

# *Become a part of the puppy raising team!*

Guide Dogs for the Blind currently has more than 1,000 volunteer puppy raisers throughout the Western states: Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, and Washington. Qualified raisers receive pups when they are approximately 8 weeks old. While puppies are placed in homes, puppy raisers housetrain the pups, teach them basic obedience and good manners, and—above all—socialize them to the world. As a Guide Dog puppy raiser, no prior

experience is necessary, because you will become a part of a Guide Dog puppy raising club, receive instructional materials and have local expert guidance. The contribution of our raisers is paramount to the success of our dogs as guides. Becoming a puppy raiser has many rewards, among them the reward of helping to prepare a Guide Dog for someone who is blind or visually impaired.



## **The Puppy Raising Commitment:**

Local representatives interview potential puppy raisers in their homes. Potential raisers submit completed applications for approval and attend preliminary club meetings. In addition:

- All members of the household must be committed to raising a puppy.
- Raisers can be adults or youth, 9 years and older.
- Raisers must provide a safe and secure living environment. Young puppies need to be supervised throughout the day. All puppies must be on leash when not in a secure area.
- There must be a compatible relationship with other pets in the home.
- Puppies must sleep indoors.
- Raisers must provide daily exercise and socialization for the puppies.
- Raisers and puppies are to attend regularly scheduled club meetings and outings.
- Raisers are responsible for some expenses, including food and incidental expenses. These expenses may be tax-deductible, depending on the raisers' state tax laws.
- Raisers use Guide Dog approved training and management techniques when working with the puppies.
- Raisers need to be willing to travel to meet with Guide Dog representatives for evaluation of the puppy's progress and/or attend training workshops.
- Raisers must be a positive representative of Guide Dogs for the Blind within their communities.
- Raisers are required to release the puppy back to Guide Dogs for the Blind at the organization's request.



Puppy Raising at Guide Dogs for the Blind is only available to those living in Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Utah and Washington. Prospective raisers within one of the eight Western states can check on availability of groups in their local area by contacting our office. If you are interested in being interviewed by a representative for your area, please call the Puppy Raising and Dog Placement Department at Guide Dogs for the Blind at (800) 295-4050 or [e-mail us](#).