be living (including yourself):

Name	Age	Identify if employed, unemployed, student, retired, or other	If employed, please list occupation

2. If you do not have young children living in your home, will your adopted dog still come into regular contact with young children (e.g., grandchildren, neighbors, etc.)? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please explain: _____

3. Do all household members who will be providing routine care for the dog have the physical ability to handle a large, strong dog (typically over fifty pounds)? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If no, please explain: _____

SECTION 2 CONTINUED**Applicant's Name:** _____ **Date:** _____4. Are any household members regularly at home on weekdays? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please describe: _____

If no, how many hours on average will the adopted dog be alone (i.e., without human companionship) during the day? _____

B. CURRENT PETS IN HOME1. Do you currently have any other pets in the home? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please list below:

Name	Species (dog, cat, bird, rabbit, etc.)	If dog, what breed?	Age	Spayed/Neutered?

2. Are any of your current pets being treated for serious health conditions? ☐ Yes ☐ NoIf yes, please describe: _____
_____**C. HOME ENVIRONMENT**

1. What type of home do you reside in?

☐ Single family ☐ Townhouse/condo ☐ Mobile home ☐ Duplex ☐ Other

If other, please describe: _____

2. Neighborhood style: ☐ Rural ☐ Suburban ☐ Small town ☐ City3. Do you own or rent your home? ☐ Own ☐ Rent****If you rent, please include a copy of the lease, pet policy, or a letter from your landlord giving you permission to own a dog over fifty pounds.**

SECTION 2 CONTINUED**Applicant's Name:** _____ **Date:** _____

4. Will the adopted dog be restricted from any interior areas of your home? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please describe: _____

5. Will your adopted dog regularly be taken to any other residences, such as a weekend home or vacation home? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please describe: _____

6. Do you have a fully or partially fenced in yard? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please describe the type of fence (i.e., chain link, privacy, post and rail, underground/invisible, etc.), height, and approximate size of the fenced in area:

7. If you do not have a fenced area, how do you anticipate that you will provide adequate exercise for your adopted dog?

8. Are you able and willing to ensure that your adopted dog is always on a leash when not in a fully fenced in area? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If no, please explain: _____

D. PREVIOUS DOG EXPERIENCE/QUALIFICATIONS

1. Please tell us how much past experience you have with caring for dogs:

- ☐ No previous experience – this will be my/our first adopted dog
- ☐ Some previous experience – have dog(s) in the home now or have had 1-3 dogs previously
- ☐ Significant previous experience – have had many dogs in my life previously

Comments or additional information about past experience: _____

SECTION 2 CONTINUED

Applicant's Name: _____ **Date:** _____

2. Are you familiar with crate training? ☐ Yes ☐ No

3. Are you willing to use a crate with your adopted dog if necessary? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If no, please explain: _____

4. Have you ever taken an obedience training class with your current or previous dogs?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A (no current or previous dogs)

If yes, please describe when, where, and type of training: _____

5. Have you ever participated in any dog-related activities such as agility, obedience trials, flyball, conformation shows, etc.? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please describe: _____

6. Have you ever given away or surrendered a dog to a shelter or rescue? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please describe: _____

7. Have you ever used the services of a professional trainer or behavior consultant to help with behavior issues with a previous dog? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please describe:

8. Are you willing and able to use the services of a professional trainer or behavior consultant if needed in the future with a CPL adopted dog? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If no, please explain: _____

Applicant's Name: _____ **Date:** _____

☐ Yes ☐ No

☐ Yes ☐ No

[illegible]

SECTION 2 CONTINUED**Applicant's Name:** _____ **Date:** _____**E. PREFERENCES AND AVAILABILITY**

(Please keep in mind that the more you restrict your preferences, the longer it may take for you to be matched with a released dog.)

1. Age preference - most, but not all, of the released dogs from our program are under two years old. Please check the age range(s) that you will consider for adoption (check one or more):

- ☐ Under 2 years
- ☐ 2-5 years
- ☐ 6 years and over

2. Gender preference – please check the appropriate preference

- ☐ Only male
- ☐ Only female
- ☐ Does not matter

3. Breed preference – most, but not all, of the dogs released from CPL are Labrador Retrievers. We may also have Labradoodles, Golden Retrievers, or Standard Poodles among our released dogs. Do you have any preference for breed of dog adopted? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please explain: _____

4. Health/medical challenges – it is not uncommon for CPL dogs to be released due to some kind of health or medical problem. Examples include allergies, gastrointestinal conditions, orthopedic problems, cardiac irregularities, etc. We will disclose to you everything we know about the dog's current health needs, including previous treatment, recommended ongoing treatment, medications, and activity limitations if any.

Please indicate your level of willingness to adopt a dog with special health or medical needs:

- ☐ Will consider a dog with minor health/medical challenges
- ☐ Will consider a dog with any type of health/medical challenges
- ☐ Will not consider a dog with health/medical challenges
- ☐ Not sure, depends on situation

Comments or additional information about health/medical challenges: _____

SECTION 2 CONTINUED

Applicant's Name: _____ **Date:** _____

5. Behavioral challenges – some of the dogs available from CPL have been released due to some kind of behavioral challenge, such as excessive barking, discomfort around other dogs or children, fearfulness in new situations, high prey drive towards small animals, etc.

