



SERVICE DOG

INTRODUCTION

TRAINING



11343 – 174 Street NW

Edmonton, AB T5S 0B7

780-944-8011

www.dogswithwings.ca

sit@dogswithwings.ca

SIT PROGRAM INFORMATION PACKAGE

The Service Dog Introduction Training (SIT) Program is organized and hosted by Dogs with Wings Assistance Dog Society in Edmonton, AB.

About Dogs with Wings

Our mission is to foster integration and independence for individuals with disabilities by providing them with highly trained Assistance Dogs and aftercare.

As an organization, our goals are:

- To train and graduate qualified Assistance Dogs annually
- To generate financial contributions in order to sustain and grow the organization
- To build a reputation for excellence among people with disabilities, the public, our funders, training organizations and volunteers

Our organization exists to serve people with disabilities. We work collaboratively, and in partnership with other organizations that provide Assistance Dogs to people with disabilities. We provide innovative services and opportunities for people with disabilities. Our staff and volunteers are essential in meeting our goals. Our Assistance Dogs are not just working dogs; they are valued family members.

Overview of Dogs with Wings

Dogs with Wings (DWW) is an Assistance Dogs International (ADI) accredited school, who provides highly trained assistance Dogs at a cost of \$1.00 to families and organizations in need. We have our own extensive breeding program and take pride in the fact that we raise our dogs from birth.

We depend on the support of volunteers to help us foster and train our dogs. At 10 weeks of age our dogs begin their career in a puppy raising home and start to learn the skills essential to becoming an Assistance Dog. Around 16 months old, they move to an adult foster home. At this point they begin coming to our facility daily, where our trainers hone in on their natural skills and prepare them for placement with a family or organization. During this time, our training team will assess the dog's skills, personality, and needs. This will determine which type of career and family they would be matched with. It takes approximately 2 years to fully train one of our Assistance Dogs.

The breeds used by DWW are Labrador Retrievers and Labrador/Golden Retriever crosses. Throughout the world of Assistance Dogs these breeds are the most popular due to their even temperament, willingness to please, adaptability, and kindness towards people. Their size and strength also make them suitable for Assistance Dogs.



SERVICE DOG
INTRODUCTION
TRAINING



11343 – 174 Street NW
Edmonton, AB T5S 0B7
780-944-8011
www.dogswithwings.ca
sit@dogswithwings.ca

For more information on Assistance Dogs International (ADI) and the importance of accredited dogs please visit: www.assistedogsinternational.org. For more information on other ADI certified service dog schools in Canada please visit: Canadian Association of Guide and Assistance Dog Schools www.cagads.com

Our dedicated team of instructors, trainers, staff, Board of Directors, and volunteers all work toward a common vision: *to forge successful working partnerships between Assistance Dogs and people with disabilities.*

***Our Mission:** We seek to foster integration and independence for individuals with disabilities by providing them with highly trained Assistance Dogs and aftercare.*

***Our Vision:** We strive to be a leader in the international community of Assistance Dog training schools.*



***Our Values:** We exist to serve people with disabilities. We provide innovative services and opportunities for people with disabilities. We consider our Assistance Dogs valued family members, not just working dogs. Our name reflects all that our dogs do for people: the seemingly impossible.*



SERVICE DOG
INTRODUCTION
TRAINING

11343 – 174 Street NW
Edmonton, AB T5S 0B7
780-944-8011
www.dogswithwings.ca
sit@dogswithwings.ca

About The SIT Program

The SIT Program is a **four-week training seminar program, occurring in July 2020** in Edmonton, Alberta.

When: July 6 – July 31st, Monday – Friday, 9am-6pm (hours may vary).

Where: Dogs with Wings Assistance Dog Society (11343 174 Street NW, Edmonton AB, T5S 0B7).

Application Process

- Read through the relevant information in this handout and on the website, to make sure The SIT Program is right for you.
- Download and fill out the application from our website. Applications are due **April 15, 2020**.
- Once you complete the application, use the checklist in the application form to ensure the application is complete and submit all forms to DWW.
- Once the application is complete and all forms have been submitted, DWW will review information and contact references.
- You will be contacted and invited to take part in a preliminary interview, either at our facility or over the phone. A home visit will be conducted if you are fostering one of our dogs during your time in the program.
- DWW will determine whether you will be a good fit for THE SIT Program and will contact you with our decision by **May 1, 2020**.
- Completed application forms can be emailed to sit@dogswithwings.ca, mailed to 11343-174 Street NW, Edmonton AB, T5S 0B7, or faxed to (780) 944-9571.
- Applications must be submitted by **11:59pm on April 15, 2020**.

