



Freedom Service Dogs PUPPY RAISING CLUB

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EMERGENCY CONTACTS

Health Department Contact Info

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For out-of-state emergencies, the puppy should be taken to a vet clinic or an emergency vet clinic for treatment. FSD consents to stabilizing treatment. As soon as the puppy's condition is stabilized, the FSD Health Department must be notified before further care is provided. A representative from FSD will work with the emergency vet clinic to discuss a treatment plan and payment.

When submitting reimbursement for payment, email itemized receipt, cc receipt, and treatment notes to sguild@freedomservicedogs.org along with your name and address where a reimbursement check can be mailed.

For in-state emergencies, the puppy should be taken to one of the approved emergency vet hospitals. FSD consents to stabilizing treatment. As soon as the puppy's condition is stabilized, the FSD Health Department must be notified before further care is provided. In an emergency situation in which the approved emergency vet is not a reasonable option, ie. too far away, the raiser should take the puppy to the nearest emergency veterinary hospital and notify the Health Department at FSD.

Approved Emergency Vet Locations- Denver Metro Area

Animal Emergency and Specialty Center

Emergency and Specialty Vet- emergencies, after-hours care, specialty 17701

Cottonwood Dr., Parker, CO 80134

720-842-5050

CVSG

Emergency and Specialty Vet- emergencies, after-hours care

401 E County Line Rd., Littleton, CO 80122

303-794-1188

VCA Alameda East

Emergency and Specialty Vet- emergencies, after-hours care, specialty 9770 E

Alameda Ave. Denver, CO 80247

303-366-2639

VRCC

Emergency and Specialty Vet- emergencies, after-hours care, specialty 3550 S

Jason St., Englewood, CO 80110

303-874-7387

Puppy Raiser Home Requirements

Pre-Raising Requirements

- Completion of all FSD requirements
 - Application and Background Check
 - Review Puppy Raiser Binder with PDC
 - Audit Puppy Raiser Outing
 - Attend Puppy Raiser Placement and handle a puppy in training
- Consent of all members of the household to raise a puppy
 - Any household member over the age of 18 must complete a background check.

Requirements While Raising

- Attend monthly Puppy Raiser Lesson or Puppy Raiser Outing.
- Timely completion of monthly report.
- When puppies are not in an enclosed area, they must be held on a leash.
- When puppies are on an outing, they must be wearing their vest
- Contact staff at the time of any medical or behavioral problems.
- Report all bites or aggressive behavior to FSD immediately.

Responsibility

FSD is **NOT** in any way responsible for any damage or injury that may occur to your house, property, or other animals, by the raiser animal(s). You must take necessary care to protect yourself, children, pets, family members and any others who may come into contact with the animal from bodily harm.

FSD will cover any medical expenses related to the care of the puppy.

Supplies and Equipment

Leashes and Collars: The FSD puppy will be wearing a buckle collar with its puppy tag attached when you pick it up. You will need to switch the ID tag to the larger buckle collar when the puppy is big enough to wear it. Check with FSD staff to see if there is a larger buckle collar available for the puppy to use before purchasing your own.

Crates and Bedding: We recommend a portable plastic molded or metal wire crate that will last the entire time you are raising puppies. The crate should be big enough for the puppy to stand up, turn around and lie down. Most wire crates come with a divider to partition off parts of the crate which you can then expand as the puppy grows. A good size is typically 24–26” wide, 36–38” deep and 32–34” tall. A crate can be provided at the request of the raiser and based on FSD inventory.

When the puppy is in the crate, they should be provided with a bed, blanket, or towel to lay on. If they show signs of chewing their bedding, let Puppy Development staff know.

All supplies other than kibble, and food and water bowls will be provided, when available, by FSD.

The following items are provided or administered by FSD directly:

- Vaccinations
- Flea and tick prevention
- Heartworm preventative
- Rabies tags

Puppy Raising 101 – The Basics

Emergency Recall

Recalls are something that should be worked on a daily basis with a kibble reward every time.

Some tips to remember are:

- Never call your puppy to you for anything he/she may view as even remotely bad – go get them. This includes giving medicine, giving them bath, cleaning their ears, or clipping their nails.
- Never chase your puppy, this can be seen as a game. Instead, in an emergency situation, run away from him until he catches up to you. If this doesn't work, try turning from your puppy, squatting down and calling their name, or even sitting on the ground and calling their name. Once he comes to you, reward him for coming.
- In case of an emergency, run the other way yelling and screaming like you're at a football game, clapping and cheering. Puppies will come to see what the noise is all about.
- Calmly secure the puppy and then reward. Don't give them the chance to run away again. Successful recall could save the puppy's life.

