# Table of Contents

**About Dogs for the Disabled** ................................................................. 3

## Section 1: Who do we help?

- Adult Partnerships – physically disabled ........................................... 6
- Children’s Teams – physically disabled ............................................. 6
- Services for children with autism ...................................................... 7
- PAW Service .................................................................................. 7
- Information on registering pet dogs ................................................. 10

## Section 2: Application Process

- Applying for an assistance dog ......................................................... 12
- Our dogs ....................................................................................... 16
- Client training courses ................................................................... 16
- Aftercare ....................................................................................... 16
- Dog Retirement ............................................................................. 16

## Section 3: Volunteering for Dogs for the Disabled

- Brood Bitch holders ....................................................................... 20
- Socialising a puppy ........................................................................ 20
- Temporary boarding ...................................................................... 20
- Aftercare volunteers ..................................................................... 21
- Re-homing opportunities ................................................................ 21

## Section 4: Careers & useful contacts

- Working for Dogs for the Disabled ................................................ 24
- Useful contacts ............................................................................. 25
- Our contact details ....................................................................... 26
Introduction

This booklet gives you information about the services provided by Dogs for the Disabled and how through volunteering roles you can help the charity to achieve its objective of helping as many people with disabilities as possible to have an assistance dog.

Please read the sections relevant to your request carefully before filling out any of the application forms, some of which can be found at the back of the booklet.

Thank you very much for your interest in the work of Dogs for the Disabled and we look forward to your continued support.

About Dogs for the Disabled

Dogs for the Disabled is a dynamic, innovative and growing charity which provides children and adults with disabilities with specially trained dogs that help them lead more independent and fulfilling lives.

Dogs for the Disabled was started in 1986 by Frances Hay, who had become disabled herself at 16. Her own dog had helped her to overcome some of her physical problems, giving her welcome friendship, companionship and independence. It was this special rapport that inspired Frances to realise that a dog could help people with disabilities in many ways. Frances sadly died in 1990, but the seeds had been sown and during the 1990’s Dogs for the Disabled went from strength to strength.

In 2000 Dogs for the Disabled opened its own permanent training centre in Banbury, Oxfordshire and named it after Frances Hay.

Since 1986 hundreds of people have benefited from Dogs for the Disabled’s pioneering work. Continuing its innovative progress in 2004, Dogs for the Disabled started its Children’s project; the first scheme in the UK to train dogs to help young people with disabilities.
Section 1
Who do we help?
Adult Partnerships

The core service provided by Dogs for the Disabled is training assistance dogs for adults with physical disabilities. Every dog is specially trained to help with practical tasks that many people with disabilities find difficult or impossible to do, such as:

- Opening and closing doors
- Helping a person dress and undress
- Barking to raise the alarm in an emergency
- Retrieving items such as mobile telephones or dropped articles like keys or a bag
- Loading and emptying the washing machine
- Retrieving named articles such as slippers, gloves or a remote control
- Switching the lights on and off
- Retrieving the post
- Pressing a pedestrian crossing button
- Reaching up to shop-counters with items such as a wallet
- Helping people to walk by providing a constant forward motion

A Dogs for the Disabled registered assistance dog provides an extension of the person’s abilities, and as such is allowed by law to accompany their partner into public places such as shops, restaurants and also to travel on public transport.

Dogs for the Disabled accept adult applications from people with many different types of physical disability and assesses each application on how a dog could help each individual, not on their type of disability. The strength of assistance dog ownership lie in the partnership created between the person with disabilities and the dog. Full training is provided via one of our centres to assist the new owner with every aspect of the dog’s care. This includes everything from feeding, grooming and exercise, to the practical task-work the dogs provide.

Please refer to pages 11 - 14 for costs, eligibility criteria and how to apply.

Children’s Teams

Here at Dogs for the Disabled we believe that by training a dog to have special skills it will provide not just independence, but also help give a child confidence by enabling them to be more independent. A child’s assistance dog will be trained in tasks such as retrieving dropped items, opening doors and helping remove a jacket or pair of socks and shoes.

