

How the Program Works

4 Paws 2 Freedom offers a yearlong course where we teach people who work in high stress environments to train a Facility Dog to assist in the workplace.

Facility Dogs have the same level of training as Service Dogs and are tested and certified as Facility Dog Teams using the Professional Standards of Assistance Dog International. They must be comfortable and confident working in various emotional situations and in different locations. They must be comfortable changing handlers as needed.

The Facility Dog Program is a yearlong course that meets for 2 hours once a week. During this time our trainers will be teaching the handlers how they will be training their dog throughout the following week. Workout and Practice Exercises will be taught for handlers to practice their skills at home and in the work place.

Every dog is evaluated for public service aptitude prior to acceptance into the Facility Dog Program. It is of the utmost importance that Facility Dogs love all people, be confident in new situations, show no signs of aggression toward humans or other animals, and be in good health.

To keep them at top performance, Facility Dogs are required to re-certify every year for health, training and behavior.

We believe that getting these very well trained dogs into Fire Stations, Police Departments, Courthouses and other places of employment where employees are in high alert situations, will help prevent more traumatic injury, reduce suicide and encourage the release of anxiety.

Why Facility Dogs are Important

On Feb. 28th, 2022, Sacramento was rocked when a father during a supervised visitation brutally shot and killed his 3 young children, the visit supervisor, and then himself inside a church.

The impact of a violent situation such as this, especially when the responders may have children the same ages, can cause trauma. Dogs can ease this trauma by being available to hug, to hear a story that may be too difficult or triggering to share with human loved ones, or to offer a paw, grounding or even a lick. No matter how awful the stressor is, or how the person felt they handled the situation, that dog will be there and accept the person with love and grace.



4P2F
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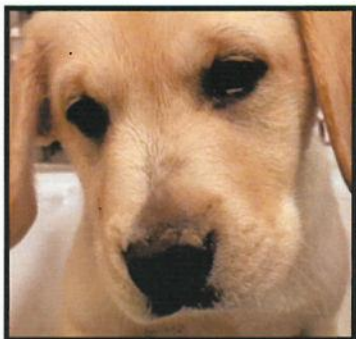


Facility Dog Program

For Public Safety
Organizations

<https://4paws2freedom.org>

916.966.6758



“Dogs and humans have an amazing capacity to work in partnership with each other toward the well being of both.”

What to Expect:

- Group classes of no more than 8 Facility Dog Handlers and dogs.
- 12 months of training.
- 2 hour weekly classes.
- Teams must pass required Benchmarks and testing to certify as a Facility Dog Team.
- Yearly re-certification required.
- Dogs must be spayed or neutered prior to Certification.
- Dogs must be younger than 4 years old to enroll in the Facility Dog Program.
- All handlers are approved by their department prior to the start of classes.
- Dogs must pass the 4 Paws 2 Freedom Temperament Evaluation.

Symptoms of PTSD

(May experience some or all)

Flashbacks

- Unwanted thoughts of the traumatic event
- Night terrors or nightmares
- Feeling as if the event is re-occurring in the present moment

Numbing

- Isolation
- Self-medication
- Depression
- Denial
- Emotional shut down
- Feeling disconnected

Hyper-vigilance

- Avoiding thoughts, activities, places, people
- Emotionally volatile - having angry outbursts, engaging in high risk or high adrenaline activities, easily startled, always on alert
- Memory loss, confusion, inability to focus
- Loss of ability to function well in daily life - feeling unsure, inattentive or over-reactive, difficulty connecting with others.



About 4 Paws 2 Freedom

4 Paws 2 Freedom's primary purpose is to educate and enrich the lives of First Responders whose daily work puts them at risk of traumatic injury, Veterans suffering the effects of Post Traumatic Stress arising from their military service; and to educate the community on the value of dogs helping humans. Our model is to train human-dog teams to anticipate known triggers and minimize reactivity in the human partner, as well as grounding and stress mitigation through trained tasks. These skills empower people suffering with traumatic injury to reclaim areas of functionality that have been lost to them and prevent further trauma.

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