



Guide Dogs for the Blind

HIGHLANDS RANCH
PUPPY RAISERS

Thank you for your interest in Guide Dogs for the Blind – Highlands Ranch, CO Puppy Raisers. We hope this document will help answer any questions you have. Please feel free to contact our club leader if you have more questions.

About us:

We are a Guide Dogs for the Blind volunteer puppy raising club located in Highlands Ranch, CO. Guide Dogs for the Blind (GDB) is a nonprofit, charitable organization that was established in 1942 to provide a safe means of mobility for people who are blind and visually impaired. GDB is the largest guide dog school in the country, and continues its dedication to quality student training services and extensive follow-up

support for graduates. GDB receives no government funds. Services are provided to students from the United States and Canada at no cost to them.

Volunteer puppy raisers receive a guide dog puppy at approximately eight weeks old, and the pup will return to one of GDB's campuses for formal training between 15 and 17 months old. We are responsible for teaching the puppies good manners and providing them with comprehensive socialization experiences. Puppy raisers can have other pets in their home and if you are not able to commit to raising a puppy full time, there are still other ways to get involved with our local puppy club, such as puppy sitting. And, GDB's puppy raising program complements many FFA, 4H, home schooling, high school, and college programs.

Club Meetings:

We have regular puppy club meetings twice a month, and a socialization outing once a month. In addition, raisers with puppies under 5 months old attend weekly training meetings with their puppy. No previous experience is necessary to be a puppy sitter or puppy raiser. We provide training and support at our monthly puppy club meetings.

Our regular puppy club meetings are held the 1st & 3rd Thursday of each month. Our exact location varies, so please contact us for the details about our next meeting.

You can find more information, including an up-to-date calendar of club activities, on our website www.HighlandsRanchPuppies.com.

You can also find more information at Guide Dogs for the Blind, guidedogs.com.

A volunteer is required to attend a minimum of three consecutive meetings to really get a feel for whether this is a project they can commit to or not. It's a fun project! It's also a lot of work. When a volunteer has attended at least three consecutive meetings, they may request a volunteer application from their club leader. Once the completed application is received, the leader will schedule a home visit/fence check. The volunteer needs to demonstrate a minimum level of puppy handling skills, including appropriate use of cues, proper training techniques, appropriate use of headcollars, etc, and complete puppy sitting of program puppies. Then they may be approved to be a puppy sitter or raise a puppy.

Puppy raisers and sitters are required to attend 80% of required meetings and outings during each six-month period of participation in the program. In addition, raisers and sitters are required to attend training workshops twice a year, and our annual fund raiser.

Financial Responsibility:

Guide Dogs for the Blind provides puppy raisers with supplies such as leashes, puppy jackets, collars, and approved veterinary care. They also provide for transportation from the whelping kennel to the puppy raising home, and from the puppy raising home back to campus for formal training. The raiser is responsible for any additional expenses such as dog food, toys, and equipment.

Fundraising:

Our club has one main fundraiser each year. Each puppy raiser and club member is expected to participate in this fundraiser. The fundraiser is running an aid station for the Elephant Rock bike race generally held on the first Sunday in June. Specific details are provided each year in the months leading up to the race.

Leader:

Our club leader is:

Darlene White

(303) 525-2306

HighlandsRanchPuppies@gmail.com

Guide Dogs for the Blind:

You can find more information about Guide Dogs for the Blind on their website:

Website: guidedogs.com

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