



**Helping Lives Happen**

## **Pawsable Assistance Dog Affiliate Programme**

The Pawsable Affiliate programme is designed for families who already have a pet dog that is supporting a person, or they would like it to do so, this includes people who are planning to get a dog or puppy in the future.

The difference between this and ready trained assistance dogs is that ready trained dogs are highly trained from puppies to accommodate individual needs, suited those families who cannot accommodate a puppy or who have not the time or their family dynamics prevent them from training a dog themselves with professional support.



Our affiliate dogs are pet dogs that not only provide emotional support but are trained to do a range of tasks to help people both in the home and when out and about. With help from our Pawsable trainers and our online Pawsable Academy you will also be able to train your dog to carry out specific tasks – for autistic people or these might include deep pressure therapy, helping with road safety, removing the handler from an overwhelming environment or alerting them to changes in emotional regulation which may lead to a meltdown.

In order to be eligible for the programme your dog is assessed against a set of criteria regarding behaviour, training and above all, temperament. It is not necessary for training to be perfect to be accepted on to the training programme. Once an initial assessment has taken place your Pawsable trainer will then be able to advise you on the work that needs to be done. For a dog to be working as a graduated assistance dog it must be over 18 months old, however public access training can begin before this, even with an 8 week old puppy.

We work closely with your family to prepare you for having an assistance dog including work around public access, health and safety and canine behaviour and stress. We also provide support in many ways including negotiating on your behalf to enable your dog to join you on specific trips such as holiday camps, ferries and on aeroplanes, and liaising with any service provider you may wish us to contact on your behalf.

Once your dog has passed their initial assessment they will then be able to work as a Pawsable Assistance Dog 'in training', at this time they will be able to wear a Pawsable jacket and training

lead slip and accompany their disabled handler out in public. If you are a parent handler and you are training the dog without the partner child present, this too is allowed.

There is no time limit on the training period, although most dog owners are ready to have their dog fully assessed within a few months - however during the first 12 months we closely supervise and support you. It is important to remember that however well trained a dog is as a pet, assistance dog work is a completely different experience for both dog and family.

What our affiliate families say:

***“He makes my life a lot easier...***

*When I get stressed out he’s always there for me” .*

*“I can only describe it as ‘he brought calm to our household’ – he makes basic everyday things like bedtime, hygiene and leaving the house a calmer situation rather than the stressful situation it used to be. To be honest, sometimes I think he kind of saved me as well as our son he is great therapy for me when I’m feeling low too”*

***“Having an Autism Assistance dog has literally changed our lives. We can go out as a family”***

### **Costing**

The initial assessment visit carried out by one of our trainers costs **£160**

Once a dog has been assessed and goes into training there is a monthly fee which is paid by standing order. From this point your dog is eligible to wear the Pawsable Assistance Dog jacket and training lead-slip. you are entitled to 4 x face to face training sessions each year during your membership and you have access to advice via the telephone and emails. You are given an identification card for the dog and family member with special needs which you can carry with you and is valid for 12 months.

**The monthly subscription is £55 per month** – this includes your full membership to Pawsable and the right to wear the Pawsable jacket, lead slip and ID card in public. Membership of the Pawsable Academy where you can access free online training courses, instructional videos, book your face to face training sessions and much more.

Your membership card will be updated annually.

In order to graduate as a trained Pawsable assistance dog you need to provide us with video evidence of your dog completing the 5 key disciplines listed below and three chosen bespoke tasks which mitigate the disability of their handler. Once we have this video evidence you are eligible to take our Public Access test and as a fully graduated dog you will no longer be required to wear the ‘in training’ lead slip.

The 5 disciplines are:-

- Walking on a loose lead in a busy public environment
- Tuck – being able to ‘tuck away’ or settle unobtrusively under a table or beside your feet in a restaurant or café
- Ignoring distractions – this includes being able to walk calmly past other dogs as well as other animals or people.

- Leave – Being able to ignore food items or any other items whether it is lying on the floor or has been dropped from a hand or table
- Park – the dog ‘parks’ itself in the down position on cue if the lead is dropped, and will not move again until the lead is picked up.

As an Affiliate member you will have access to support whenever it is required.

If you are interested in the programme please contact us via phone or email to discuss further and book in an initial meeting.

Hilary Armour

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