As the relationship between dog and child develops it is expected that the dogs will help with physiotherapy. For children that need regular practice at moving their upper body or improving their hand-eye coordination, a dog could be trained to ‘mirror’ stretching exercises or play a ‘throw and catch’ game of ball with a child.

An Assistance Dog Team comprises a trained dog (assistance dog), a child with physical disabilities (referred to as the client), and a family member or someone from the client’s close support network (referred to as the team leader).
By training a team leader to assist with handling, the team can reach its full potential. Team leaders are generally adult family members (parents, guardians) or primary carers who live with and interact extensively with the client. Team Leaders learn and become skilled in dog handling and facilitation techniques that promote responsiveness and interaction between the dog and the client.

Please refer to pages 12-15 for costs, eligibility criteria and how to apply.

Services for children with autism

In 2008, Dogs for the Disabled extended its services to help children with autism and their families. Over the next three years, we are piloting two services to help families with a child with autism to lead a more fulfilled life:

- Autism Assistance Dog service - the provision of a specially trained assistance dog
- Parents Autism Workshops and Support (PAWS) - supporting families to get the most out of a relationship between a pet dog and their child

Autism Assistance Dog programme

An autism assistance dog trained by Dogs for the Disabled gives the parent and child real independence, and provides a safer environment for the child, so they feel more secure.

Each dog is trained to work in a special harness that connects it to both parent and child. The dog is trained to lead from the front, acting on instructions from the parent while the child is encouraged to walk alongside the dog using a lead attached to the dog. This offers greater independence to the child and parent, whilst ensuring the child is safe and unable to 'bolt' if they become stressed or anxious. ‘Bolting’ behaviour is also combated by training the assistance dog to automatically sit should they sense the child attempting to run off.

Having unlimited access to public places with the dog enables the whole family to do simple things such as shopping, which may have been impossible before.

A fully-trained autism assistance dog can help change behaviour by introducing routines, reducing bolting behaviour, interrupting repetitive behaviour, and help a child with autism cope with unfamiliar surroundings.

The basic eligibility criteria for the Autism Assistance Dog service are:

- Your child must be between the ages of 3 and 10 years old
- Your child must have been clinically diagnosed within the autistic spectrum
- There is only one child on the autistic spectrum within the household
- Your child must be physically mobile
- Your family must be accepting of dogs
- The Team Leader (parent/guardian) must be physically mobile
- The Team Leader must be available for a one week residential training course followed by regular weekly/monthly training sessions at home
- You must live at a permanent place of residence within a geographical area stated by Dogs for the Disabled. This will be advised at the time of submitting your details
If there is a child with autism in your family - or autism concerns you from a personal or professional perspective - a ground-breaking new project could be of great interest to you! Dogs for the Disabled train assistance dogs to support children with autism. In the course of this work we have observed that there is a special chemistry between the child and dog. It can deliver an incredible calming effect when a child is angry or distressed, distract a child away from destructive or dangerous behaviour and encourage positive behaviour in all sorts of ways. This has led us to realise that whilst for some children there will be a clear need for a fully trained assistance dog, a well trained family pet dog can also have a massively beneficial impact.

We have set up the PAWS (Parents Autism Workshops and Support) project to bring together parents of children with autism, to share experiences and explore the potential that a pet dog might have within the family. The results are already encouraging: One child who refused to clean his teeth will now do so happily if the dog has his teeth cleaned at the same time; a young lad who refused to wear his school uniform now sets off happily, providing his dog walks with him wearing a school tie too!

Alongside our workshops, working in partnership with the National Autistic Society and Lincoln University, we have been awarded a three year grant to carry out research into the relationship between dogs and humans, funded by The National Lottery through the Big Lottery Fund.

“The day we brought Claude home from the breeder, was the day that Jude actually spoke directly to someone for the first time.”

“Since attending the workshops, we have developed our training so that now he can gently touch his nose to my son’s hand to help interrupt a tantrum.”

“To be supported by experts, not only in choosing and raising a puppy, but also in training a family dog to fulfill its potential as a loyal and dependable companion, is a vital service to families like ours.”

About the Workshops

Workshops are designed to provide parents with the information and long-term support for sourcing, choosing, handling and training a pet dog specifically to benefit a child with autism and the family as a whole.

