



**Nov. 4<sup>th</sup> Webinar “AKC’s Patriotic Puppy Program: Program Updates and a Conversation with Stacey West”**

**Questions & Answers**

1. ***Any fees, government contracts, government financial assistance or type grants administered in the PPP task force for qualified pups?*** We are providing high level training for participants free of charge. If we become aware of contracts that are appropriate for participants, we would certainly let them know. AKC does not purchase or broker dogs or provide financial or grant assistance to breeders.
2. ***Are breeders involved in the pairing of sire and dam for breeding?*** Breeders are responsible for their own breeding decisions. AKC’s Subject Matter Experts are willing to discuss potential matings with breeders if needed.
3. ***Are the test available (i.e. temperament testing) that are being leveraged to select candidate for the program?*** Parties interested in the program may sign up at [HERE](#). Currently, tests other than a commitment to health testing are not a criterion for participating in the program. When possible, AKC’s Subject Matter Expert will share info on test protocols and requirements as pups are in the final phases of training and preparing for evaluation for placement.
4. ***Are you open to different breeds of dogs?*** The primary breeds participating in this program are Labrador Retrievers and German Shorthaired Pointers. This reflects the demand for these breeds as EDDs. There may be future opportunities for high quality dogs of other breeds as well. IF you are interested in participating with another breed, please [contact us](#) directly to discuss this.
5. ***As a puppy raiser do we make contact with different departments to let them know what we have available or does program?*** When able, and on a case by case basis we are looking forward to assisting our breeders/puppy raisers find the right job with the correct agency for their potential working dog.
6. ***As a puppy raiser what type of training are we supposed to do to, just basics or start on detection work?*** As noted in the webinar, PPP helps puppy trainers/ raisers provide puppies with a sound foundation for future ED work. Detection work should focus on searching for and finding toys. Many agencies prefer to start with a “green” (untrained) dog that has good search effort, is environmentally stable and has a high level of desire to find and obtain their toy.
7. ***At what age are the dogs taken in for the evaluation by DHS?*** Most agencies are looking at beginning evaluation of a dog at or around 12 months of age.

8. **At what age will the program be purchasing the puppies?** The AKC does not purchase or broker dogs. This is a program to train trainers to raise green dogs that are suitable for futures, and to help them prepare for evaluation by various agencies or entities seeking to purchase such dogs.
9. **Can I train someone else's dog throughout the program?** Yes, we are interested in having puppy raisers in the program that are willing to train dogs.
10. **Do you want us to continue the hunt tests?** We are finalizing the monthly testing/reporting criteria and will share this info as soon as it becomes final.
11. **Do you want weekly reports?** We are moving towards monthly reports. Also, if there are issues that have come up in training, feel free to reach out to the SME for guidance.
12. **Have you given it any thought to helping your participants to get government grants?** The American Kennel Club is unable to assist participants with government grants
13. **How beneficial is early neurological stimulation for puppies?** Based on previous work, early neurological stimulation has shown promise in the develop of sound pups. My experience is that a breeder who uses these techniques, or something similar are generally very hands-on resulting in pups that are highly social and bold.
14. **How long are breeders expected to keep prospects?** This program is approximately a 10 to 12-month commitment.
15. **How will the testing change or stay the same?** Testing will be focused on identifying weaknesses in your training program. While there was a very defined standard in Phase 1, it didn't necessarily translate into success at the end of the program. Our focus will be to identify areas where pups need to further develop and adjust training based on the individual pup's needs. We are finalizing these criteria and will share once available.
16. **If we have raised our puppy(s) in this program, can we get some kind of certification to support our efforts?** Yes, we can provide you with a certificate for graduation of the PPP.
17. **What are you going to do for us?** As a part of Phase 2 of the PPP we are focusing on 'train the trainers' so not only you are successful with your current dog/litter - you will retain a wealth of knowledge to carry forward. Additionally, where possible, we will continue to work to identify and open new areas for evaluation and placement when pups finish the program.
18. **What happens if puppy does not get chosen for PPP? Is breeder responsible for finding home for dog?** The PPP is a volunteer training opportunity to prepare puppies for detection work. As well as detection work, we are interested in helping our breeders find 'other' jobs for their dogs. The American Kennel Club encourages breeders to be responsible dog raisers and owners and work diligently to find a suitable home as a pet if the dog is not chosen by an agency during evaluation. Our goal in Phase 2 is to help breeders understand that not all pups make a great dog for TSA, but a well-trained dog can have a job. Local, state and federal law enforcement, medical and



conservation detection or sporting work could all be future jobs for a dog that graduates from the PPP.

19. **What is going to be done differently that wasn't done before?** Phase 2 restructures the program to broaden training and outreach to include the development of detector dogs for deployment at local and state levels. It focuses on providing a more structured and hands-on approach that recognizes a wider range of demand and potential jobs for graduate dogs, as well as differences in training protocols.
20. **Who will be evaluating the puppies for placement?** After completion of the program and working with AKC PPP subject matter expert(s), suggestions will be made as to where the dog may have a best fit with a local, state or federal agency. Personnel from the specific agency will conduct final testing and analysis.
21. **Will data, other than health clearances, on the puppies be collected to help breeders make better choices for the future?** Yes, as we acquire more dogs, we can start collecting additional data.
22. **Will you be creating a vendor database for breeders?** Yes, as we continue to grow we will develop a database.
23. **Will you be providing training videos for the puppies?** We currently have a multitude of training videos; please review them here: <https://www.akc.org/akc-detection-dog-task-force/akc-pilot-detection-puppy-rearing-program/blogs/>
24. **Do agencies care about pedigree and health clearances? I've heard of police adopting shelter dogs that likely don't have a 4-degree pedigree, AKC registration and health clearances.** The PPP is designed to give law enforcement a better product. As breeders know, the success and long-term health of a working dog hinges on the breeding decisions made over several generations.
25. **Will breeding programs be inspected by USDA? Is there a plan to approve breeding programs as vendors approved for DOD procurement?** Breeders licensing rules vary from jurisdiction to jurisdiction (Federal, state and local) AKC expects breeders registering with us to know, understand and comply with requirements to which they are subject. Whether an individual breeder is subject to USDA licensing requirements for pet breeder/dealer will depend on the situation, including factors such as whether they sell dogs as pets as well as working canines, and whether you sell dogs sight unseen. AKC GR can provide more specific insight for individuals based on certain common circumstances and encourage breeders to reach out to USDA directly if they have questions about whether they are subject to licensing.