

Dog Breeding Volunteer Role Description

Canine Partners is a registered charity that transforms the lives of people with physical disabilities by partnering them with assistance dogs. Our amazing dogs bring a greater independence and quality of life to their partners, offering support, security, companionship, and practical help with everyday household tasks.

By volunteering at Canine Partners, you contribute to something very special - 'transforming the lives of people with physical disabilities by partnering them with assistance dogs'

About the opportunity

Become a Dog Breeding Volunteer!

Help shape the future of our life-changing assistance dogs by becoming a Dog Breeding Volunteer! You'll play a key role in raising and nurturing the next generation of Canine Partners at the very start of their journeys to transform lives.



Your love and care can make a world of difference!

Canine Partners is looking for caring homes ideally within one hour's drive of LE12 9SR to care for, support and maintain basic training with one of our broods from around the age of 18 months onwards. You'll also get to care for, nurture and socialise plenty of little puppies when they arrive as well.

By volunteering you will:

- Be a valued member of our charity
- Know that you are integrally involved in the care and socialisation of a dog that will change the life of a person waiting for their Canine Partner
- Benefit from the companionship and enjoyment of having a dog in your life without the costs associated with dog ownership.
- Meet like-minded people.
- Opportunity to develop your knowledge of early puppy development

'With out the continued hard work and support from our Dog Breeding Volunteers we would not be able to provide our clients with our life changing dogs'.

What is involved?

We consider this a long-term volunteer role as the dog will live with you. This generally will be from the age of around 14-18 months onwards; throughout the time the brood remains on our elite breeding programme (with the potential to rehome after this once the brood has retired at around 7 years old).

- With the guidance, support and advice from our expert breeding team provide care and support that our canine companions need, like maintaining basic training, exercise, feeding, grooming & care during season (broods will have approximately 2 seasons per year).
- You will need to be available for and attend regular training sessions to start, during the working week (the frequency of visits will change as your partnership develops). This can involve:
 - Home visits
 - Veterinary or physiotherapy visits
 - Virtual online training
 - One-to-ones generally in the local community
- With the guidance, support and advice from our expert breeding team provide care and support that our canine companions need throughout the rewarding experience of bringing into the world and raising the next generation of Canine Partners when the brood has a litter.

Our broods will generally have **one litter per year** from the age of 18 months to two years of age, up to **a maximum of four litters**.

Each litter will be born within the home, and the puppies will remain with the brood until they are approximately eight weeks old and ready to go to their puppy training volunteers. Full support, guidance and training will be provided by our expert breeding team and equipment required is provided.

Whilst the brood has a litter – we ask that pet dogs have restricted exercise (full information and guidance is given by the breeding team). This measure is to minimise the risk of infection to the litter.

You will need to maintain the brood's health and welfare and that of her puppies (when the brood has a litter) by following guidance from the Dog Breeding Coordinator and report any concerns immediately.

What we require from you

- The primary dog breeding volunteer must be 18 years or over
- You will need to reside in a house/bungalow with a dog friendly secure garden (non-shared)
- Ideally you will be at home for most of the day and not leave the brood routinely for more than 4 hours in a 24hr period
- Have flexibility to be at home throughout a nine-week period with the litter (once per year) and during the brood's season
- Have Space within your home, Time and Stamina to devote to the brood and litter
- Ideally you will live within one hour of LE12 9SR
- Though desirable, prior dog ownership is not required

- If you are a dog owner, you cannot have an entire male dog. Maximum of three pet dogs which will be assessed on a case-by-case basis considering the size of pet dogs, along with available space within in the property. Any pet dogs will be assessed as part of the home assessment. We ask that pet dogs have restricted exercise during the time the brood has a litter to minimise the risk of infection to the puppies
- Time and stamina to provide the brood with a minimum of one hour's exercise per day (this can be completed in one or multiple walks).
- Time to provide training sessions to maintain basic obedience.
- You will need Access to a car to travel to veterinary appointments, physiotherapy appointments and training locations.
- Be mindful that the dog in your care remains under the ownership of Canine Partners, and as such advice from Canine Partners' representatives should be followed.

Support and Training

- Induction process which includes submitting of application, telephone interview, home visit, training and handling sessions.
- Each volunteer is allocated a member of the Canine Partners breeding team as their first point of contact.
- Receive regular training, resources and other important information via your trainer; this may be in the format of physical copies, digital or in person.
- All equipment for the litter is provided.
- Our breeding team will offer continued support throughout the pregnancy and litter.
- Payment of certain expenditures e.g. mileage to and from a pre-mating test
- No previous dog ownership experience is needed all information & training will be provided, you will need to meet the criteria above to be considered
- Holiday cover and appointments cover can be arranged.
- Access to our volunteer portal with many resources for your use.

- Invitation to join Official Canine Partners Community Facebook Group

"I feel it's a privilege to be a Dog Breeding volunteer for Canine Partners. I love dogs and have always wanted to rear a litter of puppies but never had the opportunity. So, this was a unique opportunity to do this with the full support and expertise of the Canine Partners staff and to be a full-time foster parent to my wonderful Labrador bitch Gabby. Being a Dog Breeding volunteer is a very satisfying role to play as a volunteer." Judith

We understand that there is a huge time commitment expected with our dog-related volunteering roles. We aim to be flexible where we can, so if you are unsure if this is the role for you, please do contact us by emailing volunteer@caninepartners.org.uk. We are happy to discuss options and ways that you could help us make a difference to people living with a disability.