

To My Service Dog, I Promise...

- To put your needs before my own
- To protect you from harm & provide you with the best care possible
- To remember that you are not a robot or mind reader
- To always love you, even when I'm frustrated with you
- To help you conquer any phobias
- To accept that, at times, I will be the student and you the teacher
- To always encourage you, believe in you, trust you, respect you, and be grateful for you

- To be confident in myself and you
- To avoid comparing us to other teams
- To be more patient with you and everyone in our team
- To remember that we are only a great team when we act like a team
- To remember that when life has been rough on me, it has been equally rough for you
- To remember that setbacks are an inevitable part of training
- To admit when I mess up or let you down, and to work to improve
- To remember that my disability is not my fault, and some days, we won't get everything done.

- To understand that we will both have days when we forget how things need to be done
- To remember to let us be goofy at times
- To give you at least one to two off duty days every week
- To not impose a hard deadline on our training
- To be more consistent and give clear guidance
- To earn and maintain trust & respect, not expect it
- To aim for excellence, not perfection
- To learn when to push and when to take a break
- To find ways to challenge both of us so that our work is never boring
- To be mindful of what you may be learning on accident, good or bad
- To always give you the opportunity to succeed at whatever we are working on

- To be brave enough to decide if you need to be washed out, if we need to go back & work more on basics, if we need to change something about how we work, if you need to retire early, and when you need to be retired due to old age



Your Handler and Partner