At Your Service Dog Training
Expert Service Dog Training for Life-changing Results
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Sample Service Dog Training Plans

Cost and Time Estimates

Estimates vary based on the age and training of the dog you're starting with, and your desired level of support (e.g., group classes versus board & train).

STOP! If you already have a dog, skip to page 2!

If you need to find a dog, this page provides estimates on time and costs required to find a dog.

We offer Dog Search Support to help you find the right dog.

Dog Search Support **Typical time: 2-8 months** **Cost: $575 - 2145**	
Finding the Right Service Dog (Webinar series)	$150
Dog Search Support Consultation + up to 5 hours of dog search support (email/phone)	$425
Additional search time – 0 - 5 hours @ $170/hr (meet with or research breeders, rescues, etc.)	$0 - $850
Temperament test for puppies (costs depend on location & number of puppies)	$0 - $770
Total Cost Estimate	**$575-2195**
Total Time Estimate	**1-8 months**

Service Dog Training Overview

This section provides big-picture cost and time estimates for possible training scenarios

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Once you acquire a dog, full training generally includes:

- Puppy Raising
- Level 1: Manners & Public Access Foundations
- Level 2: Task Foundations + Intermediate Public Access
- Level 3: Advanced Public Access
- Level 4: Task Training

Service Dog owner-training varies in time and cost based on how much training support you want.

If you…

- **want to prioritize fast, efficient training and**
- **have a flexible budget….**

The estimates that include Board & Train will be most relevant to you. The "Train for Me" option is the quickest route to a fully trained service dog.

If you…

- **want to prioritize affordability and**
- **feel confident in your training skills….**

The "Empower Me" estimate, which focuses on group classes, will be most relevant to you. Classes are highly affordable and focus on teaching you high-level training skills.

Training Scenarios

The scenarios below illustrate typical timelines and costs for training your dog to full public access capability, along with mastery of 3 tasks. We have used 3 popular tasks – deep pressure therapy, blocking, and alerting to a symptom – as examples.

Cost estimates for the different levels of training are broken out. *[GO TO page 5 to see detailed descriptions of what is included in each training level]*

Train for Me **Primarily B&T, with some Group Classes**		**Best of Both Worlds** **Group Classes, Private Lessons, and some B&T**		**Empower Me** **Group Classes and Private Lessons**	
Puppy & Level 1	$17,675	Puppy & Level 1	$7,975	Puppy & Level 1	$1,975
Level 2	$11,045	Level 2	$4,795	Level 2	$1,045
Level 3 & 4	$12,115	Level 3 & 4	$7,115	Level 3 & 4	$4,615
TOTAL Cost Est.	**$40,835**	**TOTAL Cost Est.**	**$19,885**	**TOTAL Cost Est.**	**$7,635**
TIME Estimate	**1-1.5 years**	**TIME Estimate**	**1.5-2 years**	**TIME Estimate**	**2-3 years**

NOTE: In comparison, acquiring a fully trained service dog from a program typically costs $15,000 to $60,000, with wait times of up to 5 years.

The 3 scenarios above are only 3 sample scenarios. Every team is different with unique needs. **Contact us to get started and see how our services can best fit your situation.**

Getting Started

Entry into our training program is available through one of these services:

1. **Dog Search Support** (we'll help you find your future service dog)
2. **PEARL DISC (Level 1) online group class** (most popular!) -The PEARL DISC live course is the right starting point for dogs of all ages and experience levels. *(If you have an adult dog with extensive previous training, and you are a skilled trainer and handler, there may be additional options, but this is rare.)*
3. **Board & Train** (for puppies or adult dogs. Adults must meet behavioral and health requirements.)

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Service Dog Training Details

Below are detailed descriptions and costs for each training level. Each level shows the service *options* (e.g. group classes, private lessons or B&T), depending on your training goals, budget, and timeline. *Your dog will only require a subset of these services to complete training*.

