

Tails of Valor®, Paws of Honor Program, Inc.

Service Dog Application (rvsd 08/2023)

Applicant name: _____

Date: _____

Applicant Email: _____

Phone: _____

Thank you for requesting a service dog application from **Tails of Valor®, Paws of Honor Program, Inc.** The addition of a service dog into a person's life is a big commitment. The benefits, both physical and emotional, are significant. We encourage interested parties to apply for a dog. This in no way commits the applicant to a decision, but instead indicates an interest and allows us to schedule an interview to discuss the specifics of the program and how a dog may fit into and benefit the individual's life.

Veterans/participants diagnosed with PTS can come from all over the Tri-State area to train at our Facility located at 1776 Salem Road, Quakertown, PA. The dogs in our program have been rescued or donated and named after a fallen soldier.

Tails of Valor® provides months of professional training that molds our dogs on a journey to become a service dog. Special commands and tasks, as required by the ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) are accomplished before the graduation with our canines. Veterans/participants must pass a Public Access Test (PAT) evaluation and canine care requirements, as well as commit to making a life change to include a service dog. Skills learned by the dog will be taught to the Veteran/participant. Continuation of communication is required annually after graduation. The team must also commit to an attendance review of skills and recertification to continue public access. Our programs and canines are of **NO COST** to the Veteran or participant..

Tails of Valor® respects the privacy of its applicants and recipients and all information is kept confidential although files may be periodically reviewed by accreditation agencies and staff to ensure our commitment to the highest standards of excellence.

Tails of Valor® conducts its business and acceptance process in a manner that will not discriminate against anyone on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, national origin, age, the presence of mental or physical disability, sexual preference, life expectancy, or whether the individual is a disabled veteran or veteran of any era. It is **Tails of Valor®, Paws of Honor Program, Inc.** policy to treat everyone who comes in contact with the organization with respect and dignity at all times.

At no time will **Tails of Valor®, Paws of Honor Program, Inc.** require applicants or graduates to participate in fundraising or marketing activities.

I have read, understand, and agree to this section of the application (please initial):

Tails of Valor®, Paws of Honor Program, Inc.

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Service Dog Applicants Must

- Be an active, retired or inactive military personnel diagnosed with military related Post Traumatic Stress (PTS), Military Sexual Trauma (MST), Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) OR must be a police officer, first responder, or emergency medical service personnel.
- Participate in programming which will involve meeting with TOV staff (wellness department and/or training department) a minimum of once per week.
 - Have a written recommendation submitted by the following: A licensed mental health professional and/or a VA caseworker.
 - Have no felony convictions.
 - Have three personal references.
 - Be able to provide an autobiography which should include how a Service Dog would help increase your quality of life and improve social interactions and everyday focus.
 - Be willing and able to provide for the dog's physical, emotional and financial needs.
 - Have completed therapy related to your disability if it is a physical disability.
 - Be successfully engaged in your individualized treatment program related to your specific diagnosis with a licensed professional while working with the TOV program for at least one year..
 - Be willing to implement emotional regulation tools/techniques as needed, keep an open mind with a willingness to learn and be a part of your therapy
 - Have a stable home environment with the support of all other household/ family members.
 - Have a desire for more independence and have physical mobility to work with our canines
 - Be financially stable.
 - To be able to participate in a peer animal assisted training program, creating the human canine bond needed for Service Team pairing success.
 - Provide a DD214 if you are a Veteran
 - Commit to a lifetime team empowerment with retesting and reporting including canine health checks.
 - Must reside in one of the 48 contiguous states.

Explosive behavior, abusive language and/or loss of temper while engaging with any member or volunteer of TOV will be unacceptable. Sudden outbursts of aggression, violence and/or anger directed toward staff or participants of the TOV program will result in a suspension from the program until such time as more intensive or consistent mental health treatment can be obtained.

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What to expect when you apply for a service dog:

- To participate in an initial interview with the initial interview being held in person at the Tails of Valor location.
- A home inspection will be conducted while also meeting the family members to make sure that all will be comfortable with the transition of this new family member. We will ask you to write a short autobiography so that **Tails of Valor®, Paws of Honor Program, Inc.** can have a better understanding of your history, experience, lifestyle, personality and why/how you feel a dog will make a difference. We want to get to know you and address your exact needs to the best of our ability.

Tails of Valor®, Paws of Honor Program Inc. has invested private and public resources into training this canine. We must be 100% comfortable with the new partnership, as the dogs cannot speak for themselves. We are their guardians and therefore must be thorough when making life-changing decisions.

What to expect when adopting our service dog:

- You will be required to attend private and group training sessions prior to acquiring your canine. You will work with our team and learn to navigate locations and situations similar to challenges you may experience at home or in the community. The transfer of the basic and intermediate commands will be instructed at this time and the bond of the new partnership will begin; this can take several months, up to one year, or more depending on your commitment.
- During this new partnership you will be allowed to have the canine for small periods of time overnight in your home under the TOV guidance and supervision. Graduation will follow this if the pairing is a success. You will be under a 3-month (adjusted) training program after graduation to ensure success. TOV maintains ownership of the dog until graduation is completed and a successful partnership is established. You will receive your identification that you and your dog are a team at graduation.
- You will then be an alumnus of Tails of Valor® and we will request commitments of communication, testing and health and wellness rechecks for Free dog food for life.
- At any time, if someone is suspected of being abusive to one of our dogs, the incident will be reviewed by the TOV Board. If physical harm is done to the dog, the dog will be immediately surrendered to **Tails of Valor®, Paws of Honor Program, Inc.**

I have read, understand, and agree to this section of the application (please initial):

Tails of Valor, Paws of Honor Program, Inc.

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Please complete the following application in its entirety and as legibly as possible. If necessary, you may have someone complete the form for you, but we require that your personal signature be on several of the forms. Information collected is strictly confidential and is used *only* for the purposes of identifying the most qualified dog for your particular needs. It is imperative that the application be completed thoroughly.

Contact Information

First/ Last Name: _____ DOB: _____ AGE : _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____

ZIP: _____

Cell Phone: _____ Work Phone _____

Email: _____

Emergency Contact

First/Last Name: _____

Relationship: _____

Phone: _____ Alt Phone: _____

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Applicant's Name: _____ Date: _____

Children:

___ I have no children.

___ I have children and will provide the names and ages below:

Is there anyone residing in your home that is not listed above? Yes ___ No ___

If so, please list: _____

Education:

- ___ High School
- ___ Collège
- ___ Associates Degree
- ___ Bachelor's Degree
- ___ Masters Degree
- ___ Doctorate
- ___ Other

Employment Information:

Are you currently employed? Yes ___ No ___

Employer Information:

Name : _____

Address : _____

City : _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone : _____

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Applicant's Name: _____ Date: _____

Military or Public Department Service Information:

Military Branch served or Public Department worked _____

Employed _____ Active _____ Retired _____ Medically Retired _____

Length of Service (to date): Years : _____ Months : _____

Has a mental health professional diagnosed you with PTS, TBI or MST?

Yes _____ No _____

Did you sustain any injuries? Yes _____ No _____

If "Yes", please describe:

Do you currently use assistive devices, (cane, wheelchair, etc)? Yes _____ No _____

Please indicate which proof of service you intend to provide:

DD-214 (retired/separated military)

Memo from Commanding Officer (active military)

Mental Health Professional letter of Referral

How were you referred to **Tails of Valor®, Paws of Honor Program, Inc..?**

Please attach 3 personal references.

Applicant's Signature: _____ Date: _____