Parents will attend a series of three, one day workshops over a period of three months and our new workshops are available to families nationwide.

Through practical demonstrations, discussions, hands on learning and course handouts, the workshops will cover a variety of topics, from practical ways in which the dog can help the child’s development, to selecting the right dog for the family.
Support Available

Following the workshops, the PAWS team will offer ongoing support to families, through a variety of media, from telephone support to an online forum and family support network.

Eligibility

Different sets of eligibility criteria help to place parents in the most appropriate workshop groups. The PAWS Project is available to families who have:

- Child with a clinical diagnosis of autism
- Child aged between 3 and 16 years

Families may or may not have a pet dog within the household, the workshops are open to all.

Presence of siblings with autism in the family must be noted.

Public Access Rights

Please note that the PAWS Project is a different service to the Autism Assistance Dog Service also offered by Dogs for the Disabled. Pet dogs will not be able to receive full public access rights. Please also see ‘Can Dogs for the Disabled register my pet dog as an assistance dog’ overleaf.

Want to Learn More?

Whether just for a chat or to book your place contact us either by telephone 01295 759836 or alternatively submit your details on-line. Go to [www.dogsforthedisabled.org](http://www.dogsforthedisabled.org) and click on Paws on the home page.

Not for you? Then find out more about our registered assistance dog service for children with autism and their families at [www.dogsforthedisabled.org/partnerships](http://www.dogsforthedisabled.org/partnerships)
Can Dogs for the Disabled register my pet dog as an assistance dog?

We receive many requests from dog owners who are training, or have trained, their own pet dog and would benefit from their dog being able to accompany them into shops etc. Only dogs trained by an accredited member organisation of Assistance Dogs (UK) have full public access rights and the laws and regulations relating to access are complex.

Unfortunately, we are unable to register pet dogs or dogs not trained by Dogs for the Disabled. However, there are currently two other accredited assistance dog organisations: Support Dogs and Dog Aid, who can support the training of a person’s own pet dog specifically for their individual needs. Their details are listed on the ‘Other Useful Contacts’ at the end of this guide.
Section 2
Application Process
Applying for an assistance dog

Costs of assistance dog ownership

Dogs for the Disabled seek to maintain the lowest possible cost for owners of an assistance dog. This is achieved through our work with sponsors and suppliers. Whilst these products and services are hugely beneficial, they may not always be in place and applicants must agree to fund the following costs:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Application costs</th>
<th>Annual Assistance dog costs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Medical fee – up to £50 returnable on request if application is declined (GP fees vary)</td>
<td>• Food - £385 approximately (see footnote *)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Qualification fee - £25 – returned if partnership is dissolved by charity</td>
<td>• Vaccination against disease £30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Travel costs to Training Centre in Banbury, or other appropriate venue of the charities choice for assessment/training</td>
<td>• Anti worm treatment - £30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Any adaptations required to the home or garden to securely house a dog i.e. an average 10ft x 10ft panel fenced toileting run is likely to cost around £80 – £100.</td>
<td>• Anti parasitic treatment (flea/tick) - £60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* All of our assistance dogs are currently fed on either James Wellbeloved or Hills Prescription food and we have a direct ordering system in place to ensure that our dogs are fed per our recommendations. **It is suggested that clients set aside approximately £60 per month to cover food, regular treats, toys, and insurance excess payments throughout the year.**

Who can apply?

Because there are so many types of disability and so many degrees of impairment, the Trustees of Dogs for the Disabled have not attempted to define the kind of disability they would be looking for when considering applications. Therefore, in general, any person who is diagnosed with any kind of impairment which severely restricts a person’s ability to be independent may apply to be considered as a possible beneficiary of the charity. People who are either visually or hearing impaired can apply, but should note that the dogs are not trained for guiding or hearing tasks. Please note existing clients applying for a successor dog will be given priority.

Adult applications can be taken from the age of 16 (there is currently no upper age limit).

Children’s applications can be taken between the ages of 7 - 16.

