

# Letter of Interest

## Service Dog Program for Veterans and Firefighters

EmpowerPups by Hero's Puppy for Life

### Purpose of This Letter

Thank you for your interest in the service dog program offered by EmpowerPups by Hero's Puppy for Life. This Letter of Interest is the first step in our application process. It is designed to help us better understand your situation, your expectations, and your readiness to participate in a donor-funded service dog training program. Submitting a Letter of Interest does not guarantee acceptance into the program. It allows us to determine whether moving forward into the next phase of discussion and documentation is appropriate for both you and the organization.

### About Our Program

EmpowerPups by Hero's Puppy for Life provides donor-funded service dogs and professional training support to qualified Veterans and Firefighters with disabilities, including post-traumatic stress disorder. Participation in this program is a serious, long-term commitment. Our goal is not simply to place a dog, but to help create a stable, working partnership that improves quality of life.

### Letter of Interest Questions

1. Please describe your background (Veteran or Firefighter status, and any information you feel is relevant).
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Why are you interested in a service dog at this point in your life? What challenges are you hoping a service dog may help you manage?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. What does a better life look like to you if you and a service dog successfully complete the program?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. Have you discussed the possibility of a service dog with the people you live with and your landlord if applicable? Please describe their level of support or concern.

5. Have you discussed a service dog with your employer or considered how it may affect your work environment?

6. Are you prepared to attend all required training sessions and complete weekly at-home work? Please explain any concerns that could interfere with participation.

7. Are you prepared to be the primary caregiver, trainer, and guardian for a puppy in training?

8. This program is designed to support Veterans and First Responders living with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Are you currently receiving treatment for a service-related disability associated with PTSD, or are you retired due to a service-related disability associated with PTSD?

9. Whether you bring your own puppy or we place a puppy with you in this program, is there anything that could significantly affect your ability to commit to the program for a minimum of nine (9) months to one (1) year? Please explain.

10. Are you requesting to bring your own dog into this program? Please provide us information concerning the breed, the age of the dog, how old was it when you got it, when how did it come into your possession, and any training it has received, and any other pertinent information you can provide. To determine if your dog is acceptable, we must have this information and we will need to meet it.

## Additional Information and Follow-Up

If you believe you may have a disability or need that falls outside the specific scope of this program's charter, please indicate that in your response. While this program is designed to support Veterans and First Responders living with post-traumatic stress disorder, EmpowerPups by Hero's Puppy for Life may have other options or resources available, and we are open to discussing those circumstances on an individual basis.

After your Letter of Interest is reviewed, a representative from EmpowerPups by Hero's Puppy for Life will contact you by phone to discuss your submission, ask follow-up questions, and provide additional information about the program, expectations, and next steps.

### Contact Information (Required)

In order for EmpowerPups by Hero's Puppy for Life to review your Letter of Interest and contact you regarding next steps, the following information is required:

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Please note: We are unable to follow up on Letters of Interest that do not include complete contact information.

**PRINT AND FILL THIS FORM OUT BY HAND,  
OR, COMPLETE IT ON YOUR COMPUTER.  
SAVE YOUR COMPLETED FORM TO YOUR COMPUTER BEFORE  
YOU EMAIL IT TO  
**CUSTSVC@HEROPUPPYFORLIFE.ORG****