

Independent Living Vernon Guide for Assistance Dogs



Vernon

Promoting a new perspective on disability

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The British Columbia Guide Animal Act states that people with guide

animals have the same rights as people without guide animals:

“2 (1) A person with a disability accompanied by a guide animal has the same rights, privileges and obligations as a person not accompanied by an animal.

(2) In particular, a person with a disability accompanied by a guide animal may, in the same manner as would a person not accompanied by an animal, enter and use an accommodation, conveyance, eating place, lodging place or any other place to which the public is invited or has access so long as the guide animal is

(a) prevented from occupying a seat in a public conveyance or eating place, and

(b) held by a leash or harness.

(3) This section applies despite any enactment enacted before or after the enactment of this Act”.

At Independent Living Vernon, we work to bring awareness to this Act and the different types of assistance dogs that are available. To do this, IL Vernon hosts the Dog Walk for Independence every October, which is used to bring awareness. Also IL Vernon has a calendar that showcases different types of assistance dogs with explanations as to the jobs they perform

This assistance dog guide is to help people who are needing assistance dogs but don't know where to start. There are different types of service dogs to match many different disabilities, from people with physical disabilities to people with psychiatric disabilities and everything in between.

To begin the application process, each website has an application section. You fill it out and then send it in as instructed on the website. The people at which ever organization you apply with will contact you and give you the information for the next steps of the process.

In order for a service dog to be recognized in British Columbia it has to be trained at one of the following centers:

BC & Alberta Guide Dog Services

6050 44th Avenue
Delta BC V4K 3X7
T: 604-940-4504
F: 604-940-4506
E: guidedog@telus.net
W: www.bcguidedog.com

Brigadoon Youth and Service Dog Programs

4759 Mission Road
Bellingham WA 98226
T: 360-733-5388
E: denise@nas.com
W: www.brigadoondogs.com

Canadian Guide Dogs for the Blind

National Office & Training Centre
PO Box 280, 4120 Rideau Valley Drive North
Manotick ON K4M 1A3
T: 613-692-7777
F: 613-692-0650
E: cgdb@sympatico.ca
W: www.guidedogs.ca

Canine Assistance No Boundaries

Todd Kier
14-2980 David Avenue
Coquitlam BC V3E 2R3
T: 604-945-9428
E: info@k9assistance.com
W: www.k9assistance.com

Fondation Mira Inc.

1820 Rang Nord-Ouest
Sainte-Madeleine QC J0H 1S0
T: 450-795-3725
F: 450-795-3789
E: info@mira.ca
W: www.mira.ca/contenta/introa.html

Guide Dogs for the Blind

PO Box 151200

San Rafael, CA 94515-1200
T: 415-499-4000
F: 415-499-4035
Toll Free: 800-295-4050
E: information@guidedogs.com
W: www.guidedogs.com

Guide Dog Foundation for the Blind Inc.

371 East Jericho Turnpike
Smithtown, NY 11787-2976
T: 631-930-9000
F: 631-930-9009
Toll Free: 800-548-4337
E: info@guidedog.org
W: www.guidedog.org

Guide Dogs of America

13445 Glenoaks Boulevard
Sylmar, CA 91432
T: 818-362-5834
F: 818-362-6870
E: mail@guidedogsofamerica.org
W: www.guidedogsofamerica.org

Guide Dogs of the Desert International

PO Box 1692
Palm Springs, CA 92263
T: 760-329-6257
F: 760-329-2127
E: info@guidedogsofthedesert.org
W: www.guidedogsofthedesert.com

Guiding Eyes for the Blind Inc.

