

Dementia Dog - A joint collaboration between Alzheimer Scotland and Dogs for Good

Job Description

Assistance Dog Instructor

Purpose of the post

Alzheimer Scotland and Dogs for Good are collaborating on a project called Dementia Dog to look further at the ways dogs can support people with dementia, their carers and family. The project will build on work that has been developed over a number of years, focusing on some specific objectives.

The Assistance Dog Instructor will be the primary technical person training dogs and people for the assistance dog element of this initiative.

Accountability

The Assistance Dog Instructor will report to the Project Manager. There will be 'dotted line' support for the technical elements of the project from Dogs for Good's Development Manager.

Posts managed

The Assistance Dog Instructor will not manage any posts.

Main duties and responsibilities

1. Working alongside an identified Dementia Support Worker and other colleagues to interview and assess applicants in line with the agreed procedure, identify and understand the specific needs of the client to be supported, decide their suitability, making appropriate recommendations to the Project Manager.
2. Undertake the advanced training of dogs to undertake specific tasks as required by clients.
3. Facilitate the development of quality and safe working partnerships between clients and suitably trained dogs to support the specific needs of each client.
4. Match, in consultation with relevant people at Dogs for Good and Alzheimer Scotland, suitably trained dogs to clients ensuring the client's requirements are met, whilst maintaining the best lifestyle, training approach and environment for the dog based on established standards.
5. Plan, organise and deliver practical and theoretical training to a range of clients to ensure we meet their requirements whilst also meeting the physical and emotional needs of the dogs.
6. Provide clients with appropriate aftercare services at regular intervals in their own homes. This will include continual reassessment of the dynamics of the client, their dog

and family, formulating and training in response to changes in the client's requirements and goals.

7. Maintain accurate records and provide verbal and written information within agreed timescales about clients, dogs and applicants as appropriate.
8. Provide support to the projects public relations and fundraising functions as required.
9. Provide support to other staff members, as required.
10. Liaise with and provide support for volunteers who assist the charity.
11. Any other task agreed with your line manager.

Key Competencies

1. Ability to provide high quality personal judgement in relation to the following:
 - Dog training matters including the analysis of temperaments, appropriate training methods and requirements, public image, solution of training and behavioural problems and referral options.
 - Client training including adult learning styles, training approaches, specific and relevant programmes to be followed, welfare and safety and appropriate time for referral to others.
 - Client selection including suitability, dog matching requirements, assessment recommendations.
 - Appropriate support to colleagues.
 - Dealings with clients and members of the public.
2. Good interpersonal and teamwork skills.
3. Ability to plan work, be organised and ensure that time is utilised effectively for yourself, colleagues and clients.
4. Ability to communicate effectively and appropriately with a wide range of people internally and externally. This will include clients and their families, other professional service providers, members of the public, the media, managers and other colleagues.
5. Ability to positively embrace change by not only being flexible towards the ideas of others but also putting forward ideas to colleagues that will enable the project's work to develop. This will involve creativity in problem solving and making appropriate responses to new ideas and unexpected situations.
6. Knowledge in the following areas:
 - Activities of Dogs for Good and Alzheimer Scotland
 - Basic theory of practical dog training
 - Understanding of Animal Assisted Intervention and its successful application

- Law in relation to dogs
- Some understanding of dementia
- Client interview and selection procedures
- Health and safety implications of dog and client handling

7. Data management and data entry skills.

Other Requirements

1. You will be required to hold a full UK Driving Licence.
2. As you will be working with vulnerable people, you will be required to undergo an enhanced DBS check and adhere to all of the charity's Safeguarding policy and procedures.
3. You may occasionally be required to work and stay away from home for short periods during the client domiciliary training courses.
4. For part of your initial training period, you will need to spend time in Banbury, Oxfordshire.
5. Flexible working hours may be required in some instances to facilitate the effective delivery of the work.

All responsibilities and duties are to be carried out according to Alzheimer Scotland standards, policies and procedures as described in the organisation's manuals and Practice Standards and the National Care Standards and Scottish Social Services Council Codes of Practice.

Salary - £23,014- £25,285

The post holder will be subject to Enhanced Disclosure Scotland checks.

This job description is open to review by the organisation and was last agreed 1 8 2016