

Volunteer Puppy Parent

Canine Partners is a registered charity that transforms the lives of people with 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 special - 'transforming the lives of people with disabilities by partnering them with assistance dogs'

About the opportunity

Canine Partners are looking for caring family homes to raise, socialise and train puppies and young dogs up to the age of 18 months old.

By volunteering you will:

- Be a valued member of our Charity
- Know that you are integrally involved in the care and training 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 lifelong commitment or costs associated with dog ownership
- To meet like-minded people
- Opportunity to develop your knowledge of puppy development and training

'Without the continued hard work and support from our puppy 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 puppy / dog will live with you from 8 weeks old until it is ready to progress into advanced training. This is between 14 to 18 months old

- Regular visits within your local community to various environments to expose the puppy to the following conditions to socialise them: busy town environments, car travel, public transport, children, cats, other dogs (different breeds), and other domestic animals
- Be available for and attend training session, within the working week. This can involve:
 - home visits
 - virtual online training
 - one-to-ones
 - regular group puppy training classes

- With our guidance, support, and advice from our expert trainers, they will teach you the fundamentals of puppy socialisation as well as simple commands and exercises. For example:
 - Home behaviour
 - Social behaviour
 - Walking on a lead
 - Off lead exercise
 - General obedience
- Maintaining the dog's health and welfare and, via support and training, to recognise behaviour/health concerns and report them immediately to your Canine Partners trainer

What we require from you

- The primary puppy volunteer must be 18 years or over.
- Reside in a house/bungalow/ground floor flat with a dog friendly secure garden (non-shared), with a designated dog toileting area. (This will be discussed during Telephone Assessment). NB We are unable to accept a townhouse for puppies' underage of 6 months due to health and safety risks to the volunteer and puppy.
- If you are a dog owner, you can have two pet dogs of suitable temperament. Your pet dogs will be assessed as part of the home assessment. They must be over 18 months of age.
- At home for most of the day and live within 45 minutes of the requested location
- Time to provide the puppy with the socialisation and education it needs to prepare it for advanced training.
- Stamina to manage a young active puppy / dog.
- Access to a car, so that you can train the puppy to be comfortable whilst travelling, to travel to classes and training locations on a regular basis.
- Understand that the dog in your care remains under the ownership of Canine Partners

Support and Training

- Induction process which includes submitting of information form, telephone interview, home visit, training, and handling sessions
- Each volunteer is allocated a Canine Partners trainer as their first point of contact
- Receive regular training, resources, and other essential information via your trainer, this may be in the format of physical copies, digital or in person
- No previous dog ownership experience is needed but you must meet the criteria listed above to be considered
- Holiday cover arranged
- Payment of expenditure such as mileage to and from a training session with a Canine Partner representative

- Invitation to join our Official Canine Partners Community Facebook Group

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 even if you can only offer a fraction of the time outlined, please do contact us by emailing volunteer@caninepartners.org.uk. We are happy to discuss all options and ways that you could help us make a difference to people living with a disability.