



## Victory For Vets Inc. Training Plan for Veterans

1. The Vet Center will meet with potential candidate to qualify them for receiving a dog and training.
  - a. Vet must be deemed capable of completing the training program, caring for the dog, and have an established need for a service dog. This will be accomplished by attending up to 5 visits to the Vet Center and completion of the intake, military history, and a treatment plan that includes a recommendation for a service dog.
  - b. Vet will fill out an application that is specifically geared towards matching the appropriate dog with the Veterans life/environment.
  - c. Stipulation for Veteran being able to utilize services at the Vet Center:

A veteran who served in a combat zone which may be found on a DD-214 with a campaign medal or expeditionary medal, or suffered military sexual trauma.
2. If a dog is needed for the program, it will be selected with the assistance of Certified Canine and Helping Hounds that is the best fit for each individual Veteran. If the dog is found to be an unacceptable candidate as a service dog, the dog will be returned to Helping Hounds. (Please see attached training program)
  - a. Legal ownership of the selected dog will be transferred to Certified Canine until the Veteran and dog complete the program. Once all training/testing is complete, legal ownership will be transferred to the Veteran.
  - b. Cost of adoption through Helping Hounds: \$300 (paid by Victory For Vets Inc)
3. Certified Canine will take the dog for approximately 4 weeks for training alone.
  - a. Veteran will be given a training DVD to watch prior to meeting with Certified Canine and the dog.
  - b. After initial training, the Vet will have a hands on class with Certified Canine to meet the dog learn how to continue training at home.
  - c. They will be sent home with the dog and specific training exercises to work on individually.
  - d. At any point, they can receive additional one on one training from Certified Canine for themselves and family members/friends that will be interacting with the dog.
  - e. There will be several 'in the field' trips scheduled to ensure Veteran and dog work well and are comfortable in social situations (i.e. restaurants, malls etc.)
  - f. Upon completion of the training, Certified Canine will provide the Canine Good Citizen test for the Veteran with dog by an AKC Canine Good Citizen Evaluator.

- g. Cost: \$1,900 for the entire training program and will include a service vest, leash, Canine Good Citizen Certificate and Certificate of Completion Certification for Service Dog. (Paid for by Victory For Vets Inc)
  
- 4. Heather will be the direct contact for any issues/concerns/support requested from any of the organizations involved.
  
- 5. Contact Personnel:
  - a. Heather Graham, Victory For Vets Inc. Dog Program Director 315.506.8304  
[heather@ibrokernet.com](mailto:heather@ibrokernet.com)
  - b. Frank Salvadore, Vet Center Director 315.478.7127 [Francis.Salvadore@va.gov](mailto:Francis.Salvadore@va.gov)
  - c. Neil & Rachel Mathews, Certified Canine Services Inc. Certified Master Trainers, 315.298.5755 [neil@certifiedk9.com](mailto:neil@certifiedk9.com)
  - d. Kathy Gilmour, Helping Hounds Dog Rescue, Executive Director, 315.446.5970  
[Kathy@helpinghoundsny.com](mailto:Kathy@helpinghoundsny.com)
  
- 6. ALL COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE PROGRAM WILL BE FUNDED BY VICTORY FOR VETS AND/OR THROUGH FUNDRAISING/EFFORTS OF HELPING HOUNDS, CERTIFIED CANINE, AND THE VET CENTER AND AT NO COST TO THE VETERAN OR FAMILY MEMBERS.