Autism applications can be taken between the ages of 3 – 10 and have been clinically diagnosed. The service is currently only available to families with no more than one child in the household on the autistic spectrum.
Eligibility criteria (Adults & Children’s Service – for Autism Service criteria please see page 7)

The following are the minimum that must be achieved by any prospective applicant before receiving and completing an application for an assistance dog. Compliance and achievement of the criteria does not necessarily mean acceptance of an application for training with a dog. For a child with physical disabilities application the same criteria apply, with the exception of a parent/guardian also forming part of the team. Applications for our autism service have separate criteria—please see page 7.

1. The applicant must live at a permanent place of residence within a geographical area stated by Dogs for the Disabled (this will be checked at the point of contacting us for the first time).

2. The applicant must be able to travel to a venue of the charity’s choice to undertake an assessment of your physical capabilities and learning skills in accordance with the standards required for assistance dog ownership.

3. The applicant must have an area accessible by themselves to a minimum of 10ft x 10ft at ground level that can be specifically allocated/fenced off for dogs’ toileting purposes.

4. The applicant must be personally able to provide a means of feeding, giving water and grooming the dog.

5. The applicant must be capable of independently providing regular exercise for the dog, as instructed by the charity and will not leave the dog unaccompanied for longer than 4 hours.

6. The applicant must be able to demonstrate a genuine need for an assistance dog outside of the home environment i.e. rural area (quiet countryside), urban area (busy city/town) and suburban area (general residential).

7. The applicant must require a minimum of three distinct tasks from at least three of the following task groups:
   - Retrieve – to include three different textured items
   - Pull – internal and external doors, clothes, etc
   - Push – internal and external switches, doors and footplates on a wheelchair, etc
   - Speak – barking to alert attention on command

8. Prior to acceptance of the dog, the applicant will attend a training course on all aspects of handling the dog and its care. The length of such a course, its format and its venue (generally our residential centre at Banbury), being at the absolute discretion of the charity.

9. The applicant must be able to provide access to a veterinary surgeon for routine preventative treatments and emergency treatment.

10. Whilst Dogs for the Disabled constantly seeks to maintain the lowest possible costs for an applicant or assistance dog owner, they must agree to undertake all identified costs relating to their application and assistance dog ownership, see ‘Costs of assistance dog ownership’ on previous page.

Please note that as part of the application process, eligibility will also be dependent on permission from landlords/housing associations and employers (where applicable). Additionally, home checks are also conducted prior to placing a dog. Applications are considered regardless of race, sex or religion and all information received will be treated with the highest level of confidentiality and respect. However, Dogs for the Disabled retains the right to use this information for research purposes and in our work with sponsors and accreditation organisations.
How to apply

1. Applicants can enquire via our website, telephone, e-mail or letter. Unfortunately, as a small charity we are currently unable to cover the whole of the UK, however, this is under review. Therefore, initially we will need an applicant’s full address details so that we can check that they are living in an area of coverage.

2. Provided that the application list is open in the applicant’s area, a pack will either be sent them or they will be invited to attend an ‘Applicant’s Information Day (where application packs will be issued). The application form provides further information, along with a section requesting the applicant’s written consent to approach their GP for a full medical report (this differs for the Autism Service where proof of a clinical diagnosis is requested).

3. On receipt of a completed application form, we will consider it along with all other applicants and, if successful, it will be forwarded to the next stage.

4. A medical form will then be sent to the applicants GP and again this will be considered for suitability on its return.

5. If successful, we will then arrange an ‘Assessment’, which could be either at one of our centres or at the applicants’ home, depending on which is most manageable to both the applicant and the charity. This assessment allows the opportunity to discuss fully the implications of dog ownership, the type of dog needed, and the tasks it would be required to perform.

6. The charity will then consider the full application, taking into account all available information. Once a decision has been made about an application, the applicant will be informed.

7. Where the applicant is accepted for training, their name is placed on a waiting list and the ‘matching’ phase then begins. Please note, typically our waiting times from this point are between 6 - 12 months but can be longer. Matching the needs of the applicant against the strengths of a dog in training is one of the key elements to ensuring each partnership becomes a success.

8. Only when the Instructor is hopeful that they have found a suitable dog for your needs do the client/dog meet, and then if the ‘match’ is deemed appropriate training arrangements are agreed.

