



ADI Standards

These Standards form the basis for ADI Accreditation.

In order for a program to be deemed compliant with ADI Standards, the program must successfully complete the ADI Accreditation Process and be approved as an Accredited Member of ADI. The following is a summary of the Standards, however specific criteria must be met as outlined in the Accreditation Manual.

Should you wish to know more about these standards, please contact ADI at info@assistancedogsinternational.org. The Accreditation Manual and documents are only available to accredited members or candidate programs or by request on a case-by-case basis.

SUMMARY OF ADI STANDARDS:

STANDARDS OF ADMINISTRATION

1. Programs demonstrate operational stability.
2. Programs demonstrate sound and ethical business practices.
3. Programs demonstrate financial transparency.
4. Programs demonstrate responsible use of resources.
5. Program demonstrate adequate safety and emergency procedures,
6. Programs demonstrate adherence to applicable governmental laws and regulations.

STANDARDS FOR CLIENTS

1. Programs demonstrate clear and comprehensive application, screening, and matching processes for clients.
2. Programs treat clients equally and with respect and dignity.
3. Programs provide clients with a thorough and individualized educational process regarding all aspects of assistance dog partnership.
4. Programs provide lifetime follow-up and team support.

STANDARDS FOR TRAINING OF DOGS

1. Programs demonstrate consistent and high quality policies and procedures regarding selection, training, and care of dogs.
2. Programs demonstrate a comprehensive education and training program individualized to the needs of the dog and client.
3. Programs maintain detailed training records.

STANDARDS FOR WELFARE AND HEALTH OF DOGS

1. Programs demonstrate that they provide humane care and treatment for all dogs that are the responsibility of the program.
2. Programs demonstrate that qualified staff or volunteers work with veterinarians for health screenings and to create a comprehensive, balanced health care management plan with detailed records for each dog.
3. Programs demonstrate that they uphold their commitment to the dog's welfare for the lifetime of the dog.

STANDARDS FOR STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

1. Programs demonstrate fair and equal policies and procedures for both staff and volunteers.
2. Programs maintain well-defined job descriptions and contracts.
3. Programs provide comprehensive staff and volunteer training.
4. Programs maintain strict practices regarding confidentiality and security.
5. Programs demonstrate a thorough complaints process.

STANDARDS FOR FACILITIES AND KENNELS

1. Programs ensure that all facilities and kennels used by the program provide the care needed to meet the individual needs of each dog.
2. Programs ensure that the kennels provide a safe and enriched environment;
3. Programs demonstrate proper maintenance and cleaning procedures throughout the entire facility.
4. Programs demonstrate that facilities are accessible to the population served.

STANDARD FOR CORRECTIONAL FACILITY / PRISON PROGRAMS

Programs demonstrate comprehensive policies and procedures for operating a puppy raising / assistance dog training program in partnership with a correctional facility/prison.

STANDARDS FOR CERTIFICATION OF OWNER/PRIVATE TRAINER TRAINED TEAMS

Programs providing certification of owner/private trainer trained teams must meet additional standards pertaining to the following areas:

1. Team evaluations,
2. Training,
3. Certification Testing, and
4. Follow-up and Team Support.

STANDARD FOR PROGRAMS PROVIDING TRAINING COURSES, CLASSES, SEMINARS AND INTERNSHIPS/APPRENTICESHIPS WITHIN THE PROGRAM AND TO THE PUBLIC

Programs may offer training courses, classes, seminars and internships, however programs must demonstrate that participants and the public understand that completion of the course, class, seminar or internship does NOT qualify a person as a professional assistance dog trainer without meeting additional ADI requirements.

STANDARDS FOR TRAINING AND PLACEMENT OF SERVICE DOGS FOR VETERANS WITH MILITARY-RELATED PTSD

Programs training and placing service dogs for veterans with military-related PTSD must meet additional standards pertaining to the following areas:

1. Staff training,

2. Application, screening, and matching,
3. Training, and
4. Follow-up and team support

Note: See document linked on the website for more information on Standards for Training and Placement of Service Dogs for Veterans With Military-Related PTSD.