Puppy Raising and Level 1 **Typical training time: 3-6 months**	
GROUP CLASSES	
PEARL DISC (Level 1) 10 classes + Pearl Disc assessment (all online)	**$425**
Dog learns 5 core public access skills: • Loose leash walking • Touch (nose targeting) • Sit • Down and Settle on a target • Attention on handler Dog learns essential life skills: • Cooperative handling (bath, vet, groomer, bath, harness, vest, nail trim) • Quiet and calm around potential triggers (noises, dogs, strangers) • Potty on cue • Tuck & Scooch (get small/out of way in public) • Independence training (calm & happy alone or when you ignore) • Socialization (calm & happy in new places & around new people & things) • Crate & confinement training • Polite greeting (be calm and don't jump on people) • Sharing (Drop it & preventing resource guarding) • Release cue • On-Duty versus Off-Duty Owner learns essential training skills:	

• How to use appropriate play with other dogs to enhance training • How to read your dog's subtle body language • Sound desensitization • Management techniques • How to train successfully around distraction, including situational awareness & training at your dog's level • How to respond to strangers' questions and access challenges in public (even if you have social anxiety or an overly friendly dog)	
Puppy kindergarten with local pet trainer (optional/recommended) - NOT OFFERED by AYS	***~$0-250***
A local positive-reinforcement puppy kindergarten can be a great complement to our classes. Your puppy can take it concurrently or sequentially with PEARL DISC. Ask us for a referral to a credentialed trainer in your area. A quality puppy class typically costs $150-250, depending on location.	
PRIVATE TRAINING	
10 Private lessons (cost depends on location/session length)	**$1,300-1,500**
Individualized 1-on-1 coaching on raising and training your puppy, including • Sound or scent imprinting (for future hearing or medical detection dogs) • Socialization to public access (puppy-appropriate field trips) • Sleep training (future task-appropriate sleep arrangements) • Bonus handling • Bonus manners training	
BOARD & TRAIN	
Platinum Round Trip Board & Train - Puppy Raising and Training	**$6,000-15,500**
4-10 weeks (24-62 days) of B&T plus 16 transition lessons, alternating with days at home, typically* structured… • 1st Sessions– 5 days at B&T + 1 transition lesson, 2 days at home x 2-4 weeks • Later Sessions – 7 days at B&T+ 2 transition lessons, 7 days at home x 2-12 weeks Expert puppy raising & training, including... • Complete house training (pottying on cue, outdoors, diverse surfaces) • Sound or scent imprinting (for future hearing or medical detection dogs) • Socialization & public access prep (puppy-appropriate field trips) • Sleep training (future task-appropriate sleep arrangements) • Handling • House manners (jumping, nipping, destruction, whining, separation, etc.) • Excellent foundations in attention, sit, down, come, settle, target, drop it, leave it, crate, heel) Schedule may be modified to suit your location/convenience. Pet taxi for drop-off/pick-up is available for additional charge.	

LEVEL 2: Task Foundations + Intermediate Public Access **Typical training time: 5-8 months**	
GROUP CLASSES	
Bronze Disc Course (Level 2) - 10 classes (online)	**$425**
Dog learns • How to perform foundation skills (down/settle, attention, heel) for longer periods, more reliably, and in higher distraction settings • Focus around excitement or triggers • Impulse control & leave it with distractions • Up, off, & excuse me • Under • Back-up • Get Dressed • Stand-Stay • Recall (come when called) • Wait (safety in doorways, curbs, etc.) Owner learns • The keys to successful public access field trips • Alert or response task foundation training for symptoms or sounds • How to assess your dog for different aspects of public access work • Leash handling skills (U-turn, slow stop, walking up the leash) • How to train strong cues to prevent confusion (e.g., don't lay down when I say "sit") and to listen in all circumstances (e.g., "sit" is still "sit" at the mall or if I'm lying in bed or on the other side of a door) • Using sniffing to get your dog's attention	
Bronze Disc Practical Assessment (NOT INCLUDED IN CLASS FEE)	***~$100-250***
Assessment performed by your local pet trainer, observing your dog working in public. Check with local trainers about their rates.	
Galaxy Game: Focus around Distraction - 7 classes (available as online course or as hybrid online/on-site course combined)	**$280 - 370 (depending on location)**
• Galaxy Game (shaped attention for stimulating/distracting environments) • Conditioned relaxation • Management/triage techniques • Leash handling mechanics • Pop quiz (assessing your dog's focus) • Transitions (predict & prepare for environmental shifts)	

