

FACILITY DOG PROGRAM

All Stage Canine Development



SUPPORTING JUSTICE WITH COMPASSION

Our trained facility dogs help create a safe and supportive environment for victims, witnesses, and families throughout the court process.

BENEFITS:



Help reduce anxiety and fear.



Supports children and vulnerable individuals.



Encourages open communication.



Promotes a more positive experience in court.



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FOR DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICES

A Courthouse Facility Dog for Your Office

A courthouse facility dog is a fully trained, professionally handled dog assigned to your office. The dog works with a designated handler to steady victims and witnesses through interviews, case preparation, and testimony.

WHAT THE DOG DOES AT YOUR DEPARTMENT

- Support during victim and witness interviews and case preparation
- Presence during forensic interviews at child advocacy centers
- Accompanying qualifying witnesses during testimony, where the coupermits
- Steady presence in victim advocate offices, waiting areas, and family rooms
- Wellness support for prosecutors, advocates, and investigators handling trauma caseloads

HOW THE PROGRAM WORKS

- 1 Consultation:** This may include phone and/or Zoom consultations, as well as in-person evaluations with the puppy or dog being considered for the program. Our goal is to determine whether the dog is a good fit for the department, handler, and intended working environment. If a dog has not yet been selected, All Stage can also help guide your department through the process of finding an appropriate candidate.
- 2 Training:** The assigned handler will house and care for the department dog and work alongside our trainers throughout the training process. This program is designed to train both ends of the leash—the handler's education, confidence, and ability to work with the dog are just as important as the dog's training.
- 3 Certification:** Training includes preparation for the AKC Canine Good Citizen (CGC), Community Canine (Advanced CGC), and Urban CGC, along with Therapy Plus TADS Specialized Therapy Certification. The team will also complete public-access and specialized training in the real-world environments where the dog will actually work, such as offices, courtrooms, interview rooms, schools, hospitals, community events, or other department-specific settings.

Most offices assign the dog to a victim advocate or victim services coordinator.

TYPICAL TIMELINE

- ~6 months → Dog is actively working inside the department
- ~10 months → Dog is working in public settings
- ~9 months to 2 years → Full program, depending on the dog and the job

Training continues until the dog reaches two years of age, and as needed after that for the life of the dog's service.

TRAINING FORMATS INCLUDED

Private sessions

One-on-one work with your handler

Stay & train

Immersive blocks when the schedule calls for it

Group classes

Obedience and proofing around distraction

Public access

Courthouses, hospitals, schools, offices, high-traffic settings

Day train

Dog trains with us, handler picks up the skills

Job-specific work

Built around the duties your department needs

Courtroom access is at the discretion of the court. California Penal Code 868.4 permits a therapy or facility dog to accompany qualifying witnesses during testimony in criminal and juvenile proceedings, subject to the court granting a motion. We will work with your office on the certification pathway your court expects.

TRAINING INVESTMENT

\$20,000

ONE-TIME TRAINING INVESTMENT

Covers the dog's entire working career with your department. Every training format below, ongoing support for as long as the dog serves, new job assignments as your needs change, and full transition training when a new handler takes over. One active handler at a time. An additional or replacement dog is a separate program.

The dog is separate. Your department obtains and owns the dog. Cost varies widely by source, from a shelter placement to a purpose-bred prospect. We can help you find and assess candidates before you commit.



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