611 Granite Springs Road
Yorktown Heights, NY 10598
T: 914-245-4024
F: 914-245-1609
Toll Free: 800-942-0149
E: info@guiding-eyes.org
W: www.guiding-eyes.org

Helping Paws

Diana Miller
1981 Porthill Road
Creston BC V0B 1G2

T: 250-428-4230
Toll Free: 866-428-4230
E: helpingpaws@helpingpaws.ca
W: www.helpingpaws.ca

Heritage Speciality Dogs

PO Box 51
Westfield NC 27053
T: 336-351-3148
E: dawgtrainer@triad.rr.com

Leader Dogs for the Blind

PO Box 5000
1039 South Rochester Road
Rochester, MI 48308-5000
T: 248-651-9011
F: 248-651-5812
TTY: 248-651-3713
Toll Free: 888-777-5332
E: leaderdog@leaderdog.org
W: www.leaderdog.org

**Lions Foundation of Canada
Dog Guides**

PO Box 907, 152 Wilson Street
Oakville ON L6J 5E8
T: 905-842-2891
F: 905-842-3373
Toll-Free: 800-768-3030
TDD: 905-842-1585
E: info@dogguides.com
W: www.dogguides.com
Contact: Alex Ivic, Client Services Supervisor

Master Eye Foundation of America

2537 25th Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55406-1234
T: 612-378-7694

Pacific Assistance Dogs Society (PADS)

9048 Stormont Avenue
Burnaby BC V3N 4G6
T: 604-527-0556
F: 604-527-0558 (TDD/TTY)
E: info@pads.ca
W: www.pads.ca

Contact: Sarah Lapp, Client Services Coordinator ext 230 or sarah@pads.ca

Pilot Dogs Inc.

625 West Town Street
Columbus, OH 43215-4496
T: 614-221-6367
F: 614-221-1577
W: www.pilotdogs.org

Service Canines of Montana

Contact: Debbi Bouwkamp
Box 1214
Laurel, MT 59044
T: 406-669-3149
E: sercom@itstriangle.com

The Seeing Eye Inc.

PO Box 375
Morristown, NJ 07963-0375
T: 973-539-4425
F: 973-539-0922
Toll Free: 800-539-4425
E: info@seeingeeye.org
W: www.seeingeeye.org
Contact: Pauline Alexander
Senior Associate, Admissions
palexander@seeingeeye.org

West Coast Assistance Teams Society

1905 - 4425 Halifax Street
Burnaby BC V5C 6P2
T: 604-293-1211
F: 604-293-1211
E: teams@telus.net
W: www.westcoastteams.com
Sharon Hill, Program Manager

Diabetic Assistance Dogs

KC Owens

Email: fechitup@xmission.com

Email: FetchExpress@gmail.com

Phone: 801 598 2567

Salt Lake City, Utah

KC teaches people how to raise their own diabetic assistance dogs. She is currently in the process of setting up her own non profit in the area of Diabetic assistance dogs as well as allergen assistance dogs. We will update that as the information is released.

The following is a list of places where you apply to receive an assistance dog, along with information about the application and training process.

West Coast Assistance Teams

1905 - 4425 Halifax, Street

Burnaby, BC

V5C 6P2

Phone/Fax: 604 293 1211

Email: teams@telus.net

Website: www.westcoastteams.com

Service Dog Program

Service dogs turn on lights, push button, pull wheelchairs, retrieve dropped objects, open and close doors, drawers and refrigerators, pay for items when shopping or banking, remove items of clothing such as shoes, socks and jackets, bark for help on command and a host of other daily tasks depending on the individual's needs and abilities. They are loyal companions in private – a social ice breaker in public. West Coast Assistance Teams limits out puppy raising, training and placements to the lower mainland area of BC. Except in extraordinary circumstances, we believe a close proximity is imperative to provide the best possible support for our volunteers and recipients, In addition, the generosity of our donors will be felt directly in our local communities.

Most of us will be admitted to a hospital or nursing home during our lifetime. Imagine what it would be like if nobody came to see you. These very special dogs provide unconditional love to many people in our community. West Coast Assistance Teams facilitates hospital or care facility visitations with our volunteers and participating centers. We also place dogs with health care professionals to assist in prescribing emotional and physical therapeutic activities.

Autism Dog Services Inc.

