



DOGS WITH WINGS
ASSISTANCE DOG SOCIETY

Facility Dog Information Package

About Dogs with Wings (DWW)

Our mission is to foster integration and independence for individuals and social service agencies by providing them with highly trained Assistance Dogs.

Our vision is to transform lives and advance the Service Dog sector. Our dream is wellness and support for all.

Dogs with Wings (DWW) is an Assistance Dogs International (ADI) accredited school, which provides highly trained Assistance Dogs at a cost of \$1.00 to individuals and social service agencies.

DWW has been providing highly trained Assistance Dogs since 1996. Our school is accredited by *Assistance Dogs International (ADI)*, which sets and maintains standards for organizations like ours around the world. We re-certify every 5 years to ensure we continue to offer best practices to our clients and produce the very best dogs possible. We have developed our own breeding program to give us a steady supply of dogs of known health and temperament. We exclusively use Labrador Retrievers and some Labrador X Golden Retrievers. These breeds are chosen due to their even temperament, willingness to please and adaptability. Their size and strength also make them suitable as Assistance Dogs. Right from birth, our dogs live with volunteer families who provide them with caring homes in which to grow and learn. Our Advanced Dogs in training work with professional trainers to learn the skills they will need to work for our clients. Our dogs are in school for approximately 2 years before they are ready to be a Dog with Wings. More information about our fostering and other volunteer programs may be found on our website: www.dogswithwings.ca.

For more information on Assistance Dogs International (ADI) and the importance of accredited dogs: <http://www.assistedogsinternational.org/>



Assistance Dogs
INTERNATIONAL
ACCREDITED MEMBER



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Overview of Our Facility Dog Program

Facility Dogs are part of a specially trained dog/handler team that provides goal directed interventions which promote improvement in physical, social, emotional or cognitive abilities. A Facility Dog is directed by a professional with specialized expertise and within the scope of practice of their profession. These dogs may work in a variety of settings, groups or individual in nature. When not at work, the dog lives with their primary handler as part of their family.

Facility dogs are trained for:

- Stress and anxiety intervention for children and adults
- Grounding support
- Companionship
- Relationship building
- Learning opportunities
- Canine-assisted education
- Canine-assisted intervention

Application Process

Applicants must first meet the following criteria:

- Facilities must demonstrate that the future workload and responsibilities of the requested Facility Dog requires a trained Assistance Dogs International (ADI) Facility Dog (i.e., they cannot utilize a therapy or pet dog at their facility to fulfil their purpose in applying).
- Both the facility and the Primary Handler must apply for the Facility Dog.
- Facilities must have a budget in place of a minimum of \$5,000 for the Facility Dog.

** Applicants are assessed on a case-by-case basis.

Follow These Steps:

- Read through relevant information in this handout and on the website, to make sure a Facility Dog is right for your facility.
- Download and submit a Letter of Intent.
- If you meet the necessary criteria, a DWW Team Member will invite you to fill out an application.
- Using the checklist in the application form, make sure application is complete, and submit all forms to DWW.
- **Once the application is complete and all forms have been submitted**, DWW will review information and contact references.
- You will then be contacted and may be invited to take part in a preliminary interview at your facility.



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- DWW will notify you whether you and your facility qualify to receive one of our Assistance Dogs.
- If we approve you for a Facility Dog, we will welcome you to our wait list. ***This approval is conditional.**

A **Conditional Approval** is granted after the interview and dog session are completed. We will continue to assess the facility's needs while on our waiting list for a Facility Dog. Situations, needs, and circumstances continually change, as well as our ability to satisfy your needs may also change. We ask that you stay in contact with our office to provide any updates, news and relevant information. Please note a conditional approval does not guarantee a Facility Dog will be placed with your facility. DWW reserves the right to close an application at any time.

Please keep us informed if anything changes during this time that may affect your application. This includes:

- Keeping contact information up to date
- Alerting our office of a move or change in work or living arrangements
- Notifying us of a job change or change in school or facility
- Advising if any pets are added to your family
- Advising our office if your needs have changed
- Notifying us if you have accepted a dog from another provider and no longer require our services

Team Training

Once a match is made, DWW will give you 4-6 weeks' notice to prepare. We require the primary handler to attend the initial team training. In some cases, it may be appropriate to train the secondary handler alongside the primary handler if one has already been identified.

Applicants are responsible for paying for their own food and accommodation during Team Training, as well as a \$250 Team Training fee that covers the costs of all of the dog's equipment. The location(s) of the Team Training is dependent on the expected role that the Facility Dog will be fulfilling in your facility.

Team Training will include:

- Bonding with your new team member, learning their cues, and working together
- Education regarding health and veterinary care of the dog
- Training on how to utilize your Facility Dog
- Numerous facility site visits to practice the dog's skills/tasks in the areas they will be using them and to problem solve any issues that may arise
- After 4-6 weeks, an off-leash dog park session will be held

Post Placement Expectations



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After receiving a DWW Facility Dog, there are certain requirements that must continue to be met. Caring for a Facility Dog is a big responsibility and a long-term commitment. Applicants must be prepared to care for and meet the needs of a Facility Dog for the next seven to ten years.