Feeding

At the FSD puppy kennel, prior to placement in a raiser home, puppies are fed Purina Pro Plan Large Breed "Under Two Years" kibble. Most puppies receive 2.5c daily, including all kibble used for treats. We recommend giving 1-1.5c of food for breakfast and putting the rest of the daily allotment into your treat pouch. Whatever is left over at the end of the day can be fed for dinner.

Puppy raisers are encouraged to feed the puppies their breakfast and dinner in the crate. This helps puppies associate the crate with positive experiences such as food.

When the puppy is 12 months old, raisers should transition to Purina Pro Plan Large Breed Adult formula. This kibble is also fed to the adult dogs training on campus at FSD.

To transition from puppy to adult food, feed 50/50 the first week, 25/75(adult food) the second week, and all adult food the third week.



Nestlé PURINA

BODY CONDITION SYSTEM

TOO THIN

1

Ribs, lumbar vertebrae, pelvic bones and all bony prominences evident from a distance. No discernible body fat. Obvious loss of muscle mass.



1

2

Ribs, lumbar vertebrae and pelvic bones easily visible. No palpable fat. Some evidence of other bony prominence. Minimal loss of muscle mass.

3

Ribs easily palpated and may be visible with no palpable fat. Tops of lumbar vertebrae visible. Pelvic bones becoming prominent. Obvious waist and abdominal tuck.



3

IDEAL

4

Ribs easily palpable, with minimal fat covering. Waist easily noted, viewed from above. Abdominal tuck evident.

5

Ribs palpable without excess fat covering. Waist observed behind ribs when viewed from above. Abdomen tucked up when viewed from side.



5

6

Ribs palpable with slight excess fat covering. Waist is discernible viewed from above but is not prominent. Abdominal tuck apparent.

TOO HEAVY

7

Ribs palpable with difficulty; heavy fat cover. Noticeable fat deposits over lumbar area and base of tail. Waist absent or barely visible. Abdominal tuck may be present.



7

8

Ribs not palpable under very heavy fat cover, or palpable only with significant pressure. Heavy fat deposits over lumbar area and base of tail. Waist absent. No abdominal tuck. Obvious abdominal distention may be present.

9

Massive fat deposits over thorax, spine and base of tail. Waist and abdominal tuck absent. Fat deposits on neck and limbs. Obvious abdominal distention.



9

The **BODY CONDITION SYSTEM** was developed at the Nestlé Purina Pet Care Center and has been validated as documented in the following publications:

Mawby D, Birtges JW, Moyers T, et. al. *Comparison of body fat estimates by dual-energy x-ray absorptiometry and deuterium oxide dilution in client owned dogs.* *Compendium* 2001; 23 (9A): 70

Lafamme DP. *Development and Validation of a Body Condition Score System for Dogs.* *Canine Practice* July/August 1997; 22:10-15

Kealy, et. al. *Effects of Diet Restriction on Life Span and Age-Related Changes in Dogs.* *JAVMA* 2002; 220:1315-1320

Call 1-800-222-VETS (8387), weekdays, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. CT



Nestlé PURINA

Water Access

Puppies should have easy access to fresh, clean water. Free access to water is preferred, but when this is not practical it is acceptable to offer fresh water frequently throughout the day (minimum of 8 times per day, more frequently in hot temperatures). With younger puppies (>6mo) it is advisable to closely monitor and occasionally limit the amount of water your puppy consumes. Puppies have very small bladders and will need to be taken out right after drinking.

Raisers are advised to monitor the drinking and relieving pattern for each puppy. Changes in water consumption or frequency of relieving are sometimes indicative of a medical condition that needs to be addressed. Raisers with concerns about the volume of water their puppy is consuming, or concerns about changes in their puppy's drinking or relieving patterns should submit a health concern report.

House Training

The puppies have received basic house training, but raisers will want to pay attention to the relief schedules of the puppies. While raisers and puppies are adjusting and bonding with each other, take the puppies out every two-to-four hours during the day or immediately following eating, drinking, playing or being released from their crate. Raisers will quickly learn how often a puppy needs to go out. If the puppy is given an opportunity to relieve outdoors, comes inside, and relieves in the home, raisers should adjust their approach. Raisers should give the puppy an opportunity to relieve themselves outdoors, then give them 15-30 minutes relaxation in their crate, and then give the puppy another opportunity outdoors.

Puppies are able to sleep in their crates overnight for eight hours before going outdoors to relieve. Raisers may want to pay attention to water intake shortly before crating the puppy for the night to avoid accidents.

Socializing Puppies: Meeting the Family

Meeting Children

Do not allow children to hug, climb on, sit on, or lie on the puppy. Allow the puppy to initiate interaction with children rather than allowing the child to approach or chase the puppy.