1488 2nd Concession, Rd
Lynden, Ontario
LOR 1T0
Phone: 519 721 1068
Email: info@autismdogservices.ca
Website: www.autismdogservices.ca

Autism Dog Services (ADS) service dogs provide safety, companionship and independence to children living with autism and related disorders. ADS service dogs bridge the gap between a child and their peers at school and

the community. Many parents have reported that their children are able to better cope with difficult environments with their service dogs present. The service dogs help modify behaviors and reduce anxiety in overwhelming public settings. Children learn how to assist with the daily care routines with their service dogs such as grooming, feeding, watering, exercising and relieving. Service dogs also accompany the children to school with educational goals to increase communication, independence and socialization.

How does an autism service dog work for a child?

ADS service dogs are handled by the child's caregiver (parent or legal guardian). The service dogs are trained to respond and follow commands given by the child's caregiver, while at home and in the community or by an educator, while at school. The caregiver is fully responsible for the service dog's care and maintenance (i.e. maintaining service dog training, health care, feeding, grooming and exercise). The caregiver acts as a liaison between the child with autism and the service dog. The child is responsible for assisting the caregiver with tasks relating to the service dog to enhance the child's communication, socialization and independence.

A service dog from ADS is identified by the red service dog jacket worn while accompanying the child in public settings at all times. The service dog jacket is equipped with a foam handle or short leash for the child to hold on to. ADS issues "public access identification cards" to all certified service dog teams. This card is carried in the service dog's jacket and is available for identification purposes by the public upon request to identify the dog as a certified service dog. Service dogs have the right to public access in the province of Ontario.

BC Guide Dog Services

10-4767 64th, Street
Delta, BC
V4K 3M2 Phone: 604 940 4504
Email: guidedog@telus.net
Website: www.bcguidedog.com

Though often viewed as a dog organization, British Columbia Guide Dog Services is, in reality, an organization about people. When evaluating blind and visually-impaired applicants' suitability for guide dog training, British Columbia Guide Dog Services only sees ability and not disability. All individual guide dog training programs are tailored to the needs of each individual.

The mission of British Columbia Guide Dog Services is to meet the demand for professionally-trained Guide Dogs for blind and visually-impaired citizens in British Columbia and Alberta, at all times meeting or exceeding the international standards as established by the International Guide Dog Federation.



Is a Guide Dog Right for Me?

What is a guide dog?

A guide dog is professionally trained and certified to assist a person who is blind or visually impaired. A guide dog can help its partner safely cross streets, find doors, stairs, curbs, bus shelters etc. by following specific commands.

Legislation

Each Canadian province has its own legislation regarding the rights of guide dog users. In B.C. a person with a disability accompanied by a guide animal has the same rights, privileges and obligations as a person not accompanied by an animal; therefore, the guide dog user may enter any place to which the public is invited so long as the dog is held by a leash or harness and does not occupy an additional seat in the establishment. Please refer to the Guide Animal Act (of British Columbia) for full details.

Application and Assessment

B.C. Guide Dog Services (BCGDS) provides guide dogs to persons 13 years of age or older, living in British Columbia and Alberta, for a nominal fee of one dollar. This includes training and aftercare for the working life of the dog.

Applicants must meet certain criteria in order to be successful with a guide dog. For example, the applicant must: demonstrate a need for a guide dog, be able to walk for 45 minutes twice a day, have good Orientation and Mobility skills, etc. Full criteria will be discussed during the application process.

The initial application for a guide dog is available online only at www.bcguidedog.com. All information provided in the application is kept confidential. Due to high demand for our services, there is currently a multi-year waiting list to receive a guide dog; however, we still encourage people to apply.

A BCGDS staff member will conduct additional interviews and an in-home assessment to determine whether or not a guide dog is suitable for the applicant.

Training

BCGDS provides in-home training for its clients. A client will undergo 3

weeks of full-time training with the guide dog and a certified Guide Dog Mobility Instructor (GDMI). BCGDS staff can work with Orientation & Mobility instructors and other professionals involved in the client's daily life to ensure that the guide dog is readily accepted. For example, we can work with school staff if a guide dog will be attending school with a young client.

