



To Whom It May Concern,

Attached is a cost estimate outlining the typical expenses associated with training a service dog. Training a service dog involves multiple stages, including early development, obedience training, specialized task training, and public access work. The following estimate reflects the average costs associated with both **owner-trained service dogs** and **professionally trained service dogs**.

Owner-Trained Service Dog Cost Estimate

Training a service dog with the handler actively involved in the training process can significantly reduce overall costs; however, professional guidance is still required for proper development, public access reliability, and task training.

1. Puppy Selection and Initial Costs

- Puppy Purchase: **\$1,000 – \$3,000** (depending on breed and breeder)
- Initial Veterinary Care: **\$500 – \$1,000** (vaccinations, wellness exams)
- Supplies: **\$200 – \$500** (crate, leash, collar, food, toys)

Subtotal: \$1,700 – \$4,500

2. Basic Obedience Training

- Professional Training Classes: **\$150 per class**, totaling **\$1,500 – \$2,000**
- Private Training Sessions: **\$150 per hour**, totaling **\$1,500 – \$5,000**
- Training Materials and Equipment: **\$300 – \$1,000** (training tools, treats, service dog gear)

Subtotal: \$3,300 – \$8,000

3. Advanced Obedience & Public Access Training

- Advanced Training Classes: **\$150 per class**, totaling **\$300 – \$450**
- Public Access Training Sessions: **\$150 per hour**, totaling **\$300 – \$450**

Subtotal: \$600 – \$900

4. Specialized Task Training

- Task-Specific Training: **\$150 per hour**, totaling **\$1,500 – \$3,000** depending on task complexity
- Specialized Equipment: **\$300 – \$1,000** (vests, harnesses, mobility gear, or medical alert equipment)

Subtotal: \$1,800 – \$4,000

5. Veterinary & Health Maintenance

- Routine Veterinary Care: **\$500 – \$2,000 per year**
- Health Insurance (optional): **\$600 – \$1,200 per year**

- Specialized Health Evaluations: **\$2,000 – \$5,000** (orthopedic, temperament, or genetic screenings)
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6. Certification & Testing

- Public Access Testing or Evaluation Fees: **\$200 – \$500**
- Travel Expenses for Testing: **\$100 – \$300**

Subtotal: \$300 – \$800

7. Ongoing Training & Maintenance

- Refresher Training Sessions: **\$150 per hour**, totaling **\$450 – \$1,500 per year**
 - Replacement Gear & Training Supplies: **\$100 – \$2,000 per year**
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Estimated Total Cost (Owner-Trained Service Dog)

Low End: \$6,000 – \$8,000

High End: \$14,000 – \$17,000

Costs vary depending on the dog's training needs, the complexity of tasks required, and the amount of professional support needed throughout the training process.

Professionally Trained Service Dog Cost Estimate

A fully professionally trained service dog requires extensive training over **12–24 months**, including socialization, obedience, advanced task training, and public access reliability.

1. Dog Acquisition

- Suitable Puppy or Young Dog: **\$2,000 – \$5,000**
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2. Foundation Training (8 weeks – 9 months)

- Early development
- Socialization
- House manners
- Crate training
- Basic obedience

Estimated Cost: \$17,500

3. Advanced Service Dog Training

Specialized training tailored to the individual handler's disability. This may include:

- Mobility assistance
- Medical alert or response
- Psychiatric service work
- Retrieval tasks
- Public access reliability

Estimated Cost: \$30,000 – \$60,000

4. Veterinary & Health Care During Training

- Vaccinations
- Wellness exams
- Preventative care
- Health screenings

Estimated Cost: \$2,000 – \$5,000

5. Equipment & Supplies

- Harnesses
- Vests
- Leashes
- Task equipment

Estimated Cost: \$300 – \$1,000

6. Final Placement & Handler Training

- Final public access evaluation
- Handler education and transition training
- Travel and placement costs

Estimated Cost: \$500 – \$5,000

Estimated Total Cost (Fully Trained Service Dog)

\$20,500 – \$41,000+

Costs may vary based on the training organization, the specific disability-related tasks required, and the length of the training program.

Additional Considerations

Owning a service dog includes ongoing annual expenses such as:

- Food
- Veterinary care
- Grooming
- Equipment replacement
- Continuing training

These ongoing costs typically range between:

\$3,000 – \$5,000 per year

Summary

Service dogs require a significant investment of time, training, and financial resources. However, the assistance, independence, and quality of life provided by a properly trained service dog can be life-changing for individuals with disabilities.

Organizations such as **Loyal Guardians Service Dogs** work to make service dog training more accessible through structured training programs, education, and funding opportunities.