Always be on the lookout for stress signs in your puppy. These may include, but are not limited to: yawning, lip licking, turning the head away from the stressor, "whale eye" (showing the whites of the eye), stretching, moving slowly, furrowed brow, lowered body, tucked tail, sweating through paw pads, snarling, shaking off, attempting to retreat, or growling. Be sure to supervise all interactions and remove the child if you see these signs. As a general rule, children under 12 years old should NOT be left alone or unsupervised with a puppy.

Should your puppy exhibit growling, fear, or other extreme reactions toward a child, please let us know immediately.

Meeting Other Dogs

Before bringing the puppy home, it is a good idea to pick up and put away any items that may cause conflict between dogs. This includes, but is not limited to: bones, bully sticks, cow hooves, stuffed toys, balls, and KONGs. Plan ahead as to where you will feed the puppy to prevent potential conflicts over food. We recommend feeding your puppy in the crate to avoid disruption while eating.

Introductions are done by the raiser and FSD staff does not need to be present. When you do let the dogs come into contact with one another, they should be untethered in a safe fenced or enclosed area. You may choose to leave the leash on the dogs, but allow it to drag so you can easily regain control.

Be on the lookout for a dog who is not responding appropriately to communication from the other dog. Dogs give many visual signals using body language to say “Please give me space.” This may include, but is not limited to: looking away, lip licking, stretching, tucked tail, walking away, or trying to duck behind you. Should the other dog not respond to these signals, the target dog may “step up” their approach to include growling, baring teeth, snapping, barking, or lunging.

All dog introductions should be while untethered in a safe fenced or enclosed area. If at any time you feel you cannot manage the interactions or are concerned about dogs that are not getting along, please reach out to us for support.

Meeting Cats

Some of our puppies have been tested to determine if they are appropriate with cats. You will still want to take precautions, however, when introducing a puppy to your cat, as behavior can change between different types of cats as well as environments. Close your cat into a room initially and allow the puppy to explore your home and the smell of the cat. Next, put the puppy in their crate or have a family member take them into the yard or on a walk while you allow your cat to explore the smell of the puppy.

Be sure to control and supervise all interactions. Keeping your puppy on their leash initially will be important while you determine how they respond to your cat. We do not want to allow the puppy any opportunity to chase the cat, even if it is playful or a nonaggressive chase. Calm praise and/or treats when the puppy exhibits calm behavior around the cat will reinforce this good choice.

Never pick your cat up and force them to meet a puppy. In addition, never force a dog to interact with a cat, and instead reward choices to ignore or move away from the cat.

House Manners

- **Crates:** Puppies should be in the crate, not in your bedroom, overnight and when you are not at home. Please do not leave a puppy in the crate more than four hours at a time other than overnight. It is always a good practice to have a couple durable toys (Nylabone, Benebone) in the crate to keep the puppy occupied and to practice settling in the crate during the day. **Never force the puppy into the crate.**
- **Furniture:** Puppies are not allowed on any furniture. If your puppy jumps onto the furniture or bed, please tell them “Off” and point to the floor. If they ignore you, attach the leash to their collar and gently direct them off the furniture.
- **Calm Behaviors:** Reward the puppy for exhibiting calm behavior at home. Puppies should be quiet, keeping all four paws on the floor, shouldn’t be chewing or licking on objects (other than their toys) and should not be rewarded for staring intently at you.
- **Counters:** Do not allow the puppy to “counter surf” (stealing food off of counters or tables). You may use the cue, “Off” and point to the floor. If they ignore you, attach the leash to their collar and gently direct them off the counter. Your puppy can also be in a “place” or in a kennel outside of the kitchen while you are in the kitchen.
- **Dog doors:** Dog doors should be closed when you can’t supervise the puppy in your yard. It is a good idea to practice relieving your puppy on leash occasionally to ensure they are comfortable in this situation as well.

Meeting Guests and Neighbors

When meeting guests, the puppy must have good manners. You should ask the puppy to “sit” or “place” and they must stay in that spot until you give the cue “All done,” at which time you can have the puppy calmly greet your guests.

- If the puppy is barking or jumping, step away from the guests and try to refocus the puppy. You can move the puppy into a room out of visual range of the guests and have the puppy calm down and try again.
- If the puppy gets very excited by the doorbell or a knock, temporarily ask your guests not to ring or knock. **Please let us know so we can work on this.**

Activities With Your Puppy

Pay Attention to the Environment: Before you take the puppy outdoors, make sure it is not too hot or too cold. If you plan on taking the puppy on a walk, check the pavement/ ground with the back of your hand. If it is hot to the touch, it will be hot on the puppy’s paws. Try to keep longer walks to the morning or evening when it is cooler.

During the winter, be aware that some sidewalks will have salt scattered to melt the ice. This salt can cause discomfort and burns on the puppy’s paws. Try to avoid the salt when possible, or apply a pet-safe salve such as Musher’s Secret to the puppy’s paws to create a barrier between skin and salt.

