

## **Dog A.I.D. client eligibility**

Those wishing to be considered for training with their dog must complete the Register an Interest form, found in the 'Become a Client' section of our website.

Once your enquiry has been received it will be reviewed and you will be emailed to acknowledge receipt of your interest.

If we have a trainer available in your area you will be contacted. If we do not have a trainer available in your area, we will endeavour to give you some advice on where to access some basic training and what to do next.

### **Eligibility Criteria.**

- Client must be an adult.
- Client is physically disabled, impacting on their mobility and their ability to perform daily tasks such as, but not exclusively:
  - Picking up dropped objects.
  - Opening and closing doors.
  - Finding articles which have been mislaid.
  - Putting washing in and removing from the machine.
  - Placing articles where required.

The Social Model of Disability recognises that disabled people are people with impairments who are disabled by their environment. For the eligibility criteria, we have used language from the Equality Act 2010 but support the social model approach that people are disabled by barriers in society, not by their impairment or difference.

Please note: Dog A.I.D. is unable to accept clients whose primary need is an Assistance Dog to assist with mental impairment, visual impairment, hearing impairment, autism, medical alerts or emotional support. However, if approached we will welcome the opportunity to work with other ADUK members to train dual purpose Assistance Dogs where appropriate.

In order for you to be considered you should live within approximately 30 minutes travel of the location of trainer. This is to keep the costs of travel and expenses to a minimum.

If we have multiple applications for the same location, a trainer will be on a 'first come first served basis'.

The only way to be considered to become a client is to complete the Initial Enquiry form; we will acknowledge receipt by email. This does not guarantee that you will be accepted onto the scheme, as an initial assessment of suitability will need to take place.

**Completing the Initial Enquiry form does not mean that you are a client of Dog A.I.D. this will only be possible when all paperwork and assessments have been completed satisfactorily.**

**The dog must be less than 5 years of age when entering the scheme and a minimum of 6 months old before training can start.**

Please think about the areas below before applying to Dog AID for Assistance Dog Training.

Your dog's health:

- Physically fit; a good weight, muscle tone
- Good teeth condition (particularly important if you wish your dog to pull and retrieve items)
- Clean and healthy skin and coat
- You are required to have yearly vet checks with your local surgery to check your dog's health
- They should have no conditions that will affect their ability to work and carry out taskwork
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Socialisation and Habituation:

- Your dog should be happy, confident and act appropriately around people, animals, unusual objects and in different environments.
- Ask the office for our socialisation and habituation checklists for guidance on what to cover.
- It is important that your dog is also used to focusing on you in and around people and other dogs (this is something you will work and build on during your Assistance Dog training)

Basic Obedience

Your dog should have a basic level of obedience. If your application moves forward, you will need to have an initial assessment which will assess your dog's temperament and behaviour.

Some of the areas that the trainer will be looking for are:

- Your dog's ability to listen and respond to you
- Your dog's behaviour when handled and groomed
- Your dog's greeting behaviour and response to unfamiliar people
- Your dog's response to other dogs
- Your dog's behaviour around food
- Your dog's response to traffic
- Your dog's response to loud sounds
- Vocalisation behaviour
- Your dog's behaviour around the mode of transport that you use regularly.

Your dog will not be assessed for specific exercises; however, your dog should have received some basic obedience/puppy training. This training could be:

- Puppy / adult group classes
- One to one training
- Training delivered by yourself

We recommend the following areas are covered during basic training:

- Sit
- Down
- Stay
- Loose lead walking
- Recall
- Food manners
- settle