

Setting objectives and self evaluating



There will be many different goals that families will want to achieve with their dogs. Different families will want to have their valued family dog helping them at varying degrees. What can be achieved will depend upon the family, the dog and the amount of time and effort that is committed. It will also depend upon what is realistic and feasible. Setting short term objectives and evaluating these will help you to monitor your progress, as well as allow you to recognise and celebrate your achievements.

What are your long term goals with your family?

- What are you able to do currently?
- What would you like to be able to do in future?
- How would achieving these things help you as a family, or as individuals?

How could a dog help you to reach these goals?

- Could a dog help reach your long term goals?
- How would you like the dog to help?
- Is your child/family/dog able and happy to join in on this process?
- Would your child and/or dog's welfare and safety be put at risk?
- Is what you are attempting realistically achievable?

How to break this down?

- Are you setting yourself achievable short-term goals which will help to build your confidence?
- How much time can you commit to working with your dog?
- What experience does your dog and you have?
- How will this tie in with your long-term goals?

What might affect success?

- Are you clear as to what you are trying to achieve?
- Are you clear as to how you will go about achieving it?
- Have you got enough time?
- Have you got enough motivation?
- Is your dog motivated enough to take on new training?

What support do you need to achieve these goals?

- What are you having difficulty with?
- What sort of help do you need? E.g. practical support, advice, emotional support.
- Who could provide this support?