Graduation & Aftercare

Once a dog graduates with its partner, we make annual visits to ensure that training and vet care standards are upheld. The guide dog user is responsible for the veterinary, food, and everyday costs of keeping the dog after graduation (users can research the income tax exemptions and subsidies that may be available).

A healthy guide dog can be expected to work up to 8 years. BCGDS retires its dogs at the age of 10 for the safety and well-being of both the dog and the user.

For additional information:

- visit www.bcguidedog.com
- call 1-877-940-4504, Monday to Friday between 8:30 AM and 4:30 PM
- email info@bcguidedog.com

National Service Dogs

Danielle Forbes
P.O. Box 28009 Preston Postal Outlet
Cambridge, Ontario N3H 5N4
Country: Canada
Phone: (519) 623-4188
Fax: (519) 623-9997
E-mail: dani@nsd.on.ca
Web Address: www.nsd.on.ca

What is the process to apply for a Service Dog?

First, potential clients submit a letter, by mail or on-line request form, outlining the effects of autism/PDD on their child's life and how they feel a dog would help the child in their daily life. Upon receipt of this letter, NSD will assess the information provided and determine if an application will be sent. Children must be between the ages of 2 and 10 and have a diagnosis of autism or other related PDD. If the family is eligible an application will be sent out by e-mail or regular mail. The application includes a number of components:

- a 12 page application form
- a letter from each parent showing they agree with and support the decision to get a dog
- a number of references from people involved in the child's life

Once the completed application (including references) is received, the client will receive a letter acknowledging receipt of the application. The application will be reviewed and if successful the applicant will go on our interview list.

Next an interview will be set up in the family home at which a trainer will bring a dog and meet your child, and discuss any further questions or concerns. Final acceptance is determined following this interview and families maybe disqualified at any time during the application process.

Once approved for a service dog families will have the opportunity to attend a general information session. This seminar will give families the opportunity to learn more about NSD and prepare them for the next stages in the process. Families who are not in driving distance of Cambridge will have the information mailed to them.

Certified Autism Service Dogs

National Service Dogs (NSD) has proven that properly trained and certified autism service dogs can:

- Increase safety levels and alleviate the bolting behaviors common in children with autism by acting as an anchor when tethered to the child
- Improve a child's socialization and behavior skills
- Create freedoms for the child and family members to go out of the house safely and confidently
- Expand a child's capabilities to experience more of life and to grow
- Calm children thereby giving them an increased attention span and a greater aptitude for learning

Autism Service Dogs are certified for public access and NSD follows Assistance Dogs International's standards and procedures. NSD retains ownership of all service dogs throughout their working life. Upon receipt of the service dog, families are responsible for their day to day care, including any veterinary costs.

Typically, the best results come from families who have:

- A child with Autism between the ages of 2 and 10 at the time of application
- Positively exposed and socialized the child with large dogs in the past
- No other family dog in the house (please note NSD will assess family dogs on an individual basis to determine whether they will be a good fit with a service dog)
- Time to devote to the learning curve of adding a Service Dog to their lives
- A willingness to have one or both parents travel without the child to our facility for 7 days of Team Training
- A Fenced yard or plan to contain the dog when in the yard
- One dedicated parent that stays home during the weekdays if the child is not yet in school. This project will be more successful if the dog bonds with the child and one parent, not a selection of different caregivers

National Service Dogs is currently accepting application requests for autism service dogs from families living across Canada.

Skilled Companion Dogs for Soldiers with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder

What is Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)?

PTSD is a psychological response to the experience of intense traumatic events, particularly those that threaten life. It can affect people of any age, culture or gender. Traumatic stress can be seen as part of a normal human response to intense experiences. In the majority of people, the symptoms reduce or disappear over the first few months, particularly with the help of caring family members and friends. In a significant minority, the symptoms do not seem to resolve quickly and in some cases may continue to cause problems for the rest of the person's life.

PTSD is characterized by three main groups of problems. They can be classified under the headings of intrusive, avoidance and arousal symptoms.