DWW will continue to provide ongoing support after a dog has been placed, for the lifetime of the dog. We encourage clients to contact us if you have any questions or issues, you need help with.

Part of your obligation as a recipient of a DWW Facility Dog, is to provide progress reports on a regular basis. DWW will also conduct work environment visits and check-ins to ensure the dog/handler team is still working well together. Within the first 6 months, there will be monthly progress reports that must be filled out. After this point, it will turn into annual progress reports. After the first year, DWW will connect with clients yearly, either in person, over the phone, or via a video call.

DWW maintains ownership of the dog and should DWW feel the dog is not being well cared for, their optimal weight is not being maintained, or they are not being used for their intended purpose, DWW can decide to remove the dog from the home and work environment.

Succession Planning: If the Primary Handler is no longer employed or changing jobs, it is at the discretion of DWW to assess the continued placement of the Facility Dog at the current site. If the Home Handler is no longer employed or changing jobs, the Facility is able to change the dog's home situation with DWW approval.

Ongoing Responsibilities and Expectations:

Estimated Average Yearly Budget for a Facility Dog

<u>Item</u>	<u>Initial cost</u>	<u>Expected yearly cost</u>
Application to DWW	\$50.00	N/A
Dog Food	\$80.00	\$960.00
Regular Veterinary Care	N/A	\$300.00 – \$500.00
*Pet Insurance	N/A	\$300.00 – \$600.00
**Replacement Equipment	N/A	\$50.00 – \$200.00
Dog Toys/ Beds/ Treats	N/A	\$250.00
Team Training	\$300	N/A



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**Pet Insurance — to plan for the dog's health care needs, we require the purchase of Pet Insurance. The cost may vary from \$300.00-\$600.00 per year, depending on your deductible.*

***Replacement Equipment — this includes working vests, leashes, and collars.*

Grooming, Health, and Veterinary Care

As recipients of a DWW Facility Dog, you will become ambassadors for our Program within the community. As such, our expectations are that the appearance of our dog is maintained, and grooming be conducted on a regular basis.

Having a Facility Dog in the work environment means extra responsibility, just like owning a pet dog. Clients need to be prepared to deal with day-to-day actions such as shedding, dog hair in the office, drool, and be comfortable picking up the dog's waste. Grooming and maintaining the Facility Dog's appearance is an important step in caring for a dog and needs to be conducted daily. Daily brushing is a good opportunity to conduct a health check to ensure there is nothing amiss with the dog. This will also help with shedding. Cleaning ears, teeth, bathing, checking eyes and trimming toenails are also important factors our clients need to be prepared for.

Along with maintaining the dog's physical appearance, it is important to look after the health of the dog. The healthier the Facility Dog, the longer they can work. We expect recipients to adhere to our feeding guidelines and keep the dog within a certain weight range. DWW will provide you with the dog's minimum weight, ideal weight, and maximum weight that they should be in. We require progress reports on a regular basis and will be checking in to make sure the dog is in optimal health.

It is the responsibility of the primary handler to ensure the dog has a veterinarian checkup at least once a year, and all vaccinations are kept up to date.

Continued Practice of Skills

To maintain the Facility Dog's skills, we expect recipients to continue practicing skills the dog has learned in training. The effectiveness of a Facility Dog depends greatly on the handler; a willingness to be firm, full of praise and consistency is essential. A Facility Dog cannot be "turned off" and tucked away when not needed. They require daily care, training, exercise, and affection. This helps keep their skills fluent and sharp so they can continue to meet the organization's needs.

The life of a Facility Dog isn't all work and no play. It is important to ensure the dog receives adequate "time off" as well, including play time and down time to maintain balance and a healthy lifestyle for the



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dog. A dog that has sufficient work-life balance will help to increase the longevity of its working career and overall life.

Traveling with a Facility Dog

Traveling with a Facility Dog requires preparation beforehand. This includes:

- Ensuring appropriate vaccines are up to date
- Acquiring preventative medication for internal and external parasites for the specific region you are visiting

Having an International Health Certificate if travelling outside of Canada

*Our Facility Dogs are never to be left in a boarding kennel. If a client is not able to take a dog with them travelling, DWW will provide boarding from our in-house boarders.

Fundraising

DWW relies solely on the fundraising efforts of our Staff, Volunteers, Clients, and the General Public in order to continue providing quality trained Facility Dogs at almost no cost to clients. The cost to breed, raise, train, place, and provide follow up care for each dog is approximately \$40,000. If you are able to assist us in this important work, we would be happy to discuss fundraising opportunities with you. DWW Staff are available to assist in planning and executing your fundraising efforts. However, it is important to understand you are not required to raise money for DWW, and your inability to assist in this regard will not play a part, whatsoever, in assessing your application, or in the decision to place a Facility Dog with you.

Public Events/Representations

A Facility Dog's purpose is to assist the intended clientele (victims, officers, members, etc). They are not to be used as a promotional tool and to receive funds. Any time our dog is planned to be used in a public representation, DWW must be notified and give explicit approval for the dog to attend the event. We will work with you to ensure that general statements on Facility Dogs are accurate and true.

Contact us to get involved!

www.dogswithwings.ca
transformlives@dogswithwings.ca
780-944-8011