



PAWS DOG VOLUNTEER FAQ

Do I have to live in Michigan to be a PAWS Dog Volunteer?

To host a Mama or Papa Dog you need to live in Michigan and be within in a two hour drive of our National Headquarters in Wayland, MI.

Foster Puppy Raisers are required to attend regular obedience classes with their puppy, because of this Raisers are required to live within driving distance of Grand Rapids, Lansing, Saginaw, Troy, Belleville, MI; Chicago, Illinois; or Tallahassee, FL.

Does PAWS require that I have a fenced yard?

While PAWS does prefer that PAWS Dog Volunteers have a fenced yard for their puppy/dog, it is not a requirement. However, neither Foster Puppies or Mama or Papa Dogs should be left unsupervised, even in a fenced area. If you do not have a fenced yard you must agree to secure a tie out or a freestanding kennel run for the dog's exercise and break times or be willing to leash walk the dog for these times. PAWS Dogs are not allowed to run free outside of a completely fenced area.

Can I request a specific breed, color or sex for the puppy that I will raise or the Mama or Papa Dog that I will host?

The majority of the dogs that are bred and raised at PAWS are Labs and Golden Retrievers. PAWS will do its best to meet your requests; however a puppy/dog of another breed or sex may be available sooner. You can choose to take one of the puppies/dogs available or wait for your preference to become available.

We have allergies in my family, are there any puppies that need fostering that are hypoallergenic?

PAWS does periodically have a non-shedding or hypoallergenic breed in our program, however the wait to receive this type of puppy/dog will be longer due to limited availability.

Are there any small breed dogs that need fostering?

PAWS occasionally has a small breed puppy available, however the wait to receive this type of puppy/dog may be longer due to limited availability.



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I work outside the home, can I still be a PAWS Dog Volunteer?

The majority of our PAWS Dog Volunteers do work outside the home. If raising a puppy many of our volunteers will stop home at lunch time for the first month or so to let the puppy out to relieve itself or make arrangements with a friend or relative to do so. All PAWS dogs are crate trained and should remain in the crate whenever someone is not available to supervise it.

Are PAWS Dogs treated the same as pets?

Different rules apply to PAWS Dogs than would for the average pet. PAWS Dogs are not allowed to run free, they are not allowed on the furniture and are not allowed any people food unless it is used in the form of a training treat. When raising a Foster Puppy or hosting a Mama or Papa Dog we must keep the end result, the client, in mind in everything we do.

Do PAWS Dogs in training or in the breeding program have the same access rights as an Assistance Dog? No. PAWS Dogs in training and in the breeding program do not have the guaranteed access rights of an Assistance Dog. Volunteers must ask permission to take the dog into a public place and can be denied access or asked to leave.

Can I take my dog to work with me?

Some PAWS Dog Volunteers, in particular Foster Puppy Raisers, are able to bring their pup to work with them, however you would need to ask permission of your employer and it would need to be a safe environment for the dog.

My child wants to be a PAWS Dog volunteer; are there age requirements?

Raising a Foster Puppy or hosting a PAWS Mama or Papa Dog is a volunteer effort that can involve the whole family. However, it is a big responsibility and a parent must be willing to step in and assist the child with the dog's care and training. A parent or guardian must also sign all documents.

What happens to the puppies that are not able to be placed as Assistance Dogs?

PAWS always tries to find another working career for the dogs whenever possible. Some of the dogs career changed from PAWS program have gone on to become working dogs for US Customs, Police Departments, Arson Detection Dogs, Explosive and Drug Detection Dogs, Leader Dogs for the Blind, and Crisis Response Dogs. If another working career is not suitable for the dog it may be offered to the Foster Puppy Raiser as a family pet or placed with someone who is on the PAWS Career Change Dog list.



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How long would the puppy/dog be in my home?

Puppies are typically placed in the Foster Homes at around 8 weeks of age and would stay with the Raisers until they are 12 to 18 months of age, depending on the dog's maturity and readiness to come in for training.

PAWS Mama and Papa Dogs are housed at the volunteers home indefinitely, or until their rotational breeding comes to an end. Host homes are also responsible for whelping the puppies of the Mama Dogs and housing them until they are eight weeks old.

Is it ok to have other dogs in the home?

Yes, it is alright to have other dogs in the home. In fact, if you are raising a Foster Puppy other dogs can be helpful as they will help to teach your puppy not be distracted when working around other dogs. However, we require that there be no more than three other dogs in the home and other dogs in the home must be at least a year of age and puppy friendly. If you are raising a Mama or Papa Dog your other pets must be spayed or neutered.

