



What Happens to Guide Dog Puppies?

International Donation

As partners in supporting the international guide dog movement, volunteers raise individual puppies to participate in this collective effort. Each dog we donate builds a relationship with a school and a community, leads us to future opportunities to expand our knowledge and experience, increases the prospects for greater canine genetic diversity, and further spreads the gift of mobility throughout the world. As these requests are approved, the breeding staff sets aside litters of puppies to be reviewed as young adults for potential future donation. Guide Dogs has placed a select number of dogs with member organizations of the International Federation of Guide Dog Schools and Assistance Dogs International each year.

Examples of recent destinations for Guide Dog puppies include the Netherlands, Canada, Japan, Korea, New Zealand and additional areas in the United States.

The current steps of participation in the worldwide sharing program:

1. Select litters of puppies are identified. Puppies may be micro chipped and vaccination routines may be altered. Male and female puppies participating in this program will not be altered.

The regulations for canine import and export vary from country to country. Therefore, the timing of medical review and testing is largely dependent upon the particular country of import. Examples of medical procedures that may be necessary to make the final selection of puppies are:

- International Standard microchip insertion
- Penn Hip radiographs
- Additional rabies vaccines
- Rabies antibody titer testing
- Leptosporosis vaccines

Until further notified to do otherwise, volunteers follow the routine protocol for all Guide Dog puppies.

2. Puppy raisers for the selected litters will receive notification of their puppies' possible international placement at the time of placement. However, the specific schools these puppies will be sent to will not be known until the time the pup is recalled to a Guide Dogs campus. Raisers will have the option of accepting or declining a designated puppy.
3. Raisers of international pups may be contacted to arrange required medical and behavioral puppy evaluations as needed during the raising period. These requests may be made while the puppy is in your home or the evaluations may be done at the Guide Dog campus after recall.
4. Puppy Raisers will provide routine puppy assessment and communication with the Leader and Community Field Representative. The Breeding Department will ask to get selected puppies to the Oregon campus or to designated local veterinarians for a Penn Hip radiograph and preliminary elbow

screening. Prior to sending pups, an additional evaluation may be needed. The Breeding Department will inform Michele of test results. Based on the results of the radiographs, puppies may need to have additional medical screening. Pups will return to the raiser until a decision is made by the breeding department – international donation, continue in the raiser home, or career change. Participating raisers will provide transportation to and from GDB campuses, or a local designated veterinarian, for evaluations and recall.

5. At any time, if a puppy is not progressing adequately (due to either medical or behavioral reasons) a decision may be made to discontinue considering that puppy for international donation. When such a decision is made, the local Community Field Representative will determine if the dog will continue in the raiser home with the goal of returning to a GDB campus for harness training or to be career changed.
6. When specific puppies or dogs are selected for international donation, travel arrangements will commence. At that point, more specific information about what school the dog will be going to will be given to Michele who will communicate to the leaders. Each school will have its own practices regarding a raiser's contact with the future breeder custodian or guide dog user, recognition at a graduation ceremony, or career change. Guide Dogs will provide all available information of this kind at that time.

Participating puppy raisers and the puppies will be acknowledged at an upcoming GDB graduation ceremony

Career Change Prior to Training

If the pup has done well in the home – gets along with family pets and respects all family members.

Options:

Raiser may be asked to release pup for community/special placement. See below.

Raiser may keep the pup.

Raiser may place the pup with a close family member or friend who knows the pup. All adopters must follow the leash/fence rule.

Raiser releases the pup for GDB to place.

Dog in Training

“Pulled for Breeding” - Raiser is notified. Dog is sent to San Rafael. It takes about 2 months to complete the breed evaluation. If the dog does not pass the medical tests but is still a candidate for becoming a guide, the dog is returned to Boring.

If the dog passes the medical exams and becomes a breeder, the family is notified and invited to graduation at San Rafael to see the dog and meet the breeder keepers.

K-9 Buddy – Dogs that are not candidates for guides, are evaluated for appropriateness for the K-9 Buddy Program. If a dog is matched to a K-9 Buddy applicant, the raiser is informed and invited to graduation. Although a dog may be suitable for the K-9 Buddy program, the match must occur quickly. If there is not a match, the dog is career changed.

Career change – reasons given and a summary of training experience

Raiser may be asked to release pup for community/special placement. See below

Raiser may keep the pup.

Raiser may place the pup with a close family member or friend who knows the pup. All adopters must follow the leash/fence rule.

Or the raiser releases the pup for GDB to place. Dogs are placed as pets. Sometimes a dog is placed in an approved service dog program.

In the cases of pups with multiple raiser homes, the pup is offered to the most recent raiser to keep. If they decline, option goes to the other raisers. If they decline, the most recent raiser may place the dog.

Community/Special Placement –

Placement of a dog career changed from training or from the puppy raiser home to be with an adult or child with special needs.

GDB staff and volunteers work with these applicants.

The applicants are invited to participate in local puppy raising clubs.

At the time of career change from training, some career change dogs are recommended for community/special placement.

When notified that the dog is career changed, the raiser is notified that the dog is a candidate for community/special placement and **asked** if s/he is willing to release the dog for community/special placement.

The raiser may say:

“No,”

“Yes,” or

“Yes” with the condition that if the dog is not matched/placed or matched and returned to GDB, the raiser will be given the option to adopt the dog.

Graduates from in-residence program – Raisers are invited to graduation.

Graduates from in-home program – Raisers are invited to visit the dog prior to the dog leaving campus.

Raisers are invited to graduation for recognition. Graduate and guide are not present. Staff encourages contact with the graduate by phone.

Graduates from wheelchair program –The training program is longer. Raisers are notified if the dog is in the wheelchair-training program and receive periodic updates. These students graduates may do part of the training on campus and part at home.