Intrusive Symptoms of PTSD:

- Distressing memories or images of the incident;
- Nightmares and flashbacks;
- Physical symptoms, such as sweating, increased heart rate, or muscle tension

Skilled Companion Dogs are trained to “visit” and “nudge” the individual and provide a tactile distraction from symptoms and have proven to be quite useful in emotional overload situations. In addition, for those experiencing nightmares, night terrors, hypnologic hallucinations or flashbacks, tactile stimulation can provide a vitally important reality affirmation. Physical symptoms such as sweating, increased heart rate or muscle tension can also be reduced by massaging the dog.

Avoidance/Numbing Symptoms of PTSD:

- Trying to avoid any reminders of the trauma;
- Gaps in memory;
- Losing interest in normal activities of daily living;
- Feeling cut-off or detached from loved ones;
- Feeling flat or numb; and
- Difficulty imagining a future.

Skilled Companion Dogs are non-judgmental and provide calm, consistent companionship to the Veteran. The dogs are active and require daily care and training to maintain their skills. Taking care of the dog's daily needs brings routine back into the Veteran's life, gives them a reason to get out of the house and engage in activities of daily living.

Arousal Symptoms of PTSD:

- Anger and irritability;
- Concentration problems;
- Constantly on the look-out for signs of danger; and

- Jumpy, easily startled.

Skilled Companion Dogs provide important feedback to individuals suffering from these types of symptoms by helping them gauge the safety of their surroundings. The dogs are trained to make the individual feel more secure in their environment. For example, the dogs are trained to "block". This means the dog will stand perpendicularly in front of the veteran to keep other people at a distance, giving them the additional personal space they need to feel secure. The dogs are also taught "cover". This means the dog will sit or lay facing backward by the veteran's side and be able to alert them to people approaching from behind. The dogs are also taught a search command. This involves the dog "searching" the house to ensure its safe; thereby, helping to decrease the veteran's anxiety when they feel nervous or are recovering from a nightmare or flashback.

Pacific Assistance Dogs Society

Margaret Hicks

9048 Stormont

Burnaby, BC V3N 4G6

Country: Canada

Phone: (604) 527-0556 V/TDD

Fax: (604)527-0558

E-mail: info@pads.ca

Web Address: www.pads.ca

Application: <http://www.pads.ca/apply-for-an-assistance-dog/apply-for-a-dog/>

- [Download](#) and print the application package.
- Complete the application package, including all necessary signatures.
- Mail or deliver the completed application, along with a non-refundable \$50.00 application fee, to [PADS](#) at 9048 Stormont Ave., Burnaby, BC V3N 4G6.
- Following receipt and review of the complete application, PADS Client Services Staff will be in touch with the applicant to advise.
- The applicant will then decide to take the next step by calling PADS' Client Services to schedule an appointment for a personal interview. All interviews are held at the PADS Training Center.
- If deemed an appropriate candidate for an Assistance Dog, the individual will be placed on PADS' waiting list until such time as a suitable dog has been chosen for him/her.
- PADS will then contact the candidate about attending an upcoming Team Training Class.

Service Dogs

The term 'Service Dogs' refers to dogs that assist those with a physical disability. Many, but not all, of our clients use a wheelchair or other adaptive equipment. They are matched with a dog that has been trained to help them perform their activities of daily living.

PADS' Service Dogs are trained to open and close doors, turn lights on and off, retrieve the telephone or other items, pick up dropped items such as keys, bankcards and change, pull manual wheelchairs, provide balance and stability to clients with mobility issues, carry items such as grocery bags and fetch important medications.

Hearing Dogs

Hearing Dogs are trained to alert their handler to a variety of sounds, including knocking on the door, doorbells, telephones, timers, and smoke alarms. They are trained to indicate to the handler what is causing the sound by physically touching the client with their paw(s).

Hearing dogs are usually smaller breed dogs (under 40 pounds), but occasionally we will train a smaller Labrador or Golden Retriever as a hearing dog if they have a suitable temperament. Hearing dogs **cannot** be placed in homes where there are other animals.

