Facility Dogs (aka School Dogs or Detention Dogs)

Procedure to get a Facility Dog

Talk to your Superintendent and Principal. If you would like to schedule a Conference Call with our Executive Director to ask questions and discuss the process, you may call her directly at 334-462-2463.

If you need to speak with someone at the State Dept. of Education, please call Dr. Jeff Langham.

A Guardian for the School Dog is a volunteer teacher or counselor.

SDA can also arrange for you to speak to Guardian teachers of counselors with School Dogs.

There is a Letter of Approval on our website for your Superintendent to sign and

The Guardian Applications for a Facility Dog is on our website.

Data from the School Dog study is on our website.

www.ServiceDogsAlabama.org

School Responsibilities

The State Dept. of Education provides the majority of funding for trained intervention dogs to be placed in schools, however, the school receiving the School Dog must raise $1,000.00 to contribute to the dog’s training.

Raising this money allows the students and teachers in the school to have an investment in the School Dog and feel that he belongs to everyone in the school rather than just the Guardian.

After the School Dog's placement with the Guardian in your school, the County School system is responsible for providing a crate in the classroom, for all Veterinary care, and monthly flea and heartworm treatment averaging $350.00 per year.

(A Veterinarian in your area may give you a significant discount.)

Guardian Responsibilities

The School Dog may have a primary Guardian and a secondary if desired. School Dogs should not be boarded, but stay with another school employee when necessary.

The Guardian is responsible for dog food, beds, toys, and day-to-day care of the dog.

If the Guardian moves to another school system in Alabama, both school systems must approve the move. The new school would raise the $1,000 and another School Dog would be provided to the previous school system at no charge to the school.

Guardians and secondary Guardians must attend 2 trainings per year for 2 years, then one in-service training once a year thereafter. If your school system has 5 or more School Dogs, the in-service training
will be at your school at no charge, otherwise, the Guardian will need to travel to another school system or the SDA Training Center for Training and evaluation Days.

First year Guardians must attend Graduation training weekend for 2 days- always scheduled for the first weekend in August in Montgomery, AL.

The School Dog should have a working life of at least 5 years. The Guardian may adopt the School Dog after that time and continue to work him or retire him.

**Service Dogs Alabama Responsibilities**

Provide training for the Guardians and dogs 2x a year for the first 2 years- more if needed, then once a year each year after that.

Each dog is on a 30 day trial period to assure that he is the correct match for the school and for the Guardian.

All dogs are 100% guaranteed on we will give the Guardian a different dog to try.