Fenced backyard play: Please supervise the puppy in your yard to avoid any escapes. If you do not have a fenced yard, use a long line so you can hang out with your puppy in the yard. Always monitor your puppy to ensure they are not pulling at the end of the long line or becoming tangled.

Walks, hikes, and parks: You can walk your puppy in your neighborhood, in quiet parks and on hikes. Walking is training, so they must follow our walking guidelines:

- Puppies must always be on leash unless they are in a secured, fenced yard.
- **For the first two weeks after puppy placement, raisers should keep walks short and around the neighborhood. Raisers can build the puppy’s endurance over time and gradually increase the distance of walks and hikes.**
- **Long walks and hikes can be overwhelming for puppies not accustomed to so many stimuli. Puppies can become overly stressed, overwhelmed by sights, sounds, and smells, creating adverse reactions to new stimuli.**
- **If taking the puppy on a long leash hike or sniff walk, the puppy must be able to quickly and consistently recall to the handler if you are to encounter other dogs, joggers, bikes, prey animals, etc.**
- Use a 4ft leash (no retractable leashes) or a long leash if trail hiking. Your puppy should walk on your left side while on a short leash and at no time should your puppy be pulling ahead and putting tension on the leash, even during trail hikes. If this happens, stop walking and wait for the puppy to redirect their attention to you before proceeding.
- Your puppy should not be interacting with other dogs while on leash or putting their nose to the ground to sniff or pick up items (unless trail hiking with a long leash). Use gentle collar pressure to encourage your puppy to keep their head elevated.

Traveling with Your Puppy

The puppy must be kept on leash.

- 1) When getting out of the car, the puppy should remain stationary until after you open the door. Once you have the leash in hand and clipped to their collar, say "Off" and the puppy should jump out of the car.
- 2) NEVER leave the puppy in the car unattended.
- 3) **Any airline travel must be approved by the PDT and with an airline allowing Service Dogs in Training.** Travel can be stressful for animals as well as people, and the PDT will help raisers ensure the puppy is ready for successful air travel. Many airlines no longer allow SDiTs, so be sure to check with airlines in advance.

Puppy Sitters

There may be times when the puppy is not old enough or mature enough for travel. If so, raisers should put a request on the puppy sitter request sheet.

Puppy sitters must be trained by FSD staff and must have completed the puppy program onboarding process in order to ensure consistency for the puppies. Puppy sitters should read the binder, familiarize themselves with the current curriculum, attend an outing, and handle a puppy before providing a temporary home.

Restricted Activities

- No dog parks
- **For the first two weeks after placement avoid any public outings with the puppy. This includes any outing outside the home or beyond short, successful walks in your neighborhood.**
- **Public outings will not be permitted until you have received approval from Puppy Development staff. This includes areas where dogs are allowed, such as hardware stores and farmers markets. Outings can be stressful for puppies and may overwhelm them if they are not ready for the exposure.**
- Once Puppy Development staff approve, raisers may begin to take the puppies on short, simple outings (walk in and walk out of Target, building up to longer durations).
- Always keep the puppy's skills and stress level into account. **Short, successful outings** will help the puppy grow in confidence and lead to longer, successful outings in the future.
- **Never take puppies onto escalators. Always take them on stairs or in the elevator.**
- Service dogs in-training are only allowed public access if they are being handled by a qualified handler who has gone through the FSD puppy program training. For public access service dogs in-training must also be in their vest, well groomed and well mannered. Puppies may be asked to leave if they are unable to remain settled, if they are overly distracted or vocal, or if they are causing a disturbance. If for any reason you are denied access please contact a Puppy Development staff member so we can help you resolve the issue.

Dog Health and Wellness

Stress and Anxiety

It is very common for a dog to experience stress and anxiety when placed in a new environment. This can result in the dog drinking more water and/or refusing to take treats or eat dog food. In addition, they may be confused about where to eliminate, so please take them out often. The dog's stool may be soft, or they may have diarrhea with mucus and/or spots of blood.

IT DOESN'T HAPPEN OVERNIGHT

THE 3/3/3 RULE IS A GENERAL GUIDELINE FOR THE ADJUSTMENT PERIOD OF A DOG AFTER ADOPTION. EVERY DOG IS UNIQUE AND WILL ADJUST DIFFERENTLY.

