

Think it's time to retire your service dog?

Let Saint Francis Service Dogs Know!

Saint Francis Service Dogs Is happy to help guide you to a decision that will be best for you and your service dog! It Is Important to report a retired service dog so that a new service dog can be assigned to you If needed. Informing Saint Francis Service Dogs of your dogs retirement also allows us to keep accurate records on file.

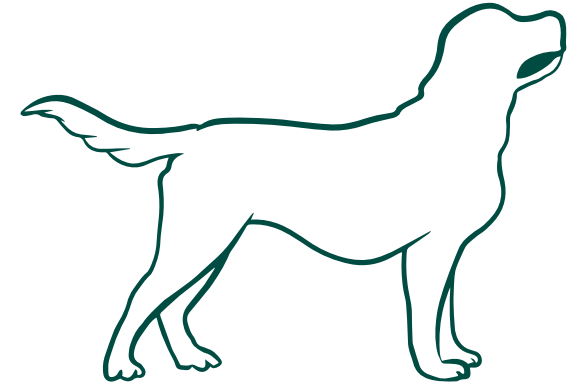
Return your dog's vest and collar

It Is Important to return your retired dog's service dog gear. Now that your dog Is no longer working, they no longer identify as a service dog and their harness and collar can be passed on to the next generation of amazing service dogs! Turning In old service dog gear can be tough, especially If your service dog has passed. Saint Francis Service Dogs Is happy to provide you with a keepsake If you ask! After returning your gear we will remove the buckles and return the collar to you so you can have something to remind you of the wonderful time spent with your service dog.



SERVICE DOG RETIREMENT

What you need to know



SAINT FRANCIS
SERVICE DOGS

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Have you ever wondered about life after retirement for a service dog? When and why do service dogs retire? This brochure sets out to answer these questions so you can be prepared to make the best decision for your service dog, and know what to expect for life after retirement.

Why do service dogs retire?

- Most service dogs retire due to age. Partners describe their service dog as “slowing down”, or showing disinterest with performing tasks.
- Some service dogs retire because their services are no longer needed. This could be because a partner can perform the tasks on their own now or the partner has moved into assisted living. There are many reasons why a partner may no longer require the services of their dog
- Some service dogs retire due to medical reasons. If a medical condition interferes with a dog’s ability to perform their tasks then the dog will have to retire.



Before

Once a service dog is matched with and goes home with a partner, it is entirely up to the partner to decide the “rules” for the service dog. For example, some partners may not want their service dog interacting with people or animals outside the home. Others may allow the service dog to interact with a select group of people or dogs outside of the home. Regardless of the rules set in place, service dogs are working animals and spend most of their time with their attention on their handler. This ensures they are always ready to perform tasks for their handler.

How do things change after retirement?

After

After retirement life changes for a service dog. The dog becomes a beloved family pet. It is still up to the partner whom the dog interacts with, but there is often more leniency since they are no longer having to focus on their handler or perform tasks. Retired service dogs are able to live out the rest of their days providing companionship to their family. Since they are retired, they are no longer allowed in public spaces that do not allow pets. It’s not recommended that a partner adopt another dog until their service dog is retired.