Having read the eligibility criteria, if you wish to apply for an assistance dog then please contact us on 01295 252600 to establish area of coverage and current list status.
Application & Receiving a Dog/Training Process

Attend Information Day / Receive Application Pack → Complete & Return Application Form → If application approved - Completion of Medical by GP / Availability of Statement of Education Needs etc.

If Medical/Documentation approved - In-person Assessment → Application Accepted or Declined... → If Application Accepted & Provisos met

Awaiting Training → When a suitable dog have been identified we will conduct a 'Matching Visit' → Training Course is then scheduled

Home Placement / Post Class Aftercare → Qualification → Routine Aftercare

Evaluation/Research → Ongoing Client Support
**Our dogs**
Dogs for the Disabled train mainly Labradors and Golden Retrievers and first crosses of the two. Each dog spends its first year of life with one of the charity’s volunteer puppy socialisers, and starts its formal training at around the age of 14 months at our Training Centre in Banbury, Oxfordshire. Most trainee assistance dogs will be ‘matched’ to a client at approximately twenty months of age.

**Client training courses**
Client training takes place either on a residential course of seven to ten consecutive days at our Banbury Centre, or via our other two centres located at Western-super-Mare and Wakefield. Meals are generally provided and Carers are arranged if required. During the course, our clients will make visits to supermarkets, shops and cafes supported by their instructor, to develop the skills and experience necessary for assistance dog ownership. The training is then continued in the home with regular visits by the instructor; hopefully resulting in qualifying as a registered partnership/team approximately 3 months after training.

**Aftercare**
The aftercare service is an essential part of our commitment to the development and welfare of our trained partnerships and teams. After the initial training course, each partnership or team is supported through regular visits by their instructor, to ensure both the client and the dog are settling in together, and are developing their skills. As the partnership/team becomes established, these visits are reduced to yearly, combined with twice yearly visits to the client’s local vet. Often these are performed by trained aftercare volunteers with back-up support from our instructors. Aftercare is an essential part of the charity’s work helping each partnership or team to grow and maintain the required standard in line with ADUK/ADEu guidelines.

**Dog Retirement**
Every dog will start to naturally slow down with age and generally speaking the Instructor will discuss semi-retirement at around 9 years old. The dogs’ capacity and desire to work will then be closely monitored prior to being officially retired somewhere between its 11th and 12th birthday. At the time of retirement clients can keep their existing dog or arrange for them to be re-homed to family members of friends prior to applying for a new ‘successor’ dog. Alternatively, some clients prefer to take some time with their older, retired dog until it sadly passes away, before contacting us about having ‘successor’ dog. This can be a difficult time for partnerships or teams and although not always possible we will treat successor applications as a priority. If after reading the application information you feel an assistance dog is not for you, then perhaps you would like to consider re-homing one of our withdrawn from training or older retired dogs...Please see
Section 3
Volunteering for Dogs for the Disabled
Volunteering opportunities with puppies

**Brood Bitch Holders**

Dogs for the Disabled have their own breeding programme, with several Brood Bitches. This is a small breeding programme, but a vital way of ensuring that we have a good supply of puppies which will be trained to become fully working assistance dogs.

Brood bitches are selected at around the age of two years old and will be either Labradors or Golden Retriever breeds. It is expected that they will have approximately 3 – 4 litters before being retired.

Volunteers are required to care for the dog in their home. With the support and guidance of the charity they will also need to care for the brood bitch through pregnancy and with its new litter of puppies.

**For more information about our brood bitch holder programme please contact our Puppy Team on 01295 759817 or info@dogsforthedisabled.org. Alternatively to apply please see our website www.dogsforthedisabled.org for further details.**

**Socialising a Puppy**

Every year, over 70 puppies are fostered by a team of volunteer puppy socialisers who look after the puppy for approximately ten months of its life. Volunteer puppy socialisers are the first stage in a process that develops dogs into life-changing companions for children and adults with disabilities.

