



Amazing dogs. Transforming lives.

## A brief overview of the life of a canine partnership

We source our puppies from either our own breeding programme or through our approved breeders. At around 8 weeks old the puppy will go to live with one of our amazing volunteer puppy parents who will train and socialise the puppy, with support from the charity and classes each fortnight.

All being well at about 14 to 18 months the puppy will come into advanced training at one of our two training centres either in the Midlands or in the South. At that time the puppy will be assessed to see if it has the skills and character to become an assistance dog. If the puppy passes then it will go on to complete five months of training and during that period be matched to the person they will go on to assist through life. Once they have met their partner all the training will be tailored to that person specifically.

Approximately 68% of our puppies go on to complete their training and become an assistance dog. Each puppy is completely different and we are pleased that we are able to achieve such a good pass rate. So there is the chance that the puppy you are sponsoring may not get through, sometimes this can be due to health, and sometimes it can be their behaviour. If this does happen we will offer you the opportunity to transfer your support to another puppy going through training, your valued contribution will help us achieve the 75 plus assistance dogs we hope to partner each year.

The partnership is then formed and the partner and dog meet together for two weeks of onsite training at one of our Centres. We then go on to give a commitment to look after both partner and dog for the duration of the partnership and provide aftercare support, which can last up to the dog's 12th birthday, when they retire.

### How our sponsorship programme works.

There are seven stages of the programme:

#### **£800 - pays for the purchase of the puppy**

- We will send you an introduction to, and a photo of, the puppy we have been able to purchase with your gift.
- We will then let you know when he or she progresses into advanced training.
- Finally you will receive an invitation to the graduation of the partnership which normally takes place 12 months into the working partnership.

#### **£4,200 - pays for the puppy training with our band of puppy parents (all volunteers)**

- We will send you an introduction to, and a photo of, the puppy that will be trained with your gift.
- A second update six months into its puppy training.
- Then we will let you know when he or she progresses into advanced training.
- Finally you will receive an invitation to the graduation of the partnership which normally takes place 12 months into the working partnership.
- You can purchase the puppy and support the puppy training for £5,000 - ...which enables you to name the puppy too.

### **£5,000 - pays for advanced training**

After 14 months with their puppy parent, the puppy – now a young dog – joins an Advanced Training Course lasting 17 weeks at one of our Centres. Here the dog learns the skills necessary to support a disabled person, and at the end of its training will be matched and learn specific individual needs relevant to that person.

- We will send you an introduction to, and a photo of, the puppy when it first came into training, along with an overview of how this went, plus the details on where your dog is in advanced training.
- We will send you an update during his or her advanced training on how he or she is progressing.
- We will then send you an update and a photo of the dog as he or she comes to the end of the two week training course with his or her new partner.
- Finally you will receive an invitation to the graduation of the partnership which normally takes place 12 months into the working partnership



### **So for a total of £10,000**

You can name the puppy and support all of the above training.

- We will send you an introduction to, and a photo of, the puppy we have been able to purchase with your gift.
- A second update six months into its puppy training.
- We will then let you know when he or she progresses into advanced training.
- We will then send you an update and a photo of the dog as he or she comes to the end of the two week training course with his or her new partner.
- Finally you will receive an invitation to the graduation of the partnership which normally takes place 12 months into the working partnership.

### **£10,000 - pays for the support and aftercare throughout the partnership**

Following successful completion of the Advanced Training and the partnership is formed, we then provide ongoing aftercare for the duration of the partnership, on average 10 years.

- We will send you an introduction to, and a photo of, the puppy when it first came into training and an overview of how the dog progressed through all of its training.
- An update and a photo of the dog as her or she comes to the end of the two week training course with his or her new partner.
- We will send you an update of how the actual partnership is progressing.
- Finally you will receive an invitation to the graduation of the partnership which normally takes place 12 months into the working partnership.



**£20,000** - pays for the creation of an amazing partnership like Natalie Preston

### **Natalie Preston from Merseyside has cerebral palsy and is partnered with canine partner Faye**

Every step of Natalie's life has been a struggle. From the moment she was diagnosed with cerebral palsy at birth, doctors said there was no hope and she would never walk, talk or even sit up on her own.

Later teachers said it would be impossible for someone with her condition to cope with coursework and exams. But Natalie defied them all - after years of intensive physiotherapy she was walking and talking and later she achieved her GCSEs at mainstream school.

Now with help from her best friend and canine partner Faye, she has done what doctors and teachers thought would be unimaginable - achieving a masters degree and working towards a career in television.

Faye helps Natalie get up each morning, fetching her phone and keys and getting the post. She picks things up off the floor, puts rubbish in the bin, helps take her shoes and socks off and flushes the toilet. She also empties the washing machine and helps at a cash point.

Now Natalie, 27, cannot imagine life without the five-year-old black Labrador by her side. She said:

"Since meeting her, the world around me has become brighter every day. Before having Faye I was very shy and self-conscious. I would worry about what other people thought of me, but Faye has completely changed that. People actually talk to me now, rather than talking about me or just ignoring me. She has completely turned my life around. I could not possibly imagine being without Faye. She's given me my life back and she's given me a future to look forward to."



**You could help us create an amazing partnership and give the Gift of Independence to a disabled person.**

- We will send you an introduction to, and a photo of, the puppy we have been able to purchase with your gift.
- A second update six months into its puppy training.
- Then we will let you know when he or she progresses into advanced training.
- An update and a photo of the dog as he or she comes to the end of the two week training course with his or her new partner.
- We will send you an update of how the actual partnership is progressing.
- Finally you will receive an invitation to the graduation of the partnership which normally takes place 12 months into the working partnership.

