

Recommended Breeds for PTSD Service Dog Work

Hero's Puppy for Life Organization has specific breeds we can and cannot accept into our training program. Please understand that you may feel your puppy's breed can be a great working dog, there are reasons why certain breeds we cannot accept into our program.

These same breeds are not accepted into our program in Colorado either. This list is based on several different characteristics displayed by the breed and are professionally recognized by various different studies of breeds. Be warned that many breeders will tell you their breed dogs are excellent for service dog work. We look at the overall temperament of the breed.

TYPES OF BREEDERS WE LIKE AND LOOK FOR

We look for breeders who are registered with the American Kennel Club (AKC). There are breeding requirements to become a registered breeder. The probability that you will find a puppy that was taken care of while in the litter. Socialization in the litter is very important for a future service dog.

ACCEPTABLE BREEDS

For PTSD service dog work, we recommend large breed dogs as the best. Small breed dogs (toy and miniature) normally do not have the ability to physically interrupt episodes. Here are the breeds we do recommend and accept

1. English Golden Retriever
2. Standard Poodle
3. American Golden Retriever, not bred for hunting.
4. Most "Doodle" mixes, acceptance based on the mix type.
5. Labrador Retriever, preference towards the English breed and not bred for hunting.
6. Flat Coated Retriever, based on breeding
7. German Shepherds, accepted based on certain factors, not accepted if bred for guard work.

UNACCEPTABLE BREEDS

There are breeds that we do not recommend and cannot accept into our training program.

1. Bully breeds
2. German Shepherds if bred for guard work
3. Belgian Malinois or mix in any mixed breed
4. Huskey, Malamutes
5. Any herding breed.
6. Any Mastiff breed
7. Great Danes

WE CANNOT ACCEPT RESCUES OF ANY TYPE

As much as we would like to accept rescue dogs, unfortunately many carry with them potential liabilities from past abuses by humans. These dogs can potentially have PTSD just like humans. This poses a tremendous liability in not knowing what can trigger an attack. We know first hand of a rescue dog who did physical harm to it's human, with deep bites to the face, and without any warning prior to attacking. Also many rescues are from feral dogs. Puppies born to a feral mother will have hormones passed to the puppy causing the puppy to carry the same feral traits as the mother.

WE CANNOT ACCEPT PUPPIES FROM PUPPY MILLS

Puppies from puppy mills generally are bred by breeders who do not care for the care of their puppies. Generally these puppies are kept secluded in pins or cages away from normal human activities. The lack of socialization during the time the puppy is in the litter tends to make puppies shy away from human contact.

WHAT ABOUT THE AGE OF ACCEPTABLE DOGS

The question of age is important. We hold the opinion that a dog older than 2 years of age are going to pose a problem in training. The reason we hold this is because by this age many bad behaviors have been created by this age, potentially even as young as 18 months. Bad behaviors can be extinguished. However, those same behaviors can come back and it can come back, many times worse than before it was extinguished. **We will be willing to accept the an older dog based on training, work, and it's evaluation by us.**

WHY ARE WE SO STRINGENT ON THE TYPE AND TEMPERAMENT OF THE CANDIDATE DOG AS A SERVICE DOG?

We are providing an individual the opportunity to train their service dog using our unique training materials. This dog will be in the public view and environment on a much more than the normal pet. The purpose of a service dog is to help mitigate a person's disability. Too many people today purchase a vest, slap on a service dog patch, and abuse the benefit of the Americans with Disability Act. All the while causing harm for those individuals who need their service dog. We have no desire to facilitate that type of individual. **We expect all individuals who are accepted into this program to be fully like-minded in agreement with our position.**

IF YOU HAVE A DOG YOU WOULD LIKE FOR US TO CONSIDER, Please complete the "HPFL Canine Evaluation Form" and submit it along with your application and four (4) images of the dog for consideration.