		
3 DAYS	3 WEEKS	3 MONTHS
TO DECOMPRESS	TO LEARN YOUR ROUTINE	TO START TO FEEL AT HOME
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● FEELING OVERWHELMED● MAY FEEL SCARED/UNSURE OF WHAT'S GOING ON● NOT COMFORTABLE ENOUGH TO BE "HIMSELF"● MAY NOT WANT TO EAT OR DRINK● SHUTS DOWN AND/OR HIDES UNDER FURNITURE● TESTS THE BOUNDARIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● STARTS SETTLING IN● FEELS MORE COMFORTABLE● REALIZES THIS COULD BE HIS FOREVER HOME● FIGURES OUT HIS ENVIRONMENT● GETS INTO A ROUTINE● LETS HIS GUARD DOWN, MAY BEGIN TO SHOW HIS TRUE PERSONALITY● BEHAVIOR ISSUES MAY START TO APPEAR	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● FINALLY FEELS COMPLETELY COMFORTABLE IN HIS HOME● BEGINS TO BUILD TRUST AND A TRUE BOND● GAINS A COMPLETE SENSE OF SECURITY WITH HIS NEW FAMILY● SETS INTO A ROUTINE

GIVE THEM A CHANCE

- The first three days at home the puppy should be kept on leash to ensure their safety and to allow you to supervise and become acquainted with your new puppy.
- After 2 weeks and approval from the Puppy Development staff, you will begin taking your puppy on short and successful outings. The type and duration of outings should match the puppy's abilities and confidence level.
- After three months puppies are comfortable in their home and routine. They might start to act out and push boundaries. You can scale back outings and training sessions if needed; making sure to keep expectations consistent.

The puppy should be kept in a crate (a safe place) when you leave the house, when you can't watch the puppy, or when you are sleeping. You will be amazed at the incredible escape skills a puppy may have. It only takes seconds for an unmonitored puppy to chew up something that is expensive or harmful to their health.

Dog Health Symptoms

Here are some symptoms to look for that would indicate that the puppy may have a health problem:

- 1) Not eating, drinking, or eliminating normally *
- 2) Persistent vomiting or diarrhea*
- 3) Blood and/or mucus in stools*
- 4) Blood in urine (usually difficult to detect)
- 5) Lethargic (very low energy level)*
- 6) Persistent cough or runny nose, green or yellow mucus discharge
- 7) Limping, having a problem getting up from a down position, or can't stand
- 8) Refuses to go up or down stairs when they had been using them previously
- 9) Red eyes or excessive mucus discharge
- 10) Worms in feces
- 11) Scooting rear end on the ground
- 12) Constantly scratching or pawing at ears
- 13) Ears are red and irritated

*Except for initial stress/anxiety in new environment (the first 24 hours)

If the puppy has ongoing symptoms for two or more days, submit an Animal Health Concern Form, located on the Puppy Raiser Resource Portal. The Animal Health Team will be in contact with further instruction.

When to Contact FSD Staff and Take the Puppy to Urgent Care

In a serious situation, when in doubt, take the puppy to an emergency vet

- If the puppy's temperature goes above 103 degrees
- If the puppy cannot keep any water or food down
- If the puppy ingests a foreign object or a toxin
- If the puppy seems to be in extreme pain (screaming, snapping, avoiding touch)
- If the puppy sustains a serious injury
- If the puppy sustains a snake bite

Home Remedies

Please do not at any time give your puppy ANY medications unless authorized by FSD staff or veterinary hospital doctors.

Raising Female Dogs In-Season

Puppy raisers should be aware that some discharge is normal in both female and male adolescent dogs. If the female dog goes into heat, FSD can provide dog “diapers” to the raiser.

Homes (raiser or puppy sitter) will be required to follow certain guidelines while the puppy is in-season, including:

- Female canine seasons generally run for approximately 21 days, but individual dogs may stay in-season for longer periods. It is during this period when females attract male dogs and enter their fertile period.
- No unaltered or recently altered (within the past six weeks) male dogs may live in the home.
- No outings or group outings until bleeding has stopped and behavior is normal.
- If necessary, the pup may be taken to the office, but should be wearing a doggy diaper or boy’s briefs with the tail poked through the fly.
- No walks around the neighborhood unless the puppy is wearing a doggy diaper.
- No interaction with unaltered male dogs is allowed, including FSD dogs/puppies.
- Puppies may not be left in a yard or pen without direct supervision by a raiser or FSD trained family member.
- Puppies are allowed to miss their monthly scheduled outing if their heat cycle coincides with the lesson/outing, but puppy raisers should schedule a Zoom call or send a write-up to Puppy Development staff.

Signs of a female dog going into heat:

- Change in dog temperament or mood. The female may become more reserved, more clingy, distracted, or less interested in training
- Swollen vulva
- Discharge
- “Flagging” - raising tail

Some dogs may have a “silent heat” in which these signs do not appear. Hence the restriction/ supervision of unaltered male dogs regardless of whether they are owned by FSD or privately.