**For more information about our brood bitch holder programme please contact our Puppy Team on 01295 759817 or info@dogsforthedisabled.org. Alternatively to apply please see our website www.dogsforthedisabled.org for further details.**

**Volunteering opportunities with dogs in training**

**Temporary boarding**

We have a number of volunteers who offer a place in their home for one of our dogs in training, during the day, overnight and weekends. Occasionally, a dog may need to be placed for a longer period of time to cover illness and/or holidays. Temporary Boarding will not cost you anything. We provide dog food and all our dogs are insured in the event of any veterinary care being necessary.

**For more information about our brood bitch holder programme please contact our Puppy Team on 01295 759817 or info@dogsforthedisabled.org. Alternatively to apply please see our website www.dogsforthedisabled.org for further details.**
Volunteering opportunities with assistance dogs partnerships

Aftercare Support Volunteers

To help ensure our more established partnerships are supported, we provide an aftercare support system. Visiting a partnership in their home, our Aftercare Support Volunteers constitute an important part of our on-going service to our clients, offering a network of support and re-assurance, as well as making basic checks that all the requirements of the partnership are being satisfied.

To become an Aftercare Support Volunteer, you will be required to attend a two-day training course at the Banbury Centre. Please note, due to current resources we can only recruit for this role as and when there is a need.

For more information about our brood bitch holder programme please contact our Client Services Team on 01295 759803 or info@dogsforthedisabled.org. Alternatively to apply please see our website www.dogsforthedisabled.org for further details.

Re-homing – dogs withdrawn from training or retired dogs

From time to time, we seek to re-home dogs that are withdrawn from early training or have been retired. You may apply for one of these dogs, as with our other services, a dog will be placed with the most suitable home.

Ideally our dogs are re-homed within one hour’s driving time of our training centres at Banbury, Weston-Super-Mare or Wakefield. The dog will need a secure garden and must not be left alone for longer than 4 hours at a time. Dogs for re-homing generally fall into two types:

Dogs Withdrawn from Training

Our dogs can be withdrawn at various stages of their training and it would be wrong to assume that these dogs are fully trained, or in perfect physical condition. We withdraw dogs for temperamental and/or physical conditions. Our reasons for not continuing with the dog’s training will be given to you.

It would be a mistake to re-home a dog if you have any doubts about its suitability for you or your family. If you decide not to take on a specific dog for any reason, this will not affect your application for any further placement of dogs. We would rather you refuse a dog than to take it home with reservations which may cause stress to the dog and your family.

When a dog is placed in a new home and its routines change, accidents can occur. However, on the whole you can expect all dogs placed to be house trained. The cost of a dog withdrawn from training is a minimum donation of £150. A dog which has been withdrawn for health reasons may be homed free of charge or a reduction given depending on the circumstances.

Retired Assistance Dogs

Giving a home to a retired working dog is a valuable and rewarding experience. Our dogs are normally retired at about 9+ years old. Dogs in their twilight years can give many years of companionship but
there are additional factors to consider when re-homing an older dog. It is likely that the dog will require more veterinary visits and it may need a special diet.

Additionally, after enjoying many years of close partnership our client often needs reassurance that their dog has found a home where it will be well looked after. The client may wish to contact you, if you have any reservations about this please discuss it with the Re-homing Co-ordinator prior to accepting a retired dog. Our retired dogs are re-homed with a minimum donation of £20.

All dogs undergo a one month trial, before a final decision is made and contracts are signed. When a dog is re-homed, an equipment pack is provided which includes: a bag of food; collar and lead; whistle; bowl; pooh bags and bedding.

Re-homing application

For more information about our re-homing list please contact us on 01295 252600 or info@dogsforthedisabled.org. Alternatively to apply please see our website www.dogsforthedisabled.org for further details.
Section 4
Working for Dogs for the Disabled & Useful Contacts
Working for Dogs for the Disabled

A career with Dogs for the Disabled can be very rewarding. Although, you should note, this is a competitive field of work. Ideally suitable applicants would be over eighteen years of age hold a minimum of four GCSE’s (Grade C or above) and hold a full driving licence. Within the dog training department, preference will be given to applicants that have some prior knowledge of animal welfare, care or other relevant qualifications / experience.

We receive many enquiries about working with the charity and all vacancies are advertised on our website, along with job descriptions and application forms.

