



Paws for Freedom, Inc.

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Hello,

Paws for Freedom, Inc. (PFF) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit located in Tonganoxie, Kansas. PFF trains service dogs to assist people using wheelchairs. Additionally, Paws for Freedom service dogs are placed in a wide variety of situations, to assist people with various physical disabilities. Examples of tasks the dogs can perform include turning lights on and off, retrieving items and opening and closing doors.

Also, during the training of the dogs, if it is discovered that some dogs in the program lack the skills or personalities needed for wheelchair-user assistance; these dogs then graduate as companion or facility therapy dogs to assist people in other ways. Applications for dogs to serve in these settings is also welcomed.

PFF has service dogs who are ready for graduation and is actively looking for applicants and potential service dog recipients. Current plans include a June 2016 two-week training camp in Overland Park, Kansas for graduating service dogs and their recipients. The application packet includes: the application form, primary care physician form, five personality profiles for friends and family to fill out on the applicant and two letters of reference. The forms are available on our website, noted above. There is a \$25 application fee. If, after processing a completed application packet, PFF believes it has a potential match with a dog, an in-home interview will be arranged.

The application deadline for the June 2016 training camp is March 1, 2016.

There is a charge for PFF dogs. Service dogs (public access) are \$6000. Companion dogs learn the same tasks but work in the home (no public access). Facility therapy dogs learn many of the same tasks but serve in organizations or facilities. Companion and facility therapy dogs are \$5000. Fees are paid in two to three installments. These fees cover only a portion of the training costs for the dogs, with PFF funding the rest of the costs.

While the cost of a service dog may seem prohibitive and dissuade some from applying, we have found applicants can often find great financial support through their community. Examples include local community groups, such as Rotary or Lions Clubs, churches, scout troops, schools, and workplace connections. Some applicants set up donation pages for themselves online at websites like www.GoFundMe.com or similar sites and then spread the word about their needs and goals. We encourage applicants to fill-out the application packet and pursue funding as needed.

Please take a look at our Facebook page, also.

Thank you,

Lea Ann Shearer
Executive Director