



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, valued approximately at \$40,000 each, at a cost of \$1.00 to individuals and \$2500/year to social service agencies. DWW is reliant on the goodwill of the community to fund its Assistance Dog programs and receives no sustainable government funding.

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 placed with a client. More information about our 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



DOGS WITH WINGS
ASSISTANCE DOG SOCIETY

Overview of 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 within their profession's scope of practice. These dogs may work in a variety of settings, groups or individually 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

Criteria for Facility Dog Applicants

- Facilities must demonstrate that the future workload and responsibilities of the requested Facility Dog requires a trained 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 regular care and maintenance
- Facilities must have an additional budget of \$2,500/year for the Facility Dog annual fee, which supports training maintenance from Dogs with Wings.
- Facility Dogs may be placed in a home environment with another dog; however, they will be subject to requirements laid out by Dogs with Wings and will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

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

Application Process

- **Research** - Read through relevant information in this handout, to make sure a Facility Dog is right for you
- **Submit** an Application. This application will then be reviewed, and you will be notified if you qualify for this program.
- **Interview** – If you qualify for this program, you will be invited to interview with our Client Services department to discuss your individual facility's needs.
- **Selection Decision** – You will be notified if you are added to our Waitlist for a Facility Dog.



DOGS WITH WINGS
ASSISTANCE DOG SOCIETY

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, and 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 within 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

Getting Your Facility Dog

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 and a \$300 Team Training fee that covers the dog's equipment. The Team Training location(s) depends on the expected role the Facility Dog will fulfill in your facility.

Team Training will include:

- Bonding with your Facility Dog, 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

Applicants must be prepared to care for and meet the needs of a Facility Dog for the next seven to ten years.



DOGS WITH WINGS
ASSISTANCE DOG SOCIETY

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

Part of your obligation as a DWW Facility Dog recipient is to provide progress reports regularly. DWW will also conduct work environment visits and check-ins to ensure the dog/handler team is still working well together.

DWW maintains ownership of the dog and should DWW feel the dog is not being well cared for, they are not being used for their intended purpose, or the client has breached DWW policies, DWW can remove the dog from the home.

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 can 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	\$300.00	N/A
Annual Facility Dog Fee	\$2500.00	\$2500.00

**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.*

**** Annual Fee – The annual fee will be pro-rated for dogs who are placed later in the year, at a rate of \$208.33/month. For example: if a dog is placed in March, the fee for their first year would be \$2083*



DOGS WITH WINGS
ASSISTANCE DOG SOCIETY

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.

Applicants need to be prepared to handle shedding and hair in the house, drool, and be comfortable cleaning up after their dog. Grooming and maintaining the Autism Service Dog's appearance is an important step in the daily care for a dog.

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, ideal, and maximum weight. We require progress reports regularly and will be checking in to ensure the dog is in optimal health.

The primary or home handler is responsible for ensuring 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 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

*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.



DOGS WITH WINGS
ASSISTANCE DOG SOCIETY

** Our Facility Dogs are not permitted to travel by plane as they do not have the same rights as Service Dogs.

Fundraising

Dogs with Wings relies solely on the fundraising efforts of our staff, volunteers and clients to continue supplying quality trained Assistance Dogs at no cost to individuals. It costs approximately \$40,000.00 to raise, train, place, and provide follow up care for each dog. If you can assist us in this important work, we would love to talk to you about it. The Dogs with Wings staff are always available to assist you in planning and executing any fundraiser venture. However, it is important for you to understand that you are not required to raise any money at all for Dogs with Wings, and your inability to assist us in this regard has played no part whatsoever in assessing your application, or in the decision to place a Facility Dog at your Facility.

For more information on how to get involved in fundraising, contact supportdogs@dogswithwings.ca or check out our website <https://dogswithwings.ca/helping-us/donation-programs/>

Public Events/Representations

A Facility Dog's purpose is to assist the intended clientele (victims, officers, members, etc). 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