Please indicate your level of willingness to adopt a dog with behavioral challenges:

- ☐ Will consider a dog with minor behavioral challenges
- ☐ Will consider a dog with any type of behavioral challenges
- ☐ Will not consider a dog with behavioral challenges
- ☐ Not sure, depends on situation

Comments or additional information about behavioral challenges: _____

6. What is your anticipated time frame for adopting a released dog?

- ☐ Available immediately
- ☐ Available as of _____
- ☐ Other, please explain: _____

7. Are you applying to adopt a specific dog from CPL if released? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, specify dog: _____

SECTION 2 CONTINUED**Applicant's Name:** _____ **Date:** _____**F. PERSONAL REFERENCE LETTER**

Your application must include a letter of reference from someone outside your immediate family. The letter should identify in what capacity the person knows you, for how long they have known you, and why they feel you would provide a safe, loving, quality home for a CPL released dog. Please make sure the person's address, phone number, and email address is included in the letter so we can contact them if more information is needed.

G. VETERINARY REFERENCE

As a routine part of the application review process, we will contact your veterinarian (if applicable) to ask about health care provided to your current or previous pets. Please list the name and contact information for a veterinarian who can attest to this information. If you have not had pets before, this reference is not necessary (check appropriate box below).

Veterinarian's Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Check appropriate box:

- ☐ This is the veterinarian treating my current pets
- ☐ I have no current pets but this is the veterinarian who has treated pets of mine in the past
- ☐ I have no current or past pets so I do not have a veterinarian of record

NOTE: It can be helpful to ask if your veterinarian will provide a written reference to accompany your application. If your veterinarian submits a letter of reference, it must be on the clinic letterhead and include details regarding the number and type of pets treated (past and present), specifics regarding routine health care (exams, vaccinations, heartworm testing/preventative, etc.), medical care administered, and why the veterinarian feels you would provide a safe, loving, quality home for an adopted dog.

SECTION 3**Applicant's Name:** _____ **Date:** _____

**Canine Partners for Life
Complaint Policy for Non-employees**

Any non-employee (volunteer/applicant/student/recipient/donor) who has a grievance concerning CPL practices has the right to file a complaint according to procedures outlined in this policy. Grievances may include, but are not limited to, a perception of violation of rights; quality of service; discrimination based on category of race, age, disability, etc.; or other matter.

Complainants are treated with dignity and respect at all times, regardless of the nature of their complaint. They will not be discriminated against, harassed, intimidated, or suffer any reprisal as a result of filing a complaint or participating in an investigation of a complaint. If an individual feels that he or she is being subjected to any of the above, that person has the right to appeal directly to the Executive Director.

Affected parties should attempt to resolve the problem informally as soon as possible. Volunteers should discuss issues with the Volunteer Coordinator, donors with the Director of Development, and applicants/students/recipients with their trainer. If a solution cannot be reached, the person may present a formal complaint, in writing, to the Executive Director. Following the same protocol, complaints about the Executive Director should first be brought to her attention and then to the Board President if necessary. The President may be reached through CPL's mailing address. Formal complaints and responses to them will be documented and kept on file.

All complaints are handled in a timely manner. As a goal, CPL attempts to resolve a complaint within 20 working days from the time of its initiation. If an extension of the time limit becomes necessary, all involved parties will be notified.

I have read, understand, and agree to SECTION 3 of this application.

Applicant's Signature: _____

Co-Applicant's Signature (if applicable): _____

Parent/Guardian's Signature if Applicant is under 18 years: _____

Return this completed application along with the letter of reference and veterinarian information to Canine Partners for Life, P. O. Box 170, Cochranville, PA 19330. Please allow 2-3 weeks for processing. If you have further questions regarding the Canine Partners for Life released dog program, please call (610) 869-4902 x 211.

Canine Partners for Life - Released Dog Applicant Eligibility Policy

Canine Partners for Life conducts its acceptance process in a manner that will not discriminate against any applicant because of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, the presence of physical or mental disability, or whether the individual is a disabled veteran or veteran of any era.

Although Canine Partners for Life has learned that there is no “recipe” to predict a successful released dog adoption, we have found that the following general characteristics and abilities are essential to the process and thus will be considered in the acceptance or denial of an applicant.

To be considered for adoption of a CPL released dog, an individual or household should have the following abilities and characteristics:

- Physical ability to control, manage, and care for the canine and the ability to create an effective support system.
- An understanding that the released dog may have significant behavioral and/or physical challenges.
- Willingness to commit the time and resources necessary to provide the dog with a safe and humane environment.
- Financial ability to provide for the canine’s daily care, as well as routine and emergency veterinary needs. Many released dogs have pre-existing medical conditions that may require ongoing care at the adopter’s expense.
- A realistic understanding of the canine’s emotional and physical needs.
- The capacity to relate to a canine, both physically and emotionally.
- An adequate space or a provision for the canine’s exercise.
- A safe and accessible location for the canine’s daily walks, elimination, and play time.
- A clean, organized, and safe home environment.

Additional released dog application policies:

- Released dog applicants living in rental housing must provide documentation that a pet dog will be permitted to live in the home.
- Some released dogs will not be placed in a household where other animals or small children are present.
- Released dog applicants who currently own, or have previously owned, dogs or cats must provide a favorable veterinary reference.
- Community puppy raisers will often be given priority to adopt released dogs that they have raised. Other stakeholders with a vested interest in a particular dog, such as prison staff or CPL volunteers, may be given priority to adopt a particular dog. In no case is the approval of an application automatic. Breeders may ask for a dog to be returned to them upon release from the program as a stipulation of donation.
- No released dog may be adopted by anyone intending to utilize the dog as an assistance dog with public access. Representing a released dog as an assistance dog in any capacity would be grounds for the return of the dog to CPL.
- Some released dogs may be suitable for alternate careers, such as detection work, search and rescue, or pet therapy.
- If for any reason this placement is not satisfactory, the canine is to be returned to Canine Partners for Life at the new owner’s expense.