Puppy Evaluations and Return to FSD

Individual Puppy Evaluations

- FSD puppies are evaluated throughout their lives in order to track their responses to stress.
- The evaluations are called Primary and Secondary Cue Assessments (PCA and SCA) and are completed at four months, six months old, 10 months old, and when they return to FSD for formal training (IFT) at 14 months.
- The PCA and SCA are not used to determine raiser skill or whether a puppy will be a service dog.
- The PCA and SCA are used to determine what skills a puppy has at various ages. If they are not passing their assessments, this allows the Puppy Development Department to create plans to help support the puppy and raiser.
- The PCA and SCA also allow for observation of temperament such as confidence, fear, etc.

Puppy Raiser IFT Protocol

- Once the puppy returns to FSD for their formal training (IFT) at 14 months, the raiser should not become the puppy's weekend raiser. This helps to provide delineation for the puppy, between the raiser and their trainer/ new handler.
- If the raiser encounters the puppy once they are IFT, the raiser should walk by the puppy without engaging. The raiser needs to help the puppy practice as they would with any other dog or human.
- When participating in any volunteer handler classes or outings, the raiser should not handle the puppy once they are IFT.

When is a Dog Qualified to Be a Service Dog?

Not every dog can be a service dog. Regardless of breed, all service dogs need a special set of qualities in order to be reliable in their work. These characteristics include:

- Calm but friendly nature
- Alert but not reactive
- Able to be touched by anyone, including strangers
- Willingness to please
- Tendency to follow you around
- Socialized to many different situations and environments
- Ability to learn quickly and retain information

Career Changed Puppies

- FSD **DOES NOT** guarantee that the raiser will be given the option to adopt the puppy once released from the training program. When a puppy or IFT dog is released from the training program, the raiser will receive an email from the ADoDT. If adoption is appropriate, the Dog Operations Coordinator will reach out to the puppy raiser with further detail.
- Circumstances may exist that prevent the raiser from adopting the puppy after they are career changed. Some puppies were donated to FSD with a contract to be returned to the breeder if they are career changed. Other puppies may be shifted into a search and rescue career or into a partner-organization. If the puppy is transferred to another program, the puppy raiser may be informed by the ADoDT.

How Dogs Think and How to Communicate When Training

Dogs are great at picking up on patterns and trends, remembering that for instance, the last 3 times they sat and stared at a person in the kitchen, they got a scrap of food, so sitting and staring results in being fed. In this way, dogs are always learning or unlearning things: **Every experience will shape a future behavior.** Simply put, dogs do what works for them.

From the time they are puppies, dogs have learned their behavior has consequences. They learn to repeat behaviors that have happy consequences and avoid behaviors that have unwanted consequences. For this reason, never allow a puppy to do what you don't want them to do as an adult dog, like sit on your lap or jump up to lick your face. What may be cute with a 15-pound puppy won't be cute with a 90-pound dog.

Another key element in learning is consistency. Imagine if each trainer, volunteer, and foster had different rules for one dog? How confused would he be with some people allowing him on the bed at night and others telling him to sleep only in his crate? How would he know who to listen to? Dogs are pretty "black and white" in their thinking and they have a very hard time understanding the concept of "sometimes". This is why consistency is so important for them to learn what we expect from them. For training to be successful, it is important for our dogs to consistently follow certain rules. For example: **no jumping on people, pulling on leash, or standing at office gates to solicit attention.**

Natural consequences should not be confused with Punishment

Natural consequences and positive punishment both fall along the lines of operant conditioning; the actions which follow a behavior will determine whether that behavior is likely to reoccur in the future. There is one major difference between the two methods, though - fear. Positive punishment relies on the anticipation of something painful or unpleasant in order to deter behaviors whereas natural consequences should never evoke these negative emotional responses.

Example: A common problem behavior in dogs is loose leash walking. Utilizing tools such as a prong collar, leash correction or sharp verbal corrections are all considered positive punishment and carry a heavy emotional response from the learner as well as the possibility of pain. The use of natural consequences, such as gentle directional changes or the handler stopping movement when the leash becomes tight, achieve the same results (decreasing the presence of a behavior) without harming the relationship between handler and dog.

The ultimate goal of positive punishment is to enforce compliance by using external controls. Natural consequences, on the other hand, help the learner to develop internal understanding, self-control and a desire to learn and follow the rules. Freedom Service Dogs aims to produce confident, loyal service dogs who are able to think independently in ever changing environments. The use of natural consequences allows for the bond between these dogs and their handlers to flourish as opposed to falter through the use of positive punishment.

THE THREE D'S

The 3 D's help build behaviors to fluency (mastering the behavior) and help ensure they are under stimulus control. A behavior is considered to be under stimulus control when the puppy responds consistently to the cue for that behavior, and does not offer the behavior unless given the cue to do so. In order to consider a behavior fluent, the puppy must be able to master the test of the 3 D's.

The criteria, or 3 D's, that verify the consistency of a dog's skill and knowledge of a behavior are **duration, distance, and distraction**. All three combined verify mastery of the behavior.

