Puppy Placement
What to Expect When Taking a Puppy Home
All puppies will be in a raiser home until they are ~14 months old. Almost every raiser has the same concern, but we promise - **You will not break or ruin the puppies. You should get in the habit of checking the Puppy Raiser Resource Portal for all necessary enrichment, training, and support materials.**

Puppy raisers can always refer back to the Do's and Don'ts guide on the resource portal.

If in a Tiny Tots class, the puppies will be placed with a raiser at ~eight weeks old.

If in a normal placement class, the puppies will be placed with a raiser at ~four months old.
• Whelp, train, and enrich at FSD until eight weeks old

• Tiny Tots placed with a puppy raiser at eight weeks old

• For standard puppy placement, sent to PTKCP (Prison Trained K-9 Companion Program) at eight weeks old and placed with raiser at four months old

• Throughout time with puppy raiser, puppies are assessed, enriched, trained, and loved

• Return to FSD at ~14 months old – In for Formal Training (IFT)
• Once IFT, puppies are trained by an FSD trainer for a minimum of four months

• Puppies will be assessed to determine what they enjoy doing (retrieve, brace and balance, neurocognitive work, therapy, etc.)

• Breeding candidates will be determined and raisers will be notified of the great news – these pups have shown excellent temperament, training, and genetics. Many female pups will not be spayed before evaluations in case of breeding candidacy

• If a pup is chosen as a breeding candidate, the raiser will sometimes be given the option to become the custodian home prior to, during, and after the pregnancy. The FSD Reproduction Team will work with the raiser at this point to ensure proper support is provided regarding veterinary appointments, whelp schedules, etc.
Puppies are trained on Primary (PCA) and Secondary (SCA) Cues at various ages. They will be assessed at four, six, and 10 months old.

• Tiny Tots will only know some of their Primary Cues when they go home with a raiser, but should already be crate trained and (mostly) housetrained.

• Normal puppy placements occur after the puppy has been in prison training (PTKCP) for two months. They might be working on the SCA by the time they go to a raiser home. Raisers should focus on the PCA and maintain those skills.
PUPPY HEALTH AND VACCINATIONS

• FSD provides heartworm preventative and all standard vaccinations for puppies

• Tiny Tot raisers will be contacted by the FSD Health Team to administer final vaccinations once the Tiny Tot is four months old

• Puppy raisers in satellite clubs or who live remotely (more than 100 miles from FSD) should contact the Animal Health Manager, Stephanie Guild to begin communication with the puppy raiser's local veterinarian. FSD will work with the veterinarian to cover the cost of routine vaccinations
PUPPY GUT HEALTH IN A NEW HOME

• Transitioning into a new home environment can be stressful for puppies. Sometimes this stress may translate into loose stool or vomiting (kibble or cloudy bile).

• Puppy raisers will be sent home with a bag of psyllium fiber. 1 tsp in the puppy’s breakfast and dinner can help firm their stool. If it does not resolve after three-to-four days, puppy raisers should submit a health concern form (located on the Puppy Raiser Resource Portal).

• If a puppy vomits some of their kibble or some cloudy bile, puppy raisers can feed the puppy their breakfast and dinner after soaking the kibble in water to soften it. The puppy may also be eating too quickly and may benefit from eating out of a puzzle feeder, slow feeder, a wobble Kong, or a homemade slow feeder.
PUPPY HEALTH CONCERNS

- If a puppy has a non-emergency health need, raisers should submit a health concern form which is located on the Puppy Raiser Resource Portal.

- Non-emergency issues might be persistent red/crusty eyes, persistent multi-day scratching, ear infection, loose stool, occasional vomiting.

- The FSD Health Team will attempt to respond asap, but might take 24-48 hours depending on extenuating circumstances.

- In the event of emergency (choking, sudden lethargy, vomiting dark bile, deep laceration, broken bone, etc.), take to the nearest emergency veterinarian and follow the emergency contact protocols listed on the portal and in the binder.
FEMALE HEAT CYCLES

• Female dogs may go into heat between the age of six months to two years old

• When a female goes into heat, puppy raisers should email the Puppy Development Team so they can inform the Animal Health Team

• Some females may have a "silent heat" where they do not show the normal physical signs of estrus

• Because some dogs have the "silent heat," FSD females should never be left unsupervised with unaltered male dogs, regardless of whether the males are owned by FSD

• Further information is located on the portal under Raising Female Dogs in Season or in the Puppy Raiser Program Binder
It is important that FSD puppies are comfortable with body handling. A dog that will not allow their nails to be trimmed, their ears to be cleaned, or their eyes to be looked at has a much higher chance of being career-changed.

