



Ability Dogs 4 Young People



t: 01983 216246 e: info@abilitydogs4yp.org.uk www.abilitydogs4yp.org.uk



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The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service

NEWS UPDATE JANUARY 2023

“Tasha is my friend and she is super cute”

Words from Jamie's school essay just before Tasha moved in. He wrote, "I love Tasha so much. She is my friend and she is super cute. I love to play with Tasha and give her toys to play with that don't squeak. I enjoy going for walks with Tasha and feeding her dog treats."

Jamie loves going for walks with Tasha, and this is having a positive effect. Tasha is also helping him communicate more effectively. Jamie struggles attending medical appointments and having Tasha will help him face his fears.



Tasha is giving Jamie experience of putting other's needs first and he is responding with care, empathy and kindness. He is thriving from having the responsibility of feeding her, filling up her water bowl, brushing her and going for walks.

Having Tasha helps Jamie feel that everything is ok. She provides him with unconditional love and he says Tasha is his best friend ever. For the first time, Jamie will now sleep in his own bedroom by himself as Tasha makes him feel relaxed, safe and secure.

Ability Dogs helps and supports us. They have taught us how to take Tasha to different places like hospital appointments, as well as to Tapnell Farm which Jamie loves. They made social stories of daily routines to help Jamie understand what is expected of him and Tasha. It is reassuring that Ability Dogs are always at the end of the phone and will continue to support us throughout Tasha's time with us.

“I would like people to know the difference that an Ability Dog makes to children's lives and also their extended family.”

Tasha
I love Tasha so much my friend and she is super cute.
I love to play with Tasha and give her toys to play with that don't squeak.
I enjoy going for walks with Tasha and feeding her dog treats.

“Tasha is a black Labrador and she has soft silky fur. Tasha is my Ability Dog who is going to help me and I will look after her. Tasha follows the commands I give her. Tasha is going to sleep in my bedroom in her crate.”

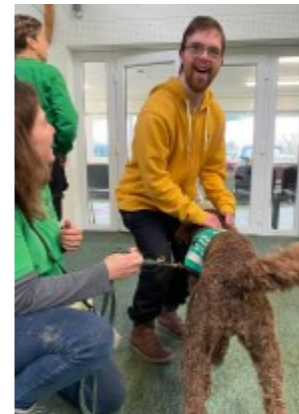
Tasha was matched with Jamie in July and since then Hester has been training her with Jamie and his mother, Claire. Tasha moved in with Jamie at the beginning of January 2023 as our first placement of the year. Training continues.

Claire tells how Tasha has already helped Jamie and how she can see that Tasha will continue to help him move forward.

Claire says, “My son enjoys and benefits from routine and having Tasha has helped as she likes routine. She has provided Jamie with stability, security and consistency. Although it has only been a short time, he has already begun to increase his independence, build his self-esteem and engage with the community.”

Fundraising with a SPLASH!

Kye's hand painted calendars and Mark's rowing challenge



Kye and his mum, Kerry, had a great morning watching puppy classes. He gave us a donation of £150 from sales of his beautifully painted calendars. A huge “thank you” to everyone who supported him. Kye has a new favourite puppy called Coko, a tad bigger than Aggie. He might attempt a painting!

During the first lockdown in 2020, Kye started taking photographs of birds and butterflies. His mum taught him the basics of water colour painting, and they have continued to learn techniques and style. Kerry said: “We were really surprised how it turned out, and he just carried on, getting better and better.”

This year, Kye's calendar supported our Charity, with a £1 donation from every copy sold. The family dog, Aggie, was trained and supported by the charity, and now that she is retired, Kye aims to give something back to them. Kye created 12 new paintings, adapted from photographs he captures while out in nature and walking his dog.

