

CCI RELEASE DOG POLICY

TRANSFER OR ALTERNATIVE PLACEMENT

If a CCI dog is not suitable for our program but it may be suitable for another assistance dog organization, such as a guide dog school or other assistance dog school, CCI has the sole discretion over whether to transfer the dog to another agency. If the CCI dog does not graduate from the other agency's program it will be returned to CCI and offered to the PR or placed in a release dog home. This is stated in the puppy raiser agreement to terms of service and the puppy raising agreement.

Dog transfers will be limited to "allied" agencies that have missions to provide trained dogs to people with disabilities. CCI will not ask for remuneration for the dogs that we provide to other agencies. We expect that allied agencies will transfer dogs to us if they are prospects for graduating from our program. CCI will not transfer dogs to a non-allied agency such as a drug detecting or military agency. Transfers will be considered "pre-release," and will take place before the release process.

Every dog that does not graduate from CCI or transfer to an allied school is a release dog. At this time CCI offers the puppy raiser the first right of refusal to adopt the dog. If the puppy raiser chooses not to adopt the dog, the dog is placed in a loving, approved release home.

If CCI staff determines the dog is not suitable for any assistance dog agency but feel a placement with a military, drug detection or search and rescue agency is possible. CCI staff should notify the puppy raiser and proceed with the puppy raiser's approval. If the puppy raiser wishes to adopt the dog for his/herself CCI staff should allow it. Otherwise, the dog can be placed with such agency upon agreement to the written terms in the specified Release Dog Agreement.

PLACEMENT WITH PUPPY RAISER

Dog released in advanced training or puppy raiser home.

Once a dog is released, the puppy program manager contacts the puppy raiser and offers the dog to that person. That puppy raiser may opt to keep the dog or place it with a close family member or friend.

The puppy raiser is defined as the person (s) designated by the puppy program as the puppy raiser of said dog. In the case of multiple puppy raisers, CCI will offer right of refusal in the following order:

1. Puppy raiser who had the puppy for at least 3 months prior to the release.
2. Co-raiser who had the puppy for a period of time during the raising process.

If equal time was spent with more than one puppy raiser, the dog will be offered to the person designated as the primary puppy raiser. If the primary puppy raiser chooses not to adopt the dog themselves, the dog will be offered to the co-raiser.

If the puppy raiser (s) declines keeping or placing the dog, the puppy program or release dog staff (depending on region) will place the dog in a release home.

Dogs released must be spayed or neutered prior to placement. For young puppies CCI requires proof of sterilization prior to providing adoption or release agreement. Puppy raisers may not transfer or place the dog with any other person without written permission from CCI. Puppy raisers who attempt to place release dogs are working dogs will be ineligible to continue raising for CCI.

Foster care providers, prison starters and breeder caretakers will not be given right of refusal but may submit an application on the desired dog through the puppy program or release dog staff.

APPLICATION PROCESS AND PRIORITY

The puppy program or release dog coordinator places the dog with someone whose application is on file **at the time the dog is released**. Exceptions can be made for close family members or close friend of the dog's puppy raiser; however, the family is required to complete a release dog application prior to receiving the dog.

When a dog becomes available, the CCI staff evaluates the dog and then considers the applications that seem to best match that dog. The CCI staff contacts suitable applicants in the following order:

1. Development and community contacts designated by CCI employees and important professional contacts (major supporters, board members, anyone referred by Executive Director)
2. Breeder caretakers of females who requested a puppy whelped from the dog they care for and breeders who donated or sold a dog to CCI
3. CCI employees
4. Acquaintances or family members of CCI employees
5. All other applications

FEES AND GUIDELINES

- The release dog adoption fee shall be \$500. For dogs with substantial health or temperament problems, the fee shall be \$250. For extraordinary cases in which CCI staff has difficulty finding a home for a dog because of severe health and/or temperament problems, there shall be no adoption fee. If the puppy raiser places the dog with someone outside his or her household, the adoption fee still applies.
- There shall be no fee to submit a release dog application.
- Except for puppy raisers and VIP's, CCI does not ship release dogs. The applicant must come in person to meet the dog.
- The dog must be neutered or spayed prior to release unless under the age of 6 months. Dogs under the age of 6 months must agree to neuter or spay the dog when it reaches 6 months. Proof of sterilization must be sent to the puppy program or veterinary clinic.
- Release dogs do not have public access and may not attend CCI functions unless the event specifies that pet dogs are welcome.

CCI places all dogs in the most appropriate home possible for the particular dog. We reserve the right to refuse any PR, volunteer, staff or release dog applicant if we feel it is not the best place for the dog.
