

PATH TO A DOGABILITY CERTIFICATION

We accept all breeds and ages beginning at 5 months old !

We refer to all our canine team volunteers as certified **TEAMS**, rather than certified **DOGS**, since your role as a handler matters just as much as your dog's behavior.

RESPONSE TO YOUR INQUIRY

Once you have contacted **DogAbility** to inquire about our program and how your dog may qualify, please be sure to leave your phone number so that our staff can quickly contact you to setup an opportunity to speak with you, hear about your dog and explain how the DogAbility program is different from other therapy dog organizations, as well as answer any questions you may have.

- You will then setup an in-person tour, orientation and evaluation of your dog at our location.
- PRIOR to your orientation, we ask that you send us a headshot of you and your dog together as well as proof of rabies certificate (your vet will send you a copy if you don't already have one)
- During your orientation, you will have an opportunity to tour our beautiful grounds, ask questions, review all paperwork that includes, registration, liability forms, rules and procedures, privacy policies and your liability coverage.
- You can expect your evaluation/trial visit to last approx 1 hour and may be an individual or multiple team orientation.
- While visiting with you and your dog, we will also see what basic manners and behaviors your dog already demonstrates, including energy, impulse control as well any tricks or skills you'd like to show us.
- You also can also consider which programs within DogAbility are of most interest to you and understand the categories teams are categorized as an **ACTIVITY TEAM**, **COMFORT TEAM** and/or a **FEAR of DOGS TEAM**.

Providing we don't see any **RED FLAGS** that would result in immediate dismissal, your evaluation may include a **TRIAL SESSION** already scheduled with our participants during the same time period. This trial session, combined with our impressions of you during your evaluation, will allow you an opportunity to experience what we do during a session and we will also see how you work together as a "team".

NOTE: Excessive barking, trembling, growling or showing any signs of aggression towards people or other dogs is cause for dismissal **AT ANY TIME!**

YOUR TEAM FOLDER - We **MUST** have all your forms signed, proof of rabies, as well as a headshot of you and your dog together before you can move forward.

IS IT A MATCH?

After you have attended orientation and your dog as been evaluated, we will contact you by email letting you know whether we feel you are a good match for the DogAbility program. If you feel our program is not for you, or if there are concerns about you as a team, then either party can decide not to move forward with the certification process.

Remember: It is important that your dog **ENJOYS** being at DogAbility!

VOLUNTEER
with your dog!

All Canine Teams are Evaluated, Trained, Certified & Insured through DogAbility. Only program of its kind in Long Island.

OFFERINGS:

- PROFESSIONAL Obedience and Training classes for dogs and handlers at DogAbility.
- EDUCATION, RECREATION, SOCIALIZATION TRAINING for COMFORT Teams.
- ADVENTURE & SPECIAL SESSIONS.
- SCHOOL, SCHOOL'S CAMPS, AGENCIES, COMMUNITY PARTIES.
- SPECIAL Obedience and Training TOOLS TO HELP YOU AND YOUR DOG BE THE BEST TEAM OF DOGS.

Location: Property of the Presbyterian Church - 10000 Old Country Rd, Middle Island, NY

CONTACT US
516-287-0006
www.DogAbility.org

MOVING FORWARD

Training & Insurance fee

Handlers Pay 2 Fees totaling \$180

(A ONE TIME payment of \$150 for ongoing training + (\$30 insurance - renewable each year)

Instructions on how to send a payment is included in an email.

* If a team demonstrates previous experience in Agility or Obedience, then a deduction is made in the training fee.

Once we receive your payment, you will be contacted and given access to the volunteer area of our website, not available to the public.

Once you receive your **Log-In ID & PW** you will then have access to our live **session calendar** as well as our handler support page and where you can also order your customized **DogAbility T-shirt** with you and your dogs name on it.

Training Begins

Our group training sessions generally are held on Saturday mornings as well as weekday mornings

Team Categories

THERE ARE 3 CATEGORIES OF DOGABILITY TEAMS and depending on our assessment of you as a team, you will be welcome in sessions with our participants based on your knowledge, your dogs type, energy and control.

We do not subject everyone to a **PASS/FAIL OBEDIENCE TEST** in order to be one of our **CERTIFIED TEAMS**.

Instead, we have you and your dog observed during training as well as during sessions with our participants. Providing your dog is under control at all times and that you as a team begin to demonstrate qualities we look for, we identify you as an **ACTIVITY, COMFORT or a FEAR OF DOGS TEAM**.

During team training sessions, you and your dog will be introduced to the many activities we offer during a session with our participants. These activities include obstacle play, tricks, games, wagon rides and canine care education. Our participants come to us for Scout merit badge requirements, Senior socialization, adults and children with and without Special Needs as well as those with a debilitating Fear of Dogs.

Since you cannot learn all there is to know in a few training sessions, we encourage all teams to continue to attend training classes as needed at no extra charge as long as you maintain an active membership, which is by attending at least 1 participant session per month.

ONCE YOU ARE DOGABILITY CERTIFIED

- During your certification process you will attend supervised participant sessions, training classes as well as random zoom meetings.
- You will be included in a list of certified teams who are individually emailed invitations to specific sessions as well as be given access to our live google calendar of sessions to choose from.
- You are required to attend 1 participant session per month during a year of membership.
- Some sessions are with individuals and others are with groups. Our participants come to us through therapists, schools, agencies, clubs or parents.
- Some sessions are in the morning while others are in the afternoon. Some sessions are on weekdays while others are on Saturdays (we are closed on Sundays)
- You will also be able to view our live online session calendar by logging in with an **ID and PW**.
- All teams are to arrive 1/2 hour prior to group sessions which last 1 hour.
- All teams are to arrive at least 15 min prior to private sessions which last 45 minutes.

Ready to schedule your Team Orientation & Evaluation?

Contact: DATeamEvaluator@gmail.com