Clients and veterinarians must be able to perform body handling and basic medical exams; and it is up to our puppy raisers to ensure their puppy’s success.
• Puppy raisers should check ears and may clean on a weekly basis following the Daily Body Handling – Ears protocol on the Puppy Raiser Resource Portal.

• If ears are dirty or have a strong scent, clean with a gentle ear cleaner designed for dogs. Do not clean more than once a week unless advised by the Animal Health Team.

• Puppy raisers should check eyes on a weekly basis and follow the Daily Body Handling Infographic on the Puppy Raiser Resource Portal.

• Puppy raisers should check and trim nails on a weekly basis and follow the body handling protocols on the Puppy Raiser Resource Portal and in the Puppy Raiser Program Binder. Puppy raisers can use the links on the portal to purchase a pair of Miller’s Forge nail clippers.

• It is very important that puppies be comfortable with nail trimming and overall body handling. If raisers are unsure of how to trim nails, they should refer to online resources and reach out to Puppy Development staff if they require more guidance.
PUPPY RAISER SUPPLY BAGS

• Puppy Raisers will be given a supply bag containing:
  • Medical Information and Heartworm Preventative
    • The paperwork contains current vaccinations and any other pertinent medical information
  • Contracts and Paperwork
    • Sign and return the Puppy Raiser Contract, Heartworm Preventative Contract, and Perfect Pace Contract
    • Take home and review the Rule of 3s, Body Handling schedule, and Exposure Timeline
PUPPY RAISER
SUPPLY BAGS

• 1 gallon of dry puppy kibble
  • Feed 2.5c daily unless otherwise instructed
  • Feed 1c for breakfast and put the rest in the treat pouch to use as training treats
  • Whatever food is left over at the end of the day can be served as puppy's dinner
• Psyllium Husk Powder
  • 1 tsp to kibble per meal to keep stool firm
• Treat Pouch – Fill with kibble to use as training treats
• Kong
  • Monitor to ensure puppy does not ingest pieces
  • Can be stuffed with softened kibble and frozen for enrichment (burns puppy's mental energy)
PUPPY RAISER SUPPLY BAGS

• Leash
  • Use a four-foot leash whenever possible (other than "sniffy" walks)
  • Raisers can purchase a biothane leash from www.contigodogs.com if desired
  • Use code "FSDPUPPY" to save 10% on the 4 foot training leash (choose red whenever possible)

• Clicker

• Vest (small/medium) and Freedom Service Dogs velcro patches (2). Let FSD staff know when a larger size is needed
  • Required when in public, but not needed for every walk around the neighborhood
  • Good to practice frequently and with lots of rewarding for the pup choosing to wear the vest
  • Don’t force the vest on a pup as this will create a negative association with the vest
  • Do not use the back handle or back ring to hold or move the puppy, or affix leashes
PUPPY RAISER SUPPLY BAGS

• Perfect Pace Head Collar
  • Should only be used for desensitization, not for public work unless approved by Puppy Development Team
• Tug Rope
  • Only given with supervision
  • When playing with the tug rope, encourage the pup to pull straight back as opposed to whipping the rope side-to-side
  • Tug rope will eventually be tied to doors so pups should be used to pulling straight back
• Nylabone (L or XL DuraChew variety)
  • Safe to leave with puppy unsupervised
PUPPY PLACEMENT TRAINING

Puppy raisers will have the opportunity to practice basic cues with the puppy during the puppy placement class.

Raisers should begin to familiarize themselves with the cues and hand signals before getting a puppy.

Below are a few links to training videos on the portal, but raisers should spend time looking at all the resources that are available on the portal:

- [Teaching Primary Cues](#) (Videos are located on the resource portal)
- [Treat Delivery](#)
- [Loose Leash Walking](#)
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CUES

- "Sit" - right hand, palm up, left side position
- "Down" - right hand, palm down, left side position
- "Come" - right hand across chest
- "Heel" - left handed semi-circle
- "Place" - right hand point to "place mat" or area
USEFUL LINKS NOW THAT PUPPY IS HOME

- **Puppy Raiser Resource Portal** (All linked materials are located on the portal. Use the table of contents to quickly navigate on mobile. Raisers should take time to review all materials on the portal)

- **Puppy Health Concern Submission Form**

- **FSD COVID Self-Screen Form**

- **Lesson and Outing Sign-Up Form**

- **Puppy Sitter Request Sheet** Please submit two weeks advance when possible

- **Monthly Report** (Due by the 2nd of the month)
THANK YOU!

All Puppy Photos from Amanda Engel Photography
https://www.amandaengelphotography.com/