Duration is the length of time the dog sustains the behavior before hearing the click that marks the end of the behavior. When adding more time to duration behavior you should reinforce the behavior in small increments. You want your puppy to be consistent in the behavior before you begin to test the criteria.

There are three duration stays:

- Sit – (maximum of five minutes)
 - The sit stay should be an upright position with no scooting or turning of the body. The puppy may shift their weight on either hip.
- Down – (maximum of two hours)
 - The puppy must stay in position. They may shift their weight on either hip with no standing, crawling, or rolling onto their back.
- Place – (indefinite stay)
 - The puppy may reposition on the place as long as he stays in the designated boundary.

Duration is implied for each of the cues above. This means your puppy should hold each position, without any additional cues (stay or wait), until released or cued to another position.

Distance is where the dog performs the behavior at a distance from the trainer or the dog stays while the trainer moves around or away from the dog. Never work duration and distance together until you are ready to move onto the distraction stage.

The last criteria is **distractions**. A distraction is anything in the environment competing with the animal's attention when being asked to perform a behavior. Birds, loud noises, children playing, other animals, or new locations can all be distracting to your puppy. Start practicing the criteria of distractions in a low distraction area, then gradually increase the level of distractions.

Training Guidelines

The expectation is about two 10min dedicated training sessions a day. A dedicated training session simply means that all of your attention is on your puppy. These sessions can be Relaxation Protocol, distraction games, practicing cues, or other training activities.

The rest of the training will happen organically as opportunities arise in the environment. For example, have your puppy maintain a "place" position while you cook dinner or practice LLW while you go get the mail. Puppies are always learning and at times when you don't have time and energy to train your puppy during an outing, it can be beneficial for the puppy to stay home in their kennel (less than 4 hours). Daytime kenneling is also beneficial in teaching a puppy how to settle and relax independently.

The majority of FSD Puppy Club training techniques apply positive reinforcement, the addition of a positive consequence to increase the frequency of a behavior.

Do's and Don'ts

Do take your time loose leash walking with the dog. When approaching the facility, practice walking toward the building and through doorways.

Don't allow the dog to pull you toward buildings and doorways. Practice impulse control, loose leash walking, and yielding to collar pressure. A client will not be able to manage a dog that pulls them around and this could lead to injury.

Do use all time with an FSD dog to practice good behavior. Unless otherwise noted (sniffy walks, "All Done," and play time), dogs in FSD care should be treated as though they are working/training any time they are in public.

Don't allow dogs to solicit attention while in offices; or on or off-leash. Dogs should pass by people, other dogs, and any distractions without pulling toward or soliciting attention. Dogs should not stand at office gates and solicit attention.

Do remember to keep your body still, and avoid talking too much when cueing a dog. Our dogs are looking for clear verbal and visual cues, and excess movement and words can be confusing.

Don't carry treats in your hand. This can be distracting and can be accidentally seen as bribing the dog for behavior. Mark, THEN reach for the treat and deliver.

Do use the cue before the action—not after!

Don't repeat cues. Say your cue, and be patient; if the dog does not comply within 10 seconds, reset or move on to something else, and re-evaluate the situation. It is possible the dog has not yet learned that cue fluently.

Do fade out food lures as quickly as possible. Bait your hand up to five times, and then use your hand alone by the sixth time. This is very important, as we do not want dogs that are reliant on lures and do not know how to do the behavior without one.

Don't give both cues at the same time. When using the verbal with a visual cue, give the hand signal (raised hand palm up) first, then say the verbal (i.e., Sit).

Do use your tone of voice to help and not harm. Cues should be delivered in a regular, even tone of voice; you don't need to command the dog harshly. Using calm praise is helpful for an easily excitable dog.

Don't yell at the dog, use leash pops, or spray bottles

Do ask for help if you need it!

Training With Rewards

Value and Delivery of Treats

It is important to choose treats that will serve as well suited motivators for the situation and the amount of effort needed for the dog to do what you are asking of him.

Life Rewards

Life rewards are things other than food that your dog loves. The more reliably your dog has learned a behavior, the more you can use life rewards in place of treat rewards. Some life rewards are:

- Playing ball or Frisbee
- Playing tug Verbal praise & petting
- Access to something (going through a door, getting to sniff)



Relaxation Protocols

The **Relaxation Protocol** (RP), displayed below, was developed in 1997 by Dr. Karen Overall. It is a set of exercises where you systematically teach your puppy to **relax** in a sit, a down, or on a mat and remain calm despite what may be happening around them. Using food and quiet praise, the puppy learns to associate good things with different stimuli. You will receive “15 Days” of RPs to work through with your puppy to develop impulse control and settling behaviors. The Day 1 Protocol is included below. It will require consistent practice to work through all 15 protocols and will take much longer than 15 days. Even after your puppy is able to successfully complete all 15 days of protocol you can continue to develop these skills by practicing RP in other environments and develop your own RP specific to activities in the daily routine of your puppy. **Please note that we do not use the clicker during this activity as it tends to activate puppies rather than assisting them in settling.**

