



## Australian Support Dogs

Australian Support Dogs Inc. (ASDOG) is a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to the raising, training & placement of assistance dogs for people with physical disabilities. Labrador & Golden Retrievers are chosen for their willingness to work & their calm temperament. The dogs' comprehensive range of skills increases the independence, safety & quality of life of their recipients.



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## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### How long does it take to raise and train an assistance dog?

Puppies are cared for and trained by a puppy raiser for approximately 12 months. This is followed by 12 months of advanced obedience, task and public access training.

### How much does an assistance dog cost to train?

The average trained assistance dog is valued at approximately \$20,000.

### How much does an assistance dog cost a recipient?

Through the generosity of public donations assistance dogs are provided to the recipient free of charge.

### Who is eligible for an assistance dog?

Generally, an adult with a physical disability who is able to effectively communicate with, competently instruct, independently exercise and take part in caring for a dog is eligible.

### What tasks can an assistance dog do?

Trained dogs are able to perform many tasks including: opening and closing cupboards, doors and refrigerators, picking up dropped items, retrieving items from tables, cupboards, drawers and people, loading and unloading frontloading washing machines, carrying baskets, removing clothing, pulling a basket on wheels, taking a cordless phone to its owner, opening and closing wheelchair footplates, adjusting blankets and doonas, seeking help for their recipient.

### Do assistance dogs ever get to be just dogs and play?

Assistance dogs in all of our programs need downtime and fun just like other dogs. Work time must be balanced with rest, play and off leash exercise.

### How can I help?

ASDOG is most appreciative of all support e.g. monetary donations, gifts in kind, holding fundraising events on behalf of ASDOG, volunteering or donating services, raising a puppy.

**AUSTRALIAN SUPPORT DOGS INC. (ASDOG)**

PO Box 5492 West Chatswood 1515 | 1300 788 721

information@asdog.org.au | www.asdog.org.au



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