Canine Assisted Intervention Dogs

Previously called Facility Therapy Dogs; these PADS' Dogs are trained to assist with goal-directed interventions designed to promote improvement in physical, social, emotional and/or cognitive functioning or designed to improve cognitive functioning of the persons involved and in which a specially trained dog-handler team is an integral part. A CAI Dog is directed and/or delivered by a professional with specialized expertise, and within the scope of practice of his/her profession.

CAI Dogs may be provided in a variety of settings, may be group or individual in nature and may be implemented for persons of any age. There are specific goals for each individual involved and the process is documented and evaluated.

Canine Assisted Education Dogs

PADS' Canine Assisted Education (CAE) Dogs work with goal-directed interventions designed to improve cognitive functioning and in which a specially trained dog-handler team is an integral part. CAE is directed and/or delivered by an educational professional with specialized expertise, and within the scope of practice of his/her profession. CAE may be provided in a variety of settings, may be group or individual in nature and may be implemented for persons of any age. There are specific goals for each

individual involved and the process is documented and evaluated. This is a type of Canine Assisted Intervention.

Pacific Assistance Dogs Society supports CAE and actively trains dogs for this type of Animal Assisted Education. At this time PADS provides two types of dogs for this specific activity.

1. PADS' Puppy-in-training. PADS selectively uses the CAE environment as an essential part of the puppy's socialization process. Only puppies showing a demonstrated propensity for this environment continue to work in this arena during their puppies-in-training development stage.
2. PADS' graduate dogs. Dogs graduating from Advance Training that are identified for the CAI stream are placed with a qualified trained client who is a paid educational professional. The client either works solely within the education field or works within the educational field as part of their wider work environment. The client either works within a single facility or at multiple sites.

VIP Dogs

Very Important Pets – PADS' VIP Dogs – are placed in a home where there is a child with a developmental or physical disability. Something quite magical happens when a PADS VIP Dog becomes a part of an autistic or disabled child's world. A loving dog can cross barriers in a way that nothing else can.

Having a constant companion by a child's side encourages better communication, provides a comforting presence, an unspoken understanding and sense of security. VIP Dogs are non-judgmental friends that provide unconditional love.

Care Alive

80 Front Street East, Suite 508

Toronto, ON, CA

M5E 1T4

Email:

Website: <http://care-alive.com/>

Application: <http://care-alive.com/causes/seizure-response-dogs/>

How do they alert their owner to a seizure?

This varies by dog; they may act restless and pace, they may bump up

against or nudge the individual, lick their hands or face etc. Essentially, they behave in a way that is uncharacteristic and are persistent even if their owner tries to correct the behavior. Just as the dog has learned the cues from their owner to alert them to a seizure, the owner has to learn the dogs signals as well; if the dog is behaving strangely and they have a seizure shortly afterwards, after a few instances, the owner picks up on that connection. It's helpful if others are around to witness the dog's behavior and seizure as that can speed up the process of connecting the dots.

Support Services for People Training Psychiatric Service Dogs

The Psychiatric Service Dog Society (PSDS, <http://www.psychdog.org>) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization dedicated to responsible Psychiatric Service Dog (PSD) education, advocacy, research and training facilitation. We provide essential information for persons disabled by severe mental illness, who wish to train a service dog to assist with the management of symptoms. We consult regularly with mental healthcare providers in their efforts to learn more about PSD. We also host an online community of service dog handlers veteran and new. Please note: we do not provide or train dogs for individuals. We are an educational and capacity-building organization dedicated to responsible Psychiatric Service Dog community stewardship.

PSDS hosts an online support group, taking the form of a listserv, for individuals living with psychiatric disabilities who have or are in the process of obtaining a PSD. It is as much of a learning environment as it is a support environment. Many of us have been with the group since the beginning, and we take a stewardship role towards new members. We are here to help you. To become a member of the listserv visit <http://www.psychdog.org/contactus.html> and provide your contact information.