Relaxation Protocols using THE THREE D’S

Day 1: Puppy's Tasks
Sit for 5 seconds
Sit for 10 seconds
Sit while you take 1 step back and return
Sit while you take 2 steps back and return
Sit for 10 seconds
Sit while you take 1 step to the right and return
Sit while you take 1 step to the left and return
Sit for 10 seconds
Sit while you take 2 steps back and return
Sit while you take 2 steps to the right and return
Sit for 15 seconds
Sit while you take 2 steps to the left and return
Sit while you clap your hands softly once
Sit while you take 3 steps back and return
Sit while you count out loud to 10
Sit while you clap your hands softly once
Sit while you count out loud to 20
Sit while you take 3 steps to the right and return
Sit while you clap your hands softly twice
Sit for 3 seconds
Sit for 5 seconds
Sit while you take 1 step back and return
Sit for 3 seconds
Sit for 10 seconds
Sit for 5 seconds
Sit for 3 seconds

****TREAT YOUR PUPPY BETWEEN EACH TASK****

Training Curriculum

Puppy Training Timeline

Puppy Kindergarten

- 0-2mo: In the FSD neonatal wing
 - Early Neurological Stimulation (ENS)
 - Training / socialization
 - Exposure to sounds, smells, body handling, collar yielding

Prison Program

- 2-3mo: Practice Primary Cues w/ LLW distractions @ 10ft
 - **Primary Assessment should be done at 3mo**
 - Score above 20pts: Move on to Primary + Secondary
 - Score 20pts or below: Continue w/ Primary Cues
- 3-4mo: Practice Primary + Secondary Cues w/ LLW distractions @ 10ft
 - **Primary Assessment should be repeated at 4mo, adding in Secondary Assessment if ready**

****If puppy is unable to score above 20pts on the Primary Assessment upon leaving the PTKCP it will need to be assessed by a PD staff member prior to placement w/ raiser**

Puppy Raising Program

- 4-6mo: Practice Primary Cues w/ LLW distractions @ 5ft
 - **Primary Assessment should be done at 6mo**
 - Score above 20pts: Move on to Primary + Secondary
 - Score 20pts or below: Continue w/ Primary Cues, reassess monthly
- 6-10mo: Practice Primary + Secondary Cues w/ LLW distractions @ 2ft
 - **Primary + Secondary Assessment should be done at 10mo**
 - Score above 20pts (Primary) & 25pts (Secondary):
 - Move on to Primary + Secondary + Service
 - Score 20pts or below (Primary), 27pts or below (Secondary):
 - Repeat Primary and/or Secondary, reassess monthly
- 10-14mo: Practice Primary + Secondary + Service Cues

****If puppy is unable to score above 20pts on the Primary Assessment by 10mo it will be evaluated by a PD staff member and an Action Plan created**

Formal Training

- 14-20mo: Secondary and Service Cues
 - Assessment and assigned to a FSD trainer
 - Client placement
 - Graduation

Primary Cue Definitions

Cue	Definition
Sit	With the puppy on leash, the puppy sits in a heel position when cued with either a verbal or visual cue. Puppy should maintain a sit until released. Handler should be able to remain in position, move around and walk away.
Down	With the puppy on leash, the puppy lays down in heel position when cued with either a verbal or visual cue. Puppy should maintain a down until released. Handler should be able to remain in position, move around and walk away.
Recall	With either a verbal or visual cue, the puppy recalls in a straight line to the raiser and then sits in front of the handler.
Heel	With either a verbal or visual cue, the puppy moves from the front of the handler to the left into position. Puppy should remain standing unless otherwise cued.
Loose Leash Walking	Puppy matches pace with handler while maintaining position/ loose leash, even with distractions. "Let's Go."
Place	Puppy is cued, verbal and visual, to place on mat for 1 minute with raiser in sight, 30 seconds with raiser out of sight. Minimal reinforcement should be given.
Outside	What do daily relieving behaviors look like? Time, surfaces, on-leash, off leash, stationary, moving, environment, variation, level of handler support.
Kennel	Verbal cue, puppy goes into kennel and stays while door shuts, remains while door opens until cued "all done". 30 sec with raiser in sight, 1 min with raiser out of sight.
All Done	Puppy remains focused/ in position until cued. Puppy recognizes cue and maintains control until cued. This is not a mandatory release, the puppy may choose to remain in position if they desire.
Get Dressed	With verbal cue, the puppy should place their head through the vest and remain standing while the handler buckles straps.
Other:	Appropriate chewing, four on the floor, housebreaking, overall house manners, minimal management required, level of supervision, no safety concerns.