

**Department of Homeland Security
Transportation Security Administration
Office of Training and Development
Training Centers Division
Canine Training Center**



***“Protecting Passengers
And Securing Structures
Since 1972”***

Frequently Asked Questions

Do I qualify to adopt a dog from the TSA Canine Training Center (CTC)?

- ✓ Applicant must have a secure fenced yard
- ✓ Age of children in the home will be taken into consideration
- ✓ There should be no intentions of moving within six months of adopting a canine
- ✓ Home must abide by all local pet ordinances
- ✓ All pets in the home must be current on vaccinations and preventive care
- ✓ Applicant must travel to the TSA CTC facility, JBSA-Lackland in San Antonio, TX to meet and pick-up the canine
- ✓ Applicant's references and veterinarian must be available for an interview
- ✓ Applicant must sign an Indemnity Agreement in front of a notary to finalize the adoption
 - Accepts all future risks and consequences of canine
 - Agrees to pay for all of the canine's future medical care
 - Agrees not to sell canine
 - Agrees not to use canine for anything other than as a pet
- ✓ Applicant must register the canine's current microchip prior to finalizing the adoption

How long is the adoption process?

There are a variety of factors which effect the length of the adoption process-

- Number of applicants on the waiting list
- Screening of adoption application
- Number of available canines
- Your preferences i.e. breed, gender, color, age
- Finding a canine suitable to your family and home environment
- Coordination of your visit to meet canine
- Medical and administrative processing

Once you've selected a canine, it can then be medically/administratively processed and available for adoption typically within three days to two weeks.

What breeds of canines are available for adoption?

TSA utilizes a variety of large breed dogs. Primarily on the adoption list you will see sporting breeds, such as Labrador Retrievers and German Shorthaired Pointers. Occasionally there will be German Shepherds or Belgian Malinois available.

Where am I on the adoption waiting list?

The “list” is constantly changing and evolving. The TSA CTC receives many applications, some of which request a specific age, breed, and gender. We will try to accommodate your requests, but please understand that due to the limited availability you may be offered a canine that doesn't meet your specific request. You can increase your chances, and decrease the wait time, if you remain flexible in your choice of canines. Additionally, due to the wait, we typically move through the waiting list quickly. Applications are filed in the order received, and canines are adopted on a first-come first-served basis. If we attempt to contact you and do not receive a response within three business days we will move down the list of applicants. Your name will remain on the list, however if we attempt to contact you five times with no response, you will be removed from the waiting list. It is important to keep a current email address on file. Please note, law enforcement and service agencies have first priority.

How old are the canines available for adoption?

The majority of the canines are two to four years of age and have not completed training at the TSA CTC. There are few cases of older canines that have been retired from service, however the majority of retired canines are adopted to their handlers.

Are the canines vaccinated?

The canines are vaccinated, and will come with a copy of the last six months of their medical records, and a month's supply of flea and heartworm preventive.

Is there anything medically wrong with the canines?

Occasionally canines may have a medical issue which prevents them from working. This does not mean they will not make an acceptable house pet. Most canines medically eliminated from training often lead a full and happy life when adopted by a loving family. All medical issues will be identified upfront. Often a consultation with the veterinarian will be coordinated.

Can I use the canine for breeding purposes?

No. All canines are spayed or neutered prior to the adoption. Male canines may be left intact for Law Enforcement agencies.

Can the canine be shipped to me?

Due to various safety precautions and financial obligations, once the canine has been adopted, it is the new owner's responsibility to transport the canine from the facility in San Antonio, TX. The adopter will be required to come to JBSA-Lackland, and it may require multiple visits.

How much does it cost?

There is no cost for the adoption, but there can be extensive costs with owning a large breed dog.

What type of training have the canines received?

Canines that were eliminated prior to employment with TSA typically have received some explosives detection training. Please be aware, there is not a strong emphasis on obedience in the early stages of training. The canines are highly active and in the majority of the cases, will require a lot of attention, additional training and a significant amount of exercise. They are **not** raised in a home and are **not** house trained, however they are crate trained. The majority of the canines have **not** been exposed to small children or animals, other than canines. It could take up to 90 days to acclimate a canine to your home and pets. In some cases a canine may never acclimate. You may have to seek professional assistance to resolve any issues.

Can I return the canine after the adoption?

Unfortunately, canines cannot be returned once they've been adopted. Assistance is available should you experience difficulties integrating the canine into the family.

What is the adoption process?

1. Submit an adoption application
 - You will be notified when the application is received, reviewed, and accepted or declined. The application must be accurate and *complete* when submitted.
 - If the application meets the minimum requirements, you will be notified of available candidates or placed on the waiting list. **An application **must** be on file to be placed on the waiting list.*

What is the adoption process? (continued)

2. When we reach your name on the waiting list, you will be sent pictures and profiles of the canines available for adoption.
 - The adoption coordinator will assist you in the selection of a canine that best suits your family and home environment.
 - Being breed or gender specific will increase your wait time.
3. Coordinate a meeting with TSA CTC staff at JBSA-Lackland San Antonio, TX to meet canine(s)
 - You will be required to provide driver's license, insurance and vehicle registration, as well as pass a background check to gain access to JBSA-Lackland.
4. Make the final selection of a canine that best suits your family and home environment
 - We cannot hold a canine for an extended period for applicants.
5. Once a canine is selected, the TSA CTC staff will contact the other individuals living in the home, references, and veterinarian.
 - Pictures of your home and/or yard may be requested.
 - A phone interview will be done with all of the individuals living in the home and your veterinarian.
 - References must complete an email or phone questionnaire prior to finalizing the adoption.

What is the adoption process? (continued)

6. The canine will be medically and administratively processed
 - This could take a few days or a few weeks depending on the canines current medical status and the veterinarian's availability.
7. You will receive email notification with the necessary adoption paperwork, to include Covenant Not to Sue with Indemnity Agreement and microchip registry.
 - The agreement must be signed in front of a notary prior to picking up the canine.
 - The microchip registry must be completed and returned prior to picking up the canine.
8. Coordinate a day and time to pick-up the canine from JBSA-Lackland
 - A leash, collar and crate are required for pick-up.
 - You will be provided with a copy of the canine's last six months of their medical records, one month supply of flea and heartworm preventive, three days worth of dog food, and copies of the adoption forms.

We reserve the right to refuse an adoption at any point.