• Auto-check (default attention) • Engage/disengage (changing emotional response to single triggers) • Decision-making flowchart • Pattern games (up-down, 1-2-3, super bowls)	
BOARD & TRAIN	
Platinum Round Trip Board & Train - Level 2	**$3,750-10,000**
3-8 weeks (15-40 days) of B&T plus 6-16 transition lessons over 1-4 months. Typically structured as 10 days at B&T, then 20 days at home, with 1 transition lesson at pickup, and 1 the following week, before returning for another 10 days of training. Expert public access, manners, and task training may include • Beginning task training (retrieve, alert behaviors, conditioning to symptoms or sounds, etc.) • Intermediate public access training • Advanced house manners (calm, quiet, polite at home) • Intermediate/advanced leash, stay, settle, or other skills Schedule may be modified to suit your location/convenience. Pet taxi for drop-off/pick-up is available for additional charge.	

LEVEL 3 & 4: Advanced Public Access Training and Task Training **Typical training time: 5-8 months**	
GROUP CLASSES	
Silver DISC (Level 3) 10 classes (online)	**$425**
Dog learns • Diverse doorways: Wait or proceed behind or before handler on cue • Reliably stay for long periods with distraction or while ignored • Reliably focus & heel for long periods around distraction (attention, heel) • Final “One Moment” protocol – task or PA when strangers approach • Recall (come when called) • Chin rest • Back up • Curl up small • Stand-stay • Leave it (move away from diverse distractions) Owner learns • Shaping (building complex behaviors from scratch) • How to reduce & stop carrying treats without reducing reliability	

• Task selection • Training with environmental obstacles (e.g., Sewer grates, shopping carts, freezer case air puffs, etc.) • Leash handling skills (U-turn, slow stop, walking up the leash) • How to respond to questions & access challenges • How to choose equipment & get dog used to it	
Silver Disc Practical Assessment (online)	**$75**
Advanced Public Access Class - 12 classes (6 online, 6 in person)	**$815**
Covers: • Medical & emergency environments (ambulances/firefighters/blood draws; gurneys/stretchers/wheelchairs) • Restaurants (ignoring spilled food, heel while carrying trays of food, settling under tables) • Malls & stores (elevators, arcades, children, food courts, stairs, public bathrooms) • Grocery stores (delis, salad bars, checkout lines, using the environment) • Outdoor PA environments, e.g., farmer's markets (other dogs, spilled food, smells, hot pavement) • Skills: Default down, behind/follow, out-of-sight down-stays, distance cues, tight turns, heel next to a shopping cart	
Public Access Evaluation (including written report and video)	**$275**
Deep Pressure Therapy Class - 7 classes (online)	**$325**
Covers: • Duration DPT task in one position (e.g., handler's chest) • Chin rest on hand or other body part • "Kisses" on hand or cheek • "Off" (stop) cue • Beginning symptom-cued response or alert	
PRIVATE TRAINING	
Private Coaching - 20 lessons (15 online, 5 in person)	**$2,700**
Behavior Interruption Task: • Finish conditioning cue (e.g., skin picking) • Train alert/interruption (e.g., hand nudge) • Pair alert & cue • Stimulus control (reliably interrupts picking, without false positives) • Proof to distractions (interrupts picking regardless of situation) **Blocking Strangers:** • Train block position, add cue & stay • Pair with stranger position • Proof to public access/distractions	

Incorporate Tasks into Diverse Public Environments • Troubleshooting, confidence building, practice	
BOARD & TRAIN	
Platinum Round Trip Board & Train - Level 3 & 4	**$2,500-7,500**
2-6 weeks (10-30 days) of B&T plus 4 transition lessons over 2-6 months. Typically structured as 10 days at B&T, then 50 days at home, with 1 transition lesson at pickup, and 1 in after weeks, returning after a month for training. Expert public access and task training may include • Completing task training • Completing public access training • Troubleshooting as requested by handlers Schedule may be modified to suit your location/convenience. Pet taxi for drop-off/pick-up is available for additional charge.	