Puppy Co-ordinators

Co-ordinate our puppy socialising volunteers whilst they look after our puppies for the first year of the dog’s life. They care for and monitor the puppies overall health and general well-being in conjunction with its basic development, obedience and environmental awareness.

Kennel Assistants

Care for and monitor the welfare of our dogs whilst they reside at our training centres. The role is usually carried out on a part-time basis, consisting of mornings, evenings, and weekend cover within an agreed rota. Christmas and other bank holiday cover is also likely. Our Kennel Assistants work alongside our Trainers.

Trainers

A major component of the Trainers role is to assess and train dogs within agreed timescales during their initial assessment and early training stages. We train using positive reinforcement and reward based clicker training method.

Instructors

Continue to progress the dogs from their early training stage, through into their advanced stage of training, and “handover” to the client with disabilities. Instructors work closely with our disabled applicants and clients, arranging and carrying out applicant assessments, client training and subsequent home placement and aftercare visits.

Fundraisers

The role of the fundraisers is to maximise all potential income opportunities and generate income for the charity. Knowledge of fundraising is required, and you must be prepared to travel and work in the evenings and weekends.

Support Staff

We have administration staff to support our work. These include finance assistant and administrators to support fundraising, training and client support. As we run a residential centre we also employ a caretaker and housekeeper/domestic staff.

Work experience

Regrettably, due to the stringent Health and Safety that we have to adhere to at our centres, we are currently unable to routinely offer work experience placements. However, a few limited places are available for over 16 year olds studying a Canine related subject.

All job vacancies are advertised in relevant publications and on our website www.dogsforthedisabled.org.
Other useful contacts

Hearing Dogs for Deaf People
The Grange
Wycombe Road
Saunderton
Princes Risborough
Buckinghamshire  HP27 9NS
Tel: 01844 348 100 (voice & minicom)
Fax: 01844 348 101
E-mail: info@hearing-dogs.co.uk
www.hearing-dogs.co.uk

Guide Dogs for Blind Association
Hillfields
Reading Road
Burghfield Common
Reading
Berkshire  RG7 3YG
Tel: 0870 600 2323
Fax: 0118 983 5433
E-mail: guidedogs@guidedogs.org.uk
www.guidedogs.org.uk

Support Dogs
21 Jessops Riverside
Brightside Lane
Sheffield
S9 2RX
Tel: 0870 6093476
Fax: 0114 2617555
E-mail: supportdogs@btconnect.com
www.support-dogs.org.uk

Canine Partners
Mill Lane
Heyshott
Midhurst
West Sussex
GU29 0ED
Tel: 08456 580480
Fax: 08456 580481
E-mail: info@caninepartners.co.uk
www.caninepartners.co.uk

Dog Aid
43 Sir Alfred's Way
Sutton Coldfield
West Midlands
B76 1ET
Tel: 01743 891314
Email: admin@dogaid.org.uk
www.dogaid.org.uk

Disability Rights Commission
DRC Helpline
FREEPOST
MID 02164
Stratford upon Avon  CV37 9BR
Tel: 08457 622633
Textphone: 08457 622644
Fax: 08457 778878
Email: enquiry@drc-gb.org
www.drc-gb.org

The Kennel Club
The Kennel Club
1-5 Clarges Street
Piccadilly
London  W1J 8AB
Tel: 0870 606 6750
Fax: 020 7518 1058
www.thekennelclub.org.uk
Visitor Mornings

Our Visitor Mornings are intended to help people understand more about our work, and include dog training demonstrations, guided visits around our kennelling facilities, audio visual presentations and the chance to meet existing partnerships and volunteers.

To find out more or book a place, contact info@dogsforthedisabled.org or 01295 252600 or see our website www.dogsforthedisabled.org

See our dogs in action at www.dogsforthedisabled.org/News

Our contact details

Dogs for the Disabled
The Frances Hay Centre
Blacklocks Hill
Banbury
Oxon
OX17 2BS

Telephone: 01295 252600
Fax: 01295 252668
Web: www.dogsforthedisabled.org
Email: info@dogsforthedisabled.org

Charity Registration No England & Wales 1092960
Charity Registration No Scotland SC039828
Company Registration No 4416149