



Domesti-PUPS

**2021 Service Dog
Training Camp Manual**

2021 Domesti-PUPS Service Dog Training Camp

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Where Do We Start? Anticipation and Intervention

- **Anticipating your dog's behavior.**
- **What behavior changes to look for in your dog?**
- **How do you anticipate and change your dog's behavior?**

Where Do We Start? Anticipation and Intervention

Domesti-PUPS goal is to partner individuals with the best possible Service-PUP to meet their specific needs and lifestyle. Once you leave our training camp you will take with you a companion, helper, and four-footed friend to share many years with. In order to make this happen, you will spend this time participating in lectures where you will hear information on training, dog behavior and commands. You will be shown demonstrations, allowing you to have a visual presentation of how your Service-PUP can assist you, and you will be involved in extensive hands-on practical training both in the classroom and out in public in order to learn how to effectively work as a team with your Service-PUP partner.

Our training sessions are going to cause you to feel a certain level of stress. Studies have shown that stress can be used to appropriately heighten one's ability to retain information. Domesti-PUPS only has a short period of training time to help you begin bonding and learn how to handle your Service-PUP. We have designed this program to use stress to your advantage in our training strategy. The first few days will feel overwhelming to you (your environment, the commands you have to learn) and although you have longed for this moment, the reality of finally being here to receive your Service-PUP may feel a bit overwhelming. Your stress is normal, expected, and beneficial for your training process.

Anticipation and Intervention

Dogs are descendants of the wolf. Although man has long since domesticated them, they still carry prey drive within them. This is why dogs chase balls, squirrels, cats, and have a need to protect their home or pack. Dog training requires a handler to direct a canine's natural drive in a desired positive direction. A strong desire to chase a ball can be directed into retrieving skills for hunting, or in the case of Service-PUPS, into retrieval of dropped items or opening doors. On the other hand, undesired behaviors such as chasing small animals or jumping on people must be brought under control and suppressed if a dog is to be allowed in social settings.

One of the most important things you need to learn is how to ANTICIPATE your Service-PUP's behavior, and how to intervene BEFORE the behavior takes place. A dog can react to stimuli in his environment in 12/1000 of a second. By anticipating what your Service-PUP will do in a given situation, you can take the steps to prevent misbehavior before it has a chance to happen. By intervention you effectively set your Service-PUP up for success, build a stronger bond between you and your canine, and also prevent potential hazards.

Service-PUPS are pre-selected and pre-trained, but they are not robots. There is no such thing as a perfect dog. How you respond to your Service-PUP will influence his behavior either in a positive or negative way. Verbal response and body language will affect the way your Service-PUP responds to you. Positive praise used appropriately can generate eagerness to please and trust from your Service-PUP, however inappropriate corrections, or lack of praise can cause your Service-PUP to lose his desire to perform tasks for you. One mistake that is easily made with Service-PUPS that are trained to retrieve is to correct them when they pick up an item without being told, such as your favorite most comfortable shoe. If you yell “NO! BAD DOG!” you have just begun reverse training your Service-PUP. Over time he will learn that retrieving is a bad thing. On the other hand, if you say “GOOD GET IT, BRING IT,” and then give him a treat or an appropriate dog toy he continues to learn that bringing things he finds to you is always a good thing to do, and you learn to put your shoes out of his reach. During this camp we will teach you how to respond to your Service-PUP with praise and corrections, both verbally and physically to ensure that your working bond remains strong.