



Warriors' Angels Program "Certification" Standards

Guardian Angels for Soldier's Pet "Warriors' Angels" program was developed using the minimum standards as defined by the Assistance Dog International (ADI) relating to certification of privately trained "Teams".

A Warriors' Angels "Team" consist of an individual service member or veteran who has medically been diagnosed with PTSD (to be known as the Handler) and an individually selected canine candidate to be trained as an "Assistance Service Canine" (ASC).

A potential canine candidate is evaluated based on the animal's ability to obey basic commands and temperament, not their breed.

1. The individual applying to the Warriors' Angel's program must go through all the program requirements which includes the application process, agree to a Home Visit/Interview, required team training, certification exam, and follow-up visits/communications following the program's Graduation Day.
2. The "Assistance Service Canine" candidate must meet the "WA" program's "Evaluation" defined criteria and the ADI minimum standards for assistance dogs.
3. The Team's training may cover up to a 6 month period with the Team working together as a "unit". Such training shall include 1.) preparation for the program's Certification Exam (3+ ADA defined tasks that mitigates the Handler's disability, the AKC "Canine Good Citizenship" (CGC) 10-step program, and the ADI defined "Public Access Test"); 2.) Being observed in a variety of settings and situations; and 3.) Any training necessary to complete the WA program.
4. The program's authorized representative will inform the Applicant prior to acceptance into the program of all financial commitments required by the program and tat at any time throughout the process or after certification, the "ACS" can be discharged because of temperament, health, or training issues.
5. The program's authorized representative and assigned "Trainer" will determine when the Team is ready to begin the training process and the canine candidate will receive the program's Vest, In Training patch tag, and non-customized laminated ID card.
6. After successfully completing the "team training" process and the program requirements, the Team will be given the program's Certification Exam by an AKC certified CGC Evaluator/Tester.
7. After successfully passing the program's Certification Exam there will be a scheduled "Graduation Day" where the Team will receive the program's "Certification" certificate, customized laminated ID card with the Handler's and ASC's pictures, and the Handler will return the "In Training" patch tag to the program's authorized representative..



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8. The "Team" will remain in the WA program for the working life of the ASC. The program will include the Team in all requirements and activities in place for teams made up of program trained ASCs, including but not limited to follow-up, retesting, and continuity of the canine's health care and veterinary requirements.
9. The Team must meet all of the standards as laid out in the minimum standards for "Dogs in Public" and the ASC should be equally well behaved in the home.
10. The ASC must be trained to perform at least 3 tasks to mitigate the Handler's disability.
11. The Handler must be provided with appropriate instruction to be able to meet the ADI Minimum Standards for Assistance Dogs in Public and be able to demonstrate:
 - a) That their ASC can perform at least 3 ADA defined tasks
 - b) Knowledge of acceptable training techniques
 - c) An understanding of canine care and health
 - d) Ability to maintain training, problem solve, and continue to train/add new skills (as required) with their ASC
 - e) Knowledge of local access laws and appropriate public behavior
12. The WA program Liaison volunteer will document in writing monthly follow ups with these teams for first 6 months following the program's Graduation Day and with personal contact for each 6 month period up to 2 years following Graduation Day, and an annual follow-up thereafter for the working life of the ASC.
13. Identification of the Team will be accomplished with the program's customized laminated ID card which shall have the Handler's and ASC's names, pictures, resident city and state, plus the Guardian Angels for Soldier's Pet logo and "Warriors' Angels" Program name.
14. The Team's ASC in public must wear the Warriors' Angels "vest" which is "camouflage" in color, plus the program's customized patch, "Service Dog Full Access" patch, and zippered pocket with the program's customized laminated ID card.

Note: While the Team is in training and in the public, there will be an "In Training Patch Tag" visible, a non-customized ID card will be showing via the "zippered pocket" on the vest and the Team will be accompanied with the assigned Trainer and/or program's authorized representative.
15. The Warriors' Angels (WA) volunteer representatives will demonstrated knowledge of the Handler's disabilities in relation to the services they provide and the WA Program Director shall make available the appropriate program materials and educational materials related to the Handler's disability.



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16. The Team's Handler must abide by the ADI Minimum Standards of Assistance Dog Partners.
17. Prior to the completion of the program's training process and certification exam, the ASC :
 - a.) must meet the ADI Standards and Ethics Regarding Dogs,
 - b.) be altered (spayed or neutered),
 - c.) have current vaccination certificates as determined by their veterinarian and applicable laws
 - d.) Microchipped.