



Frequently Asked Questions about LCC K-9 Comfort Dog Training

What experience do I need to be an apprentice trainer?

LCC does not require apprentice trainers to have any previous dog training experience. The techniques used are different than regular obedience classes for pets. Apprentice trainers are those that are willing to learn and willing to spend time training and socializing the pup.

Does LCC require a fenced in yard?

LCC prefers that the apprentice trainers have a fenced in yard but it is not a requirement. LCC K-9 Dogs in training are not allowed to run in yard that does not have a fence. The long leash would be used.

I work outside of the home, can I still be an apprentice trainer?

The pup in training needs someone to take the dog out during the day to relieve itself and get exercise. All LCC K-9 Comfort Dogs are crate trained.

Are LCC K-9 Comfort Dogs in training treated the same as pets?

The LCC K-9 Comfort Dogs have different rules than pets. They are not allowed to be in the yard unattended and unsupervised at any time. The dogs are not allowed on furniture and not allowed any people food. The dogs are not allowed in the front seat of the car and are taught not to beg for food, toys or attention. The dogs are not allowed to jump on people or furniture.

Do LCC K-9 Comfort Dogs in training have the same access rights as service dogs?

No, the Comfort dogs are not given access rights of a service animal. The apprentice trainer may be denied access or asked to leave a public place.

What are the age and other requirements for being an apprentice trainer?

All apprentice trainers must be 18 years old or older. Being an apprentice trainer volunteer is a lot of physical work. An apprentice trainer must be able to walk at least 2 miles a day and have good physical flexibility, balance, and mobility. The apprentice trainer does a lot of bending, kneeling and getting up and down off of the floor. Time availability is also important because the dog needs time to train, socialize, exercise, and play.

How long would the dog in training be in my home?

The dog will live with you till they are between 18 months and 2 years old. The puppies start training at 8 weeks old. The same pup will not remain with you the duration of his or her training. LCC rotates the dogs at least once during the training process.

Is it okay to have other dogs in my home?

We prefer homes that do not have other dogs. We do accept apprentice trainers that do have their own dog but the dogs do need to be well-behaved, obedient and fully vaccinated. The dogs in the home should be at least one year of age and dog friendly.

Can I take the LCC K-9 Comfort Dog in training to the dog park or doggy daycare?

LCC does not permit the pups in training to go to dog parks or doggy daycare. We do not want the dogs to pick up bad habits from other dogs or risk injury. We also do not want to risk the dogs picking up a virus or parasite from other dogs.

I live in an apartment, may I still train a puppy?

LCC prefers that the dogs live in a townhouse or house.

What are my expenses in training an LCC K-9 Comfort Dog?

LCC provides and pays for the training equipment, Fromm dog food, and veterinary expenses.

What happens when I go on vacation?

Each pup in training has 2 volunteer apprentice trainers. The dog is exchanged at class each week to the other partner. The partners arrange schedules to accommodate vacations.

How often will I need to attend class?

Class is once a week for 2-2.5 hours. Each apprentice trainer is partnered with another volunteer apprentice trainer to work with the dog as part of this training program.

- Each week the dog and apprentice trainer attend class for a couple of hours and every other week have a 1 hour individual lesson with staff.
- Classes and lessons are either at Lutheran Church Charities, Northbrook, IL or at Immanuel, East Dundee.
- During the week the apprentice trainer works daily training, socializing, exercising, shaping and caring for the dog.
- As the dog advances in its training, the apprentice trainer and the LCC K-9 Comfort Dog in training will attend field trips with the class and individually.
- The LCC K-9 Comfort Dogs are not pets but are working dogs that have an important role in the ministry.
- The LCC K-9 Dog in training will live with apprentice training. Structure in the home is important of the dog's training.

Once the dog has completed its training and its final evaluation, it will be placed as a LCC K-9 Comfort Dog to work in a church or school. The LCC K-9 Comfort Dog will go out with its handlers to be the bridge for the handlers and ministry partners in the community.

Who owns the puppy in training?

Lutheran Church Charities owns the puppy until he or she has completed training.

How long is the wait to begin training an LCC K-9 Comfort Dog?

LCC does the best to provide K-9 apprentice trainers with puppies within a timeframe that is accommodating to schedules, but timing of litter availability is a factor in this process.

What are the next steps if I am interested in being an apprentice trainer?

1. Complete online application https://lcc.ccbchurch.com/form_response.php?id=862
2. Complete interview with LCC K-9 trainer
3. Attend orientation
4. Complete background check