



Helping Lives Happen

Pawsable Autism Assistance Dog Affiliate Programme

The Pawsable Affiliate programme is designed for families who already have a pet dog that is supporting an autistic young person, or they would like it to do so. The difference between this and ready trained assistance dogs is that these dogs are highly trained from puppies to accommodate individual needs, and are most suited to children with complex needs or 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 can provide emotional support to children whose autism causes them to have social anxiety and for whom having their dog with them in a public setting can help them regulate their emotions, with help from our pawsable trainers you will also be able to train your dog to carry out specific tasks such as deep pressure therapy and helping with safety.

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 we will then be able to advise you on the work that needs to be done. We then put a bespoke training package together that meets the needs of your family. For a dog to be working as an assistance dog it must be 12 months old, however public access training can begin before this.

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 with your autistic child as a Pawsable Assistance Dog 'in training', at this time they will be able to wear a training jacket and accompany your child out in public at which point your dog will be covered under our specialist assistance dog public liability insurance.

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

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, you are entitled to quarterly 1:1 training sessions and you have 24/7 access to advice via the telephone. You are given a membership card for the dog and family member with special needs which you can carry with you and is valid for 12 months.

To affiliate your dog with Pawsable the cost is £45 per month - which reflects the insurance costs and the high level of support provided by us and your membership card will be updated annually. After the first year you will have an annual assessment to make sure everything is OK and on track, and to identify any areas where you may need further support if anything changes as well as quarterly training sessions with your link trainer.

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

The initial assessment visit carried out by one of our trainers costs £100

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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