

Canine Companions for Independence Demonstration Outline

1. Thankful for the opportunity and providing the time for you to introduce CCI.

2. **Introduction:**

- Yourself & others, including the dogs.
- Why & how you're involved with CCI.

Who is CCI :

“Canine Companions for Independence (known as CCI) is a national non-profit organization whose mission is to enhance the lives of people with disabilities by providing highly trained assistance dogs and ongoing support to ensure quality partnerships.”

- Started in Santa Rosa, CA in 1975 and has grown to be the National Office
- 5 Regional centers and 2 Satellite offices
- Has placed 1,620 graduate teams throughout the country as of Feb 2000
- No charge to the recipients, up to two-year waiting list. Matching the people with the right dog is a high priority for CCI and for the success of a team.

Why CCI ?:

We take for granted being able to perform many everyday tasks on a daily basis without thinking twice about standing, bending, reaching or any type of maneuvers. These dogs help fill these needs and give without hesitation. More people are familiar with Seeing Eye dogs, this program is similar however the dogs help with everyday tasks and give an individual more independence.

3. **CCI provides 4 types of Canine Companion Teams:**

-Service Teams – Adults and children with physical and/or developmental disabilities who work with a Canine Companion to extend their abilities to perform practical tasks such as retrieving dropped items (as small as a dime to as large as a crutch) opening doors, and turning on and off light switches, assists in pulling wheel chairs or stability for unbalanced walking.

-Skilled Companion Teams – Adults and children with disabilities who benefit from the social, interactive, and functional commands of a Canine Companion. This type of placement increases the communication, range of motion, and interactive skills of some recipients. For people with developmental disabilities such as children with Autism, Down syndrome to adults with a need for interaction & companionship.

-Hearing Teams – Adults who are hard of hearing or deaf who use a Canine Companion to alert them of everyday sounds such as telephones, alarm clocks, and smoke alarms, or a baby's cry.

-Facility Teams – Adults who work as professional caregivers or educators and utilize a Canine Companion to improve the mental, physical or emotional health of those in their care.

4. The Process

Breeding Program – At the National/Northwest Center – Primary type of dogs used:

Golden Retrievers, Labrador Retrievers, and Lab-Golden Cross breeds.

Pembroke Welsh Corgi's & Shelties are used for Hearing Teams.

A good breeding program is essential for an organization such as CCI. The uses of the retriever breeds are going to be more successful statistically due to their willingness to do repetitive and demanding work. By building on these basic instincts it takes less time and money, which allows for placement of quality dogs and successful teams.

- Puppy Raising** – Volunteers raise pups for 14-18 months teaching the **ABC's** of the basic Obedience commands and socializing. Providing all vet costs, food and loving home to grow and mature into a well-adjusted and confident dog.
- Advanced Training** – CCI instructors train the dogs for 6 months daily intensive teaching service commands. Health and temperament testing are also done right away too, which help evaluate the dogs with determining if they will be able to handle the work of being a service dog.
- Team Training** – Applicants from waiting list train for two weeks with a dog specifically matched for them. They are required to pass daily written exams with a 95% accuracy of knowledge. With demonstrating to the instructors their ability of handling a service dog in the community.
- Follow Ups** – Ongoing support to insure success of the team. Certification is required annually for the first and second year and there after every other year. CCI stays in contact with every dog placed.

5. Benefits of Assistance Dogs

- Physical
- Emotional
- Social
- Economic

6. Video (if appropriate)

7. Demo (puppy raiser)

- Basic obedience & how it relates to eventual service commands
- i.e.
 - Sit & shake – interaction w/public, foundation of light switches
 - Heel & side – how it relates to wheelchairs
 - Speak – alert people of problem
 - Down & stay – appropriate in between command behavior

8. **Demo** (Graduate of fully trained dog)

Basic obedience commands (can use some or all), foundation of service work

- Sit
 - Shake
 - Speak
 - Down
 - Heel
 - Side
 - Back
- Service commands, obviously choose one you can get dog to do
 - Retrieve objects (keys, pens, gloves, wallet) must wait for a command because we don't want them to retrieve things on their own. If we dropped an aspirin or medications.
 - Light/switch - Paws down to turn off switch & either will use nose or teeth to turn on switch.
 - Pull - Helps getting up inclines, over bumps and for long distances.
 - Tug - Open & close doors, refrigerator or a basket of laundry.
 - Dress – Stands for placing ID cape, collar, and necessary equipment
 - Leash – Picks up leash and brings to handler
 - Lap – Go's up on lap to bring something closer, or for praises.
 - Leave – Should not sniff, investigate or get into something.
 - Behind – Should get behind person so the person can go first.

9. **Ask**

- There are many ways people can help CCI
- Donations (cost of a fully trained service dog \$10-12,000 at no cost to recipient)
- Group can hold special event (Walkathons, Golf Days, Dog Washes etc.)
- Volunteer
- Raise a puppy

10. **Remember:**

- "I don't know" is an appropriate response
- You are representing CCI in how you dress, your demeanor and the info you give
- **HAVE FUN!**