

Volunteer Role Description

Role Title:	Family Dog Holder
Department:	Family Dog Service
Co-ordinator:	Family Dog Instructors
Suggested time commitment:	Flexible but long term (7 years+)

Role outline

To permanently board a Family Dog in your home and provide a consistent and appropriate environment for the dog when it is not working – on average the dogs spend 20% of their time on workshops, with 80% being at home with the Holder or doing training sessions in Banbury. To make the dog available for its work in the Family Dog workshops, understanding this may involve the dog being away for up to 5 days at a time including overnight and up to 2 weeks in a month. To travel regularly to the centre to drop the dog off and pick them up before and after workshops/training sessions. Must live within 30 minutes of the Frances Hay Centre.

Main activities

- Meet the daily food, water and exercise needs of the Family Dog.
- Provide regular physical checks and grooming as instructed.
- Undertake training with the Family Dog as required under the support and guidance of the Family Dog Instructor.
- Administer routine parasite preventatives as required.
- Ensure the dog receives a minimum routine annual vet visit to a Dogs for Good approved vet and also to ensure access can be undertaken to a vet in emergency situations.
- To handle the dog in line with Dogs for Good principles of training and to follow the advice of the Family Dog Instructor at all times in relation to handling.
- Transport the dog to the centre when needed for workshops and training sessions- this could be any time during the day and early evening.
- To supply the dog with relevant equipment (e.g. bedding, leads etc).

Desirable skills and experience

- Relevant dog training / handling experience.
- Interest and knowledge in dogs, and their welfare and training.
- Ability to follow guidelines provided by the Family Dog Team and Dogs for Good.
- Ability to drive.

What you will gain from volunteering in this role

- Induction, training and support from Dogs for Good staff.
- Opportunity to have a dog with fewer of the associated costs of ownership.
- A better understanding of the Family Dog service and the benefits of pet dogs for families with children with autism.

Criminal Record Bureau Check Required: No