DO YOU QUALIFY
Karen completes PAWS’ questionnaire to see if she meets our basic qualifications for a Service Dog, Seizure Response Dog, Hearing Dog or Service Dog for Children with Autism.

APPLY TODAY
Since Karen met our basic qualifications, we mail her a full application. This way she can provide PAWS with her personal and medical background plus references.

HOW’S IT GOING
Once Karen’s app is approved, we check in every 6-9 months to give her a status update and determine if there are any changes in her living situation or disability.

HOW CAN WE HELP
A PAWS Field Rep visits Karen in her home to determine how an Assistance Dog could help her become more independent.

HI PAWS
When Karen completes the Needs Assessment, she becomes a waiting client. We give her quarterly updates until she is matched with a PAWS Assistance Dog.

IT’S A MATCH
We match Karen to ABEL since his strengths, temperament and physical structure align with the tasks and lifestyle she needs.

WE’RE A TEAM
Our Field Rep shows PAWS how Karen and ABEL are working together so we can certify them as a team. Once certified, ownership of ABEL transfers to Karen. We continue to provide the team with ongoing support and training for the working life of the dog.

RAISE A PUPPY
At 8 weeks old, ABEL goes to live in the home of a volunteer Foster Puppy Raiser who teaches him basic obedience. This volunteer also exposes ABEL to environments he may encounter with a client.

VET CARE
Our on-site Vet Team monitors the health and well-being of all PAWS Dogs. This team will see ABEL about 11 times from birth until placement.

COME SIT STAY
ABEL enters into advanced training at 12-16 months old. He is paired with 1-2 inmates who work on advanced obedience skills where repetition is needed.

CUSTOM TRAINING
ABEL learns the needs of his future partner. Trainers simulate the partner’s movements to custom-train ABEL for tasks. If a dog does not become an Assistance Dog, we try to find him another working career.

PUPPY LOVE
ABEL is specially bred with a temperament and structure that makes for an excellent Assistance Dog. Our Mama and Papa Dogs (and their young puppies like ABEL) live in the homes of PAWS volunteers.

WORKING TOGETHER
A PAWS Field Rep helps Karen and ABEL learn how to work together in their home, workplace, school and community.

A PAWS TEAM JOURNEY

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