

Diabetic Alert Dog FAQ

The following frequently asked questions are intended to provide a better understanding of the “Paws Saving Lives” diabetic alert dog philanthropic program. Beyond these FAQ’s, please feel free to contact Rick Swansbro for additional insight into this emerging program at r.swansbro@outlook.com or (815) 540-2366.

1. *What is the objective of Paws Saving Lives?* To offer supplemental assistance to individuals diagnosed with diabetes for the purpose of acquiring a diabetic alert dog. The focus of this initiative is individuals and/or families with type 1 or type 2 diabetes.
2. *Who qualifies for supplemental assistance?* Individuals and families with type 1 or type 2 diabetes that complete and submit a grant application to Cosmopolitan International or their local Cosmopolitan chapter.
3. *Who reviews and decides on the number of grants issued and/or \$\$ amount of supplemental assistance per grant?* Grant requests may be considered at the International (CDF) level, federation level or club level.
4. *Can individual and/or club donations to the CDF be designated within a specific city, federation or region?* Yes. Contributions to the CDF in support of the Paws Saving Lives diabetic alert dog program will be accrued as directed and distributed to recipients as grant money becomes available.

Designated donations to the CDF should be \$250 or greater.

5. *Is it possible to offer supplemental assistance to a recipient after s/he takes delivery of their diabetic alert dog?* Yes. Subsequent assistance can be requested by the recipient for hardship cases whereby assistance is needed to offset expenses related to caring for the diabetic alert dog. Examples include but not limited to dog food, veterinarian care, prescription medication, etc. Such assistance requires completion and submittal of a Paws Saving Lives grant application.
6. *How can I contribute to the “Paws Saving Lives” diabetic alert dog program?* Individuals may contribute to Paws Saving Lives by texting (402) 260-7473 and entering the amount to be donated. First time contributors using text giving will be directed through initial questions to set-up their account. Contributions may be offered as a one-time donation or as a recurring donation. Tax-deductible donations may also be directed to the Cosmopolitan Diabetes Foundation (CDF) and / or Cosmopolitan Foundation of Canada (CFC).

7. *Will donations in support of the Paws Saving Lives diabetic alert dog program be acknowledged with a receipt for tax purposes?* Yes. Donors who contribute via Simple Giving texts or donate to (CDF) / (CFC) will receive a formal receipt for tax purposes.
8. *What documents are available to help communicate and promote contributions to Paws Saving Lives?* A PDF slide presentation is available for review and/or download from the Cosmopolitan International website at <http://www.cosmopolitan.org/Page/paws-saving-lives> . The presentation is compatible to PC's, laptops, iPads, iPhones and tablets. A Paws Saving Lives video is also available for review at this same website location.
9. *Where can I obtain a copy of the Paws Saving Lives grant application?* The Paws Saving Lives grant application is available for download from the Cosmopolitan International website at <http://www.cosmopolitan.org/Page/paws-saving-lives> .
10. *Who do I forward the completed Paws Saving Lives grant application to?* Completed grant applications inclusive of an accompanying letter describing how one's quality of life will be improved by adopting a diabetic alert dog, may be directed to your local Cosmopolitan International chapter or directly to PawsSavingLives@cosmopolitan.com .
11. *Who receives the Paws Saving Lives grant money?* Money granted on behalf of an individual or family is held in escrow by the granting club, federation or International entity (CDF) / (CFC) before being released to the training entity on behalf of the individual or family. Once the granted amount combined with money held in reserve by the grant recipient is commensurate with the acquisition cost of a diabetic alert dog, funds are released to the handler.

This is subsequent to consummation of a formal contract between the grant recipient and trainer and completion of the initial down payment.
12. *Who chooses the diabetic alert dog trainer?* The grant recipient decides on the diabetic alert dog trainer. Cosmopolitan International does not judge or comment on the choice of handler. Selection criteria should consider acquisition cost, lead time, location, follow-up training, reputation, etc.
13. *How much should I expect to spend when acquiring a diabetic alert dog?* Cost varies widely respective of the training entity. Known acquisition cost may range up to \$25,000 depending on the training entity and services offered.

14. *How long should I expect to wait for a diabetic alert dog once a contract has been agreed to and the down payment received by the handler?* The waiting period leading up to hand-off of a diabetic alert dog varies by backlog and chosen trainer. It is not unusual for the process to require a year or more.
15. *Is there an approval process that one must go through?* Yes. There is a multi-step approval process that must be completed. This process may vary by handler. The typical inquiry begins with a phone conversation / interview. On this call, the trainer shares general information, learns more about particular household needs and answers any related questions.

If there seems to be a good fit, the process will continue to submittal of an application. Concurrent with the application process is scheduling a call with a current diabetic alert dog recipient. During this call, the applicant will get a better understanding of what life is like with a diabetic alert dog. Once these steps are completed, the trainer will decide whether the applicant is a good fit for a diabetic alert dog.

Submittal of a Cosmopolitan grant application is dependent on a formal agreement with a reputable diabetic alert dog handler.

16. *How long is the orientation process that proceeds the hand-off of the diabetic alert dog?* The orientation process will vary by handler. Some handlers deliver the dog to the recipient prior to orientation while others require the recipient to travel to the handler's location. This should enter into the applicant's decision process.