

Ability Dogs 4 Young People

Criteria for Becoming a Puppy Parent

At Ability Dogs 4 Young People, we recognise the importance of early socialisation and education of our puppies, and the vital role Puppy Parents play. We aim to place our puppies with their first Puppy Parent at about seven weeks old, a very impressionable age. These volunteers, working closely with our Puppy Trainer, will provide the first 6-9 months of basic training and socialisation.

When the puppies are about 9-12 months old, they will move to different Puppy Parents, who will continue the socialisation and training in their homes. Living in two homes provides our puppies with diversity of experience, and helps him/her prepare for the training ahead. When the puppies are maturing, at 16-18 months, they will start their 'formal' and specialised training at our training centre. During this period, the now young dogs will live with another person who will bring them into the training centre daily. We aim to place each fully trained Ability Dog with a disabled young person when they are about 2 years old.

The aim of puppy parenting is to produce a young dog that is socially well behaved, friendly and responsive to its handler. It is also important that the young dog is at ease in all environments, including town conditions, is relaxed and confident when using all types of transport and learns an acceptable standard of behaviour on the lead. As each puppy is an individual, your Puppy Trainer will advise on the best way to achieve good results and the most appropriate time to introduce your puppy to these new environments.

A puppy needs to be welcomed into your home and its development and future role understood by all the family. It should be reared with a blend of affection, control and supervision similar to that given to a young child.



As a Puppy Parent you will be required to take on a puppy and have him or her living in your home for around 6-9 months. You must have the time and commitment, and be physically able to provide basic training, socialisation and exercise for your puppy.

Although no experience is necessary, Puppy Parents are required to meet the following criteria:

- Live on the Isle of Wight. You will need to be able to attend our weekly, daytime puppy classes and allow regular home visits by our Puppy Trainer.
- Be away from the puppy for no more than 2 hours per day (which can increase to 4 hours once over 6 months old). Therefore we cannot consider your application if you work full time. Part time workers may be considered.
- Be over 18 years old. Any children within the home should ideally be over the age of 4 years old and in full-time education.
- Be able to dedicate time to training and socialising your puppy on a daily basis. This includes experiencing busy towns, traffic, train stations, buses, shops, crowded and rural areas on a regular basis. You must be able to provide your puppy with regular contact with adults, children, other dogs and cats.
- Need to be reasonably fit and strong to, either carry a young puppy or control a strong puppy.
- Have a puppy safe and secure garden that is directly accessible from your house. This must accommodate a gravel or wood chip toilet area.
- Have access to a vehicle at all times.
- Any pets must be of a suitable temperament and happy with a puppy in 'their' home. If you have pet dogs, there must be no more than two and they must be at least two years old.



• All pet dogs must be healthy and reasonably well behaved and you must be able to leave them to provide the one-to-one training and socialisation required by our puppies.

• Your circumstances and family routine must be reasonably stable and consistent.

• With the support of your Puppy Trainer, you must be willing to train the puppy in the basics, i.e. house training, general obedience and walking on the lead. You must be happy to follow the positive and reward based training methods used by Ability Dogs 4 Young People.

No experience is required to be a Puppy Parent, we provide full training and support throughout your time with your puppy. However, we will be looking for people who have a natural bond with young dogs.

Puppy parenting should be fun and enjoyable for all the family. In return for helping us with a puppy, we hope you will gain the satisfaction of knowing you have played an important role in a life changing partnership. Hopefully you will enjoy learning new skills to gain a better understanding of dog training, and the opportunity to be part of a team, meet new people.

The Charity provides on-going support to all our Puppy Parents, with regular home visits and weekly puppy classes. We supply food, bedding, equipment and some toys, and we cover all vet bills. We can help with sundry expenses and mileage to and from puppy classes and the vets. We arrange holiday cover for your puppy, when needed.

To apply, contact Carol Court using the application form.

Ability Dogs 4 Young People



How many dogs do you have at home?

Their ages and breeds:

Are they friendly with other dogs/puppies?

Do they sleep in the house?

If so, where?

Have you had dogs before?

Tell me more about your dogs:

Do you have other pets, please tell me about them:

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Please describe your garden:

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Is it secure (puppy proof)?

Have you volunteered for an assistance dog charity before?:

If so, which organisation?

Please let me know about anything else you feel is relevant to this application:

PUPPY PARENT APPLICATION FORM

Name:

Contact Tel.nos.:

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Email:

Address:

.....

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Postcode:

How many adults in your home?

How many children do you have at home?

Their ages:

Do you work?

If so, how many hours a day?

How many hours would the puppy be left on its own?

Do you have a car?

If so, is the boot accessible for a dog?



YOU can be a Volunteer Puppy Parent

Read the criteria for becoming a Puppy Parent and if there's a match, simply fill out the application form in this leaflet.. Hand it in to a volunteer or post it to Carol Court at the address below. We will be in touch very soon.



*Thank you
for your support*

Visit www.abilitydogs4yp.org.uk
Registered Charity Number: 1148751

You can help us change lives

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Niton

Isle of Wight, PO38 2DQ

Phone: 078 126 72702

Email: info@abilitydogs4yp.org.uk

