

## **Information for Individuals Applying to Adopt Dogs from Hong Kong Seeing Eye Dog Services.**

Since its establishment in 2012, Hong Kong Seeing Eye Dog Services (HKSEDS) has continuously provided free seeing eye dog services for visually impaired individuals. To ensure the safety of service users and the well-being of seeing eye dogs, any dogs in training or on duty that are assessed as unsuitable for seeing eye dog functions will be withdrawn from the training program. Whether retired due to withdrawal or other reasons, HKSEDS will select suitable adoption families for these retired seeing-eye dogs, hoping they receive love and care until the end of their lives.

### **Commitments of Adoption Families**

- Provide a safe and comfortable living environment for the dog, taking responsibility for its daily care, including cleaning, exercise, and social interaction.
- Provide the dog with an appropriate and balanced diet, adjusting food based on the dog's needs.
- Attend to the dog's health with regular medical check-ups and vaccinations, addressing any issues promptly.
- Give the dog love and care to ensure its physical and mental well-being, and commit to caring for them until the end of their lives.

Adoption process includes the following parts:

### **Eligibility Assessment for Adoption Applicants**

After receiving the adoption family application form, if a preliminary assessment indicates a suitable match with a dog waiting for adoption, we will verify the information provided in the form and arrange a home visit. This visit will help us understand the applicant's reasons for adoption and intentions, while also explaining the responsibilities of adoption and ongoing follow-up arrangements. We will also assess the future living situation for the retired seeing eye dog.

In reviewing the adoption application, we will consider multiple factors, including whether the residence permits dog ownership, the number of residents, the applicant's experience in caring for dogs, the time available to spend with the dog, the number of pets in the home, the philosophy of pet ownership, and the interactions with animals.

### **Disclosure of Dog Information**

Regarding the main reasons for the withdrawal and retired seeing eye dogs, our staff will explain the situation of the dogs to the applicants, along with their related care and medical needs. Applicants must understand that the physical condition of the dogs may change over time, and even change rapidly; this is a responsibility that applicants should be prepared for and willing to take on.

### **Confirmation of Responsibilities of Dog Adopters**

To ensure that prospective adopters acknowledge their known responsibilities and make relevant commitments, adopters must sign a dog adoption agreement. It includes that if HKSEDS determines that the adopter has failed to adequately care for the dog, HKSEDS has the right to reclaim the dog at any time without providing any compensation to the adopter.

### **Change of Owner Information for Dog License**

Once the dog is placed under the care of the adopter, it will no longer qualify as a seeing eye dog, and its legal status will be the same as that of a pet dog. After both parties sign the adoption agreement, the adopter must cooperate in processing the 'Amendment to Dog License (Change of Keeper Information)' with the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department within the specified date. Upon completion, the adopter will assume the role of the dog's keeper, meaning they will be the 'dog owner' and will take on the responsibility of caring for the dog.

### **Continuous Follow-up by HKSEDS for Retired Dogs**

To ensure continuous follow-up for retired seeing eye dogs and to prevent neglect, abandonment, or abuse, HKSEDS requires adopters to provide updates on the dog's condition once a year. This includes information about the dog's living situation, health status, vaccination records, and recent photos (videos may also be attached). HKSEDS may arrange visits to the adopter's home to observe the overall condition of the retired seeing eye dog, and adopters are expected to cooperate.

Whether working or retired, the protection of seeing eye dogs is an ongoing commitment of Hong Kong Seeing Eye Dog Services. We hope to enrich the lives of visually impaired individuals through seeing eye dog services, fostering a culture of inclusion and integration within society with the understanding and support of all sectors.

If you have any inquiries, please contact us.

**Note:** If there are suitable matches for dogs waiting to be adopted, we will contact you; if you do not receive notification, it can be considered that there are no suitable dogs available for adoption.