

# Dogs for Good Job Description



**Job Title:** Trainer  
**Responsible to:** Trainer Team Leader

## Key Tasks

1. To assess and educate dogs and ensure they successfully complete their education to meet the standards and targets set by the charity within specified budgets and set timescales and to enable each dog to reach its best potential.
2. To highlight and identify dogs as they progress through their education and discuss with the Trainer Team Leader the best service option for each dog and to highlight alternative careers and future welfare needs for dogs that may not be suitable in the services that Dogs for Good provide.
3. Ensure the Trainer Team Leader is aware of any changes needed to the Production plan, and ensure we continue to communicate with, and consider, the needs of the Puppy, Health and Welfare, and the Instructor teams.
4. To provide practical education, support, and advice on dog education matters to Trainers and other staff within the charity ensuring that the current legislation relating to assistance dogs and animal welfare, as well as methods and standards required of dogs in education by the charity and industry, are always upheld
5. To assist, support and develop effective communication between other Training Department teams and develop and deliver the organisation's services as well as its approach to dog learning and ensure that plans and proposals for achieving best practice are in line with the charity's strategic goals.
6. To attend all necessary meetings and maintain accurate written records and provide written and verbal information to relevant staff within agreed timescales to enable them to make an accurate assessment of a dog's progression through training and their suitability for matching with a client.
7. To ensure that dog files are fully up to date on Dynamics and that it is used effectively in maintaining accurate records for both internal and external needs and these are to be maintained by each Trainer.
8. To provide a balanced and objective overview of dogs as they progress through their education to the matching stage.
9. To undertake continual professional development by engaging with all teams within the Training Department to understand the services available and how clients can benefit from working with Dogs For Good
10. To support and represent the charity's public relations efforts by carrying out talks, demonstrations and dog-based promotion work as required.

11. To assist Instructors and Community Handlers when carrying out dog handling sessions with clients and assist with educating clients in basic dog handling skills.
12. To assist with the recruitment, education of new team members and Volunteers.
13. Ability to plan work, be organised and ensure that time is utilised effectively for yourself and colleagues.
14. To provide occasional duties to maintain out of hours cover by use of a mobile phone and respond appropriately to events and solutions, as required.
15. To be fully conversant with the charity's Safeguarding Policy and ensure that staff understand what is required and operate accordingly.
16. Any other reasonable task as directed by the Trainer Team Leader.

### **Key Competencies**

1. Ability to recognise and highlight any concerns to the Trainer Team Leader regarding dogs in your care, their education and their wellbeing and react in a timely, effective, and sensitive manner.
2. Ability to provide sound personal judgement in relation to the following:
  - Understanding the needs and motivation of service users and the effect this has on a dog's and a person's learning.
  - In negotiation with the service user, designing an education program that enables them to achieve the highest possible shared success with our / their dog. This ensures all aspects of welfare and safety are met and, where needed, appropriate referrals are made in the interest of the service user's and / or dog's needs.
3. Ability to implement strategy and, within the context of the charity's strategic direction, plan and implement best practice approaches to service user (Temporary Boarders) learning and our services.
4. Ability to initiate and direct solutions in consultation with manager to identify and resolve complex problems and plan responses to risks and issues.
5. Ability to work with people and / or teams, specialising in different service areas and to co-ordinate activities, managing resources to ensure plans are delivered to agreed timescales.
6. Ability to demonstrate expertise in communication with a wide range of people internally and externally. This will include service users (Temporary Boarders) and their families, other professional service providers, representatives from other relevant charities, members of the public, senior managers within the charity and all other colleagues
7. Ability to champion change by being open, objective and receptive towards the ideas of others and putting forward ideas to colleagues that will encourage and enable Dogs for Good's work.

8. Knowledge and experience in the following areas:

- Structure and activities of Dogs for Good
- Advanced theory and practical skills of dog learning and education
- Knowledge and understanding of dog welfare and wellbeing
- Law in relation to dogs
- Law in relation to disability issues
- Knowledge and understanding of key disability areas covered by the charity, including relevant medical conditions
- Dog and human psychology
- Education and coaching skills
- Health and safety implications of all aspects of dog and service user need
- Safeguarding

**Other Requirements**

1. Accompanying dogs in the charity's vehicles is part of the job, so a full driving licence is preferred, but where applicable, we will work with the chosen candidate to find alternative solutions where reasonable adjustments are required.
2. It will be necessary on occasion to stay away overnight and to work outside of the contracted hours to include early evening and weekend working.