



# RAISE A PUPPY FOR FSD

**AT FREEDOM SERVICE DOGS (FSD), WE TRANSFORM LIVES BY PARTNERING PEOPLE WITH CUSTOM-TRAINED ASSISTANCE DOGS.**

Volunteer puppy raisers at FSD play a vital role in helping raise and train young service dog hopefuls to assist the clients with disabilities that we serve. As our puppy program grows and more pups are born at FSD each year, our need for volunteers to help guide these pups along their journey to becoming service dogs is growing as well.

## WHAT DOES A PUPPY RAISER DO?

- ✓ Host a puppy in your home for 10-12 months, starting as young as 8 weeks old
- ✓ Provide love, basic obedience training, and socialization opportunities
- ✓ Participate in monthly check-ins and socialization outings
- ✓ Return the puppy to FSD at 14 months old for advanced training and potential placement with one of our clients

## AS AN FSD PUPPY RAISER, YOU'LL RECEIVE:

- ✓ Special training and a comprehensive curriculum to follow
- ✓ Ongoing support from FSD staff and fellow puppy raisers
- ✓ All dog food, veterinary care, and supplies free of charge

Learn  
more!



Freedom Service Dogs of America (FSD) is a Denver-based nonprofit that transforms lives by partnering people with custom-trained assistance dogs. Our clients include veterans and active-duty military with PTSD, children and teens with autism, and people with physical disabilities. Since 1987, FSD has graduated hundreds of client-dog teams at no cost to our clients.



FOR INFORMATION, VISIT

**FREEDOMSERVICEDOGS.ORG**

*or contact*

**303-922-6231**

**INFO@FREEDOMSERVICEDOGS.ORG**



*"Dogs complete me,  
and to be able to give that  
completeness to someone else  
makes my heart sing!"*

**- CHARLENE,  
FSD puppy raiser**



**SEE REVERSE FOR THE 10  
MOST COMMON MYTHS  
ABOUT PUPPY RAISING!**





# THINK YOU CAN'T RAISE A PUPPY? THINK AGAIN!

**HERE ARE THE MOST COMMON REASONS WHY PEOPLE  
THINK THEY CAN'T VOLUNTEER TO RAISE AN FSD PUPPY—  
AND WHY WE SAY, "YES, YOU CAN!"**

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## **IT WOULD BE TOO HARD TO RETURN THE PUPPY TO FSD.**

We're not gonna lie: It can be hard. But many of our puppy raisers come back for a new pup over and over again. Why? Because it's fun. It's a great way to meet new people and make new friends. And it's incredibly rewarding.

## **I DON'T LIVE IN COLORADO.**

While we most urgently need puppy raisers in the Denver metro area, we have puppy raisers throughout Colorado, as well as satellite puppy-raising groups in The Villages, Florida, Midland/Odessa, Texas, and Fenton, Michigan. If you live near one of these satellite locations, we can work with you to transport a puppy to you. Support for out-of-state puppy raisers includes one in-person session at your location and monthly virtual check-ins via Zoom.

## **I'M TOO BUSY TO RAISE A PUPPY BY MYSELF.**

No problem! We offer the option to co-raise a puppy so you can share the fun and responsibilities of raising a puppy with an approved and trained friend, family member, or neighbor who wants to help.

## **IT'S TOO EXPENSIVE TO RAISE A PUPPY.**

FSD provides all puppy raisers with food, vaccinations, medical care, collar, leash, crate, various toys, treat pouch, clicker, and a service dog trainee vest—completely free of charge!

## **I LIVE IN A HOUSE WITHOUT A FENCED YARD.**

We welcome puppy raisers who live in homes without a fenced yard, as well as in apartments, townhomes, and condos.

## **I TRAVEL FREQUENTLY.**

FSD encourages raisers to travel with their puppy when the pup is ready. And we have a list of volunteer puppy sitters who can take care of your puppy if you are going out of town or just need a weekend break.

## **I'VE NEVER HAD A DOG BEFORE.**

As long as you are willing to learn, complete our orientation and onboarding process, and follow our puppy-raising curriculum, you are welcome to become a puppy raiser.

## **I DON'T HAVE ANY DOG TRAINING EXPERIENCE.**

No worries! We provide orientation, onboarding, a comprehensive puppy-raising curriculum, and ongoing support from FSD staff and your fellow puppy raisers.

## **I HAVE OTHER PETS.**

Many puppy raisers have other dogs (over 1 year old), cats, birds, chickens, or reptiles. Your pets must be able to cohabitate with the puppy and get along after the initial introductory period.

## **I HAVE CHILDREN LIVING AT HOME.**

Many of our puppy raisers have children who enjoy helping to raise a puppy while learning about responsibility and giving back to others. It is best if the children are old enough to understand and follow FSD's puppy-raising guidelines so that training and socialization is consistent among family members.



## **READY TO HELP OUR PRECIOUS PUPS?**

Learn more about becoming  
a puppy raiser at  
[FREEDOMSERVICEDOGS.ORG/VOLUNTEER](https://FREEDOMSERVICEDOGS.ORG/VOLUNTEER).