

Adoption Information

Thank you for your interest in the Military Working Dog Adoption Program! This program is a result of the “Robby Law” which was enacted in November 2000. The dogs that are typically adopted are those dogs that did not pass the rigorous certification process to become a Military Working Dog and were not selected by civilian law enforcement agencies for duty.

We also have a selection of older Military Working Dogs that have served as “field dogs” and training dogs for new dog handlers. The younger dogs we adopt out usually have little to no training. The older dogs generally have developed hip, back and other medical problems which prevent them from working at the level expected of a Military Working Dog. The older dogs usually have medical issues that will most likely require medications for the rest of their life that are a cost to the adoptee. The costs of these medications vary depending on the dog.

The wait to adopt a retired Military Working Dog is currently 12-18 months as we typically have more than 300-400 applications on file and only a small handful of dogs. As amazing as these dogs are, there are many other great dogs out there in rescues, pounds and shelters that need homes as well. If you chose to adopt through us, please be patient because the wait is long, but if you feel you are ready for a dog right away then contact your local animal shelter and help save the life of a dog. The Department of Defense is committed to finding good homes for these four-legged warriors and a dog will NEVER be euthanized because a suitable home cannot be found.

The cost to adopt is free of charge; however the adopter will pay for transportation to and from Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas. Additionally prior to adopting the dog the adopter will be required to sign a legal binding contract transferring the dog from the Department of Defense to a personal pet. The document also releases the DoD from responsibly for the dog and problems that may occur. Lastly, the document states the dog will not be used for illegal purposes, police or security related activities, private business activities, substance detection (public or private) nor will the dog be sold or given to someone with the intent of doing any of the previously mentioned activities. Any violation of this Covenant could result in federal prosecution.

All adopted dogs are required to be neutered or spayed to prevent the over population that already exists in the country.

The process to adopt a Military Working Dog begins with an application request. The request should be sent to mwd.adoptions@us.af.mil. Once an application request is returned it will be filed until the applications ahead of it have been processed. Feel free to follow up every few months to see where you are on the waiting list.

Once you have been contacted and an appointment has been set up you will need to bring your own leash, collar and kennel crate to transport the dog home in. The only charge you may incur would be a processing charge by a Notary to complete the legal document at the time of adoption.

Contact Mr. John Engstrom
MWD.Adoptions@us.af.mil
Commercial Phone: (210) 671-5874
DSN: 473-5874
FAX: (210) 671-3402
(800) 531-1066

