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We at Can Do Canines are very excited that you are interested in being a part of our assistance dog program! Here is some basic information on the **Prison Puppy Foster Program**, and the role you would play in training these amazing dogs

We currently have four prison programs within the state of Minnesota and one in Wisconsin. They are located in Waseca, Faribault, Sandstone and Hermantown/Duluth, MN and Stanley, WI. The young dogs and puppies in training at these prisons are part of our assistance dog program.

We train five types of assistance dogs: Mobility, Hearing, Diabetes, Seizure and Autism Assist. Can Do Canines provides these dogs— free of charge —to people with disabilities.

As important as it is for inmates to train the puppies, it is also **crucial** that the puppies learn good house manners and get exposed to as many social and public situations as possible during their first, formative year. That is where you come in!

Foster home volunteers take the dogs out of the prison environment for an average of four days at a time, preferably twice a month. It takes the dogs a few days to settle into a new home so it is helpful if they can stay at least three days per visit, but as many as seven days is acceptable. Many foster homes take the dogs on their days off from work, so they can spend more time with the dog. Pick up and drop off is handled on prison grounds, but there is no contact with inmates. Transfers are handled through appointed prison employees at one of the administrative buildings.

It is okay for foster volunteers to have others pets in the home as long as they are friendly with visiting dogs. Pet dogs must be spayed or neutered and up to date on vaccinations. Unfortunately, we cannot put our dogs in homes with intact pet dogs. Foster homes are not required to have a fenced yard, but **our dogs are required to be on leash while outside**, unless they are in a completely fenced area. They may not be left outside unattended, may not be left in electric fence enclosures and may not wear electric collars of any kind.

Once a prospective foster home completes an application, a staff person will contact them to arrange a home visit, discuss the program in detail and answer any questions. Later, the staff person will arrange basic training including how to handle the dog in a public setting. Foster homes are asked to review and work on house manners, go on walks in a neighborhood, and to socialize them to things not experienced in prison (household noises, other pets, children, car rides, visits to stores and the mall, restaurant, baseball games, etc.).

Thank you for considering becoming a volunteer. If we can answer any other questions for you, please don't hesitate to ask.

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