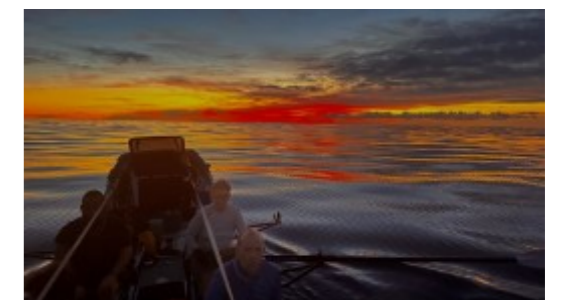
Kerry added: “Supported employment for people with down's syndrome is really hard to get, unfortunately, so to start an enterprise for him is really rewarding, and he loves that he feels that he has a job.”



In December, Mark Brownjohn, senior Director of Seafields Estate Agents, stepped aboard Roxy, a 12 man rowing boat designed and built by Rannoch Adventures to undertake a TransAtlantic crossing rowing from Tenerife to Antigua.

This epic voyage of 3000 miles took about 40 days at sea, eating, sleeping, and rowing continually in 3 hour shifts. Before he set off with the team, Mark told us, “We would like to take this opportunity to raise awareness and funds for Ability Dogs 4 Young People IoW to enable you to carry on the fantastic work on the Isle of Wight.”

They left on 5th December and arrived on 18th January on the other side of the Atlantic. Wow! Their JustGiving page has already raised £411.



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Ability Dogs 4 Young People IoW A Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)
Registered Charity No. 1154896 Patron: Charlotte Corney



Training assistance dogs for disabled young people on the Isle of Wight



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Join our Team of Enthusiastic and Sociable Volunteers

Time on your hands?

We have a wide variety of interesting volunteer opportunities. We rely on help from our volunteers across the range of our charitable activities. The dedication and contribution of our volunteers was recognised in 2018 when we received The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service, a perpetual MBE for Volunteer Groups.



Puppy Parents

We are looking for **Puppy Parents** to help love and train our puppies. As part of the team, you will be fully supported at weekly puppy training classes and at home. You can enjoy the fun of watching each puppy grow as he or she learns what it takes to be a fully trained Ability Dog. We provide food and equipment, and cover the costs of vet bills.

Each puppy lives with you for between six months and a year. When it comes time for your puppy to move on to the next stage of his training, you can be proud of your contribution. As all of our Ability Dogs stay on the Island, you are able to follow his progress while you help with another puppy.

Sue:

"I personally got involved with the charity in 2016 after losing my mother in 2015. I needed a positive focus in my life and being involved in the charity has helped me to do so. All the puppies I have helped train have gone on to change not just a young person's life, but their whole families. Having seen this, I feel humbled to be part of the charity and of the community it creates."



Part-Time Volunteering:

If you don't have the time needed to be a **Puppy Parent**, we also need **Foster Puppy Parents** for our Ability Dogs and puppies to stay with for short breaks.

Charity Shops



Can you help in one of our three thriving Charity Shops in Shanklin and Newport? We have lots of ways to help including sorting through donated items, serving customers or setting up displays. No experience is necessary as you will be part of a friendly team.

Fundraising

There are many ways you can help with our fundraising. If you enjoy getting out and about and going to fetes and fairs throughout the summer, then why not help out on our stand? We have a range of fundraising games for all ages and our puppies in training are always on hand for a cuddle.

We have a fun team on the stand, so there is never a dull moment. It is another fantastic way to meet new people.



If none of these are for you, but you would still like to volunteer with us, we have plenty of other opportunities at our Training Centre. We always need help with admin, gardening and general maintenance.

Textile Recycling

Every week we are given a mountain of textiles including clothing, shoes, bedding and curtains. Everything is sorted at the Training Centre: We sell what we can and recycle the rest for cash. Our volunteers come together on a Saturday and Monday morning. They always welcome more helping hands.



OPEN WEEKEND

Saturday & Sunday
3rd & 4th June 2023

Meet the team and our gorgeous puppies in training. Watch our Ability Dogs demonstrate their skills

Lots of stalls

Please get in touch on
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