Can I take my puppy/dog to the dog parks or doggy day care?

PAWS does not allow PAWS Dogs to go to dog parks or doggy day care. We cannot control how the other dogs there play and we don't want the puppies/dogs to become defensive or pick up bad habits from the other dogs. PAWS only allows two dogs off leash at a time to play in a completely fenced area to avoid the puppy picking up on the pack mentality. It is far more important for the dog to bond with people than with other dogs.

I live in an apartment. Can I still be a PAWS Dog Volunteer?

If you do not own your own home you must obtain permission from your landlord for the dog to reside there.

What are my expenses in being a PAWS Dog Volunteer?

PAWS Dog Volunteers are responsible for the day to day expenses in raising a Foster Puppy or hosting a Mama or Papa dog. These expenses include food, toys, Veterinary care; including vaccines, spaying/neutering, year-round heartworm preventive and an OFA preliminary hip x-ray. If you live in the vicinity of PAWS National Headquarters and are able to transport your puppy there for its Veterinary care, PAWS is able to provide this at no charge or our cost. PAWS is happy to provide volunteers with a taxable donation letter for the total of your puppy raising expenses at year end.



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What happens when I go on vacation?

There may be another PAWS Dog Volunteer in the area that would be willing to puppy sit for you.

Who names the puppy?

If the puppy comes from PAWS Breeding program the litter will be assigned a letter (for example all the names would begin with "A") or a theme and Raisers will be provided with an approved name list from which they may submit three names. If the puppy is donated by a Breeder the Raiser can choose any three from the approved name list. Names that are on the list are easy to pronounce with no more than two syllables, and contain a long vowel. PAWS does not use names that are common people names, of an ethnic origin or anything that may be considered "politically sensitive" or may be offensive to anyone. PAWS will then assign the puppy a name from the three that you have submitted, based on names that have been previously used and dogs that are currently in the program.

PAWS also offers donors an opportunity to Name A Puppy. For more information about our Name A Puppy opportunity please contact the Director of Advancement at 800-253-7297.

Am I required to complete reports on my puppy/dog's progress?

PAWS requires that you follow up with the PAWS Representative in your area at least once per month and we also send out a quarterly questionnaire which gives us valuable input on how your puppy is progressing. The questionnaires can be completed on PAWS website or can be mailed to you.

After my Home Interview, how long is the wait to puppy/dog?

While PAWS does its best to provide volunteers with a puppy/dog within a time frame that is accommodating to their schedules, sometimes Mother Nature doesn't cooperate with us. On average the wait to receive a puppy in Michigan is 2 - 10 weeks.



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Notes:

All PAWS Dog Volunteers

Please note that PAWS Dog Volunteers will be required to sign an agreement with PAWS that states that they agree to such things as:

- To physical and financial responsibility for the dog while caring for it, although the pup remains the property of PAWS.
- To promptly notify PAWS if, for any reason the volunteer is unable to care for the pup as agreed.
- To never allow the dog to run off-leash unless it is in a fenced in enclosure.
- To enroll the pup in a series of obedience classes either through a private instructor or through classes provided by PAWS.
- To complete the dog's vaccine schedule per PAWS protocol and provide PAWS with a current copy of the dog's medical history for their records.
- To waive any right that the volunteer, their heirs, executors, administrators, assignees, or successors might otherwise have to be reimbursed by PAWS and/or its Staff, Representatives, Puppy Donors, or Volunteers, for any injury or damage that they, their guests, or property might suffer either directly or indirectly, as a result of the actions or inactions of the dog.

Foster Puppy Raisers

Foster Puppy Raisers living in Michigan:

When the puppy reaches the age of 12 to 18 months, the Raiser must attend a scheduled turn in to bring the puppy to the Training Center near Wayland for evaluation, training and/or placement. A copy of the puppy's complete and updated medical records must be sent to PAWS prior to transporting to the Training Center.

Raisers outside of Michigan:

When the puppy reaches the age of 14 to 18 months, the Raiser must schedule an appointment with an authorized PAWS Representative in order for the puppy to be returned to Paws With A Cause for evaluation, training and/or placement. A copy of the puppy's complete and updated medical records, along with an OFA quality preliminary hip x-ray must be sent to PAWS prior to transporting the dog to the Training Center.