



Volunteer D-Uber Guidelines

About Helping Paws

Helping Paws is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to further people's independence and quality of life through the use of Assistance Dogs. Our dogs in training live with host homes or volunteer dog trainers for up to 2½ years while they complete their training. We are proud of our dedicated volunteers, who are the backbone of our organization.

Introduction

Volunteer D-Uber drivers are essential to the Helping Paws mission, providing safe and reliable transportation to and from school (Blue Coat Academy, or BCA). These guidelines are designed to ensure consistency, safety, and clarity for all volunteers who transport Helping Paws dogs.

Blue Coat Academy (BCA)

Blue Coat Academy is the training school where all Helping Paws service dogs in training attend structured learning sessions three days each week. During these sessions, dogs work with Helping Paws trainers to develop essential obedience, socialization, and task-specific skills that prepare them for their future roles as service dogs.

Helping Paws operates a van—referred to as the **D-Uber**—to transport dogs to and from BCA. This service supports Host Home volunteers and Volunteer Dog Trainers who are unable to provide transportation due to work or other commitments. Helping Paws relies on volunteer D-Uber drivers to make this program possible.

Responsibilities of Volunteer D-Uber Drivers

- **Safety first:** Ensure all dogs on the assigned route are picked up and dropped off safely while following Helping Paws safety protocols at all times.
- Transport dogs to and from BCA according to the provided schedule and route.

- Handle dogs calmly, confidently, and in accordance with Helping Paws training standards.
 - Confirm successful pick-ups and drop-offs as instructed by staff.
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Rules and Expectations

- Follow all Helping Paws training protocols and staff instructions.
 - Avoid introducing dogs to other animals or people without Helping Paws approval.
 - Never use harsh discipline, corrections, or unauthorized training methods.
 - Always use designated Helping Paws collars, leashes, crates, and other equipment.
 - Immediately report any incidents, including escapes, injuries, illnesses, or accidents, to Helping Paws staff.
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Communication & Support

- Maintain regular and timely communication with Helping Paws staff.
 - Complete progress notes or reports if requested.
 - Participate in required or recommended Helping Paws volunteer trainings.
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Volunteer Commitment

There is no minimum time requirement to volunteer as a D-Uber driver. Volunteers may sign up for shifts as their schedules allow. Whether you help a few times a year or multiple times a month, your support is greatly appreciated and makes a meaningful impact.

Insurance

Helping Paws provides vehicle insurance coverage for volunteers who drive the D-Uber. Volunteers must follow all Helping Paws safety protocols and provide a copy of their valid driver's license so it can be submitted to the insurance provider.

Conclusion

Thank you for supporting Helping Paws as a Volunteer D-Uber driver. Your time, care, and commitment help ensure our dogs receive the training they need and allow our host homes and

trainers to continue their important work. Together, we are building brighter, more independent futures for the people we serve.