Applications due April 15, 2020.



SERVICE DOG
INTRODUCTION
TRAINING

11343 – 174 Street NW
Edmonton, AB T5S 0B7
780-944-8011
www.dogswithwings.ca
sit@dogswithwings.ca

Cost

The cost for the SIT Program is \$3,500. The program can be paid for by debit/credit card, cheque, or cash. Payment plans can be arranged if needed.

The \$3,500 cost of the program includes:

- 140 instructional hours from Dogs with Wings' staff, featuring clients, guest speakers, and professionals in the community.
- Hands on practice and field trips (costs included).
- All materials for the two dogs that you will foster (if applicable) at two separate times during the four weeks. This includes their food, bed, kennel, mat, bowls, toys and bones, poop bags, service dog jacket, equipment (collar, easy walk, halti, leash), and medications (if applicable).
- Materials to help prepare you, including a treat pouch, instructional binder and materials, service dog ID card, backpack, and t-shirt!

Cost: \$3,500 (payment plans available)

You are responsible for:

- Program cost of \$3,500.
- Meals (The program will provide you with 3-5 free catered meals).
- Any extra material or equipment that you wish to purchase for yourself or the dog you are temporarily fostering.
- Cost of hotel if you do not reside in Edmonton or surrounding areas. If you are interested in staying at a hotel during this time, please notify the SIT Program by phone (780-944-8011) or email (sit@dogswithwings.ca) to secure a room at our hotel partner nearby.



SERVICE DOG

INTRODUCTION

TRAINING

11343 – 174 Street NW

Edmonton, AB T5S 0B7

780-944-8011

www.dogswithwings.ca

sit@dogswithwings.ca

Foster Dog Component

During this program, you will be assigned two Dogs with Wings' dog(s) in-training to foster at separate times during the duration of the program. If you are from out of town and are staying in a hotel during this program, the dog will stay with you in the hotel. If you live in Edmonton or surrounding areas, the dog can accompany you to your home and will live with you during the duration of the program for evenings and weekends.

Dogs with Wings will conduct a home visit in May, 2020 and meet your other pets (if applicable). If Dogs with Wings does not approve for one of our dogs to stay with you in your home, we will arrange care for the dog outside of program hours and this will not influence your acceptance to our program.

Curriculum

The 4 week training program includes curriculum on a wide variety of topics, including but not limited to:

- Dog handling, skills, and problem-solving
 - Luring, targeting, and teaching commands and skills
 - Off leash behaviour and skills
 - Neighbourhood walks and Loose Leash Walking skills
 - Clients (including learning about disabilities, screening applicants, and how to work with clients)
 - Working with dogs in public
 - Body language and dog behaviour
 - Field trips (malls, festivals, movie theatres, downtown Edmonton, restaurants, etc.)
 - Health and wellness of dogs
 - Breeding and reproduction of dogs
 - Puppy testing and evaluation
 - Whelping of dogs
 - Advanced skills for placement
 - Adult learning
 - Participate in a Team Training of placing a dog(s) with a client(s)
 - Grants and fundraising
 - How to run a business
 - Graduation celebration!
-



SERVICE DOG
INTRODUCTION
TRAINING



11343 – 174 Street NW
Edmonton, AB T5S 0B7
780-944-8011
www.dogswithwings.ca
sit@dogswithwings.ca

Swag

Items to be announced! You will have the opportunity to purchase Dogs with Wings and SIT Program swag and clothing!

Location

The SIT Program will occur at the Dogs with Wings training centre (11343 174 Street NW, Edmonton) and in various locations around Edmonton in locations that are inside and outside. Having your own vehicle is recommended for travel.

Weather

The SIT Program runs rain or shine! Please be prepared for hot weather, rain, mud, and working with dogs. We require appropriate clothing, which includes closed-toed shoes and no short-shorts, crop tops, or spaghetti strap tops.

**If you are interested in the SIT Program, please apply on our website!
Questions can be directed to 780-944-8011 or sit@dogswithwings.ca!**

***What you get:** A certificate of Completion, invaluable experiences, 140 instructional hours, and a true resume booster!*

***Requirements:** 18+ years old, with a willingness to learn. No dog training experience necessary!*

Assistance Dogs International Disclaimer: Successfully attending and completing this Service Dog Introduction Training (SIT) Program does not signify that the attendee is a service/assistance dog trainer or qualified to train and/or place service/assistance dogs. Assistance Dogs International has specific standards that an individual must meet in order to be an assistance dog trainer – and taking part in this class does not meet these requirements.