



Providing Assistance Dogs Since 1977

10175 Wheeler Road
Central Point, Oregon 97502

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www.dogsforbetterlives.org

Facility Dog Description and Requirements

What are Facility Dogs?

Facility Dogs go to work with, and assist, full-time (minimum of 20 hours per week) professionals such as physicians, Certified Special Education Teachers, counselors, and licensed therapists with the people they serve.

Benefits of a Facility Dog

These dogs can provide a calming effect to people with cognitive and developmental disabilities allowing the professional to better serve or treat them.

Tasks dogs can be trained to perform:

For calming and redirection:

The tasks in this section can be used to redirect attention and promote deep pressure and calming when anxiety is present:

- 1) Visit- Dog places head in lap of person for comfort and redirecting attention.
- 2) Lap- Dog places front legs over the lap of person to add moderate pressure on the body
- 3) Squish- Dog places his or her entire body on the person to apply deep pressure and promote relaxation and a sense of security.

For motor skills and modeling:

The tasks in this section are used to copy what the dog is doing to promote use of fine motor skills and physical rehabilitation:

- 1) Crawl- Dog army crawls across the floor.
- 2) Heel- Dog walks on loose leash next to handler.
- 3) Fetch- Dog uses nose to play pass with a ball.
- 4) Rollover- Dog rolls entire body over.
- 5) Spin- Dog spins in a circle.
- 6) Shake/wave- Dog presents paw to wave or shake.
- 7) Back up- Dog walks backward when directed.
- 9) Grooming- Dog stays in position while being groomed.
- 10) Touch- Dog will touch nose to the hand.

For learning and communication:

The tasks in this section are dedicated to therapeutic and communication purposes. The dog remains in position while the talks about and interacts with the dog:

- 1) Down/stay- Dog remains in a down-stay.
- 2) Stand/stay- Dog remains in a stand-stay.
- 3) Settle- Dog rolls over onto side and remains in a relaxed position.

Our Dogs

Dogs for Better Lives' breeds dogs as well as rescues mixed breed dogs from shelters. Facility Dogs range in size from 10 to over 60 pounds and are between 1 and 3 years of age. We look for dogs that are friendly, confident, and energetic with strong work ethics and steady, unflappable personalities. Because dogs with these traits come in all shapes and sizes, Dogs for Better Lives cannot guarantee the specific breed, color, or gender of the Facility Dog a client may receive.

Please Carefully Consider the Following Points:

A Facility Dog requires:

- Prior approval from employer is required with documentation (school, clinic etc.)
- Willingness to practice obedience commands and house manners daily
- Willingness to take the time to play with and reward your Facility Dog for a job well done
- Willingness to provide exercise for your young, active Facility Dog
- Taking sole responsibility for the care of the Facility Dog so that (s)he will bond with you
- Other family members to refrain from giving the Facility Dog attention until the dog has completely bonded with you
- You to spend time and money for obedience classes and/or a private trainer

Other Pets in the Home

Based on the circumstances of applicant, we may place a Facility Dog in a home with another dog. If you have a cat(s), we can place a dog with you that works well with cats. If the cat does not do well with the Facility Dog, the cat will need to be placed in another home. Other pets are usually approved during the application process.

Below is a brief description of the application process:

Along with the completed application, Dogs for Better Lives' requires at least one letter of personal character recommendation to be submitted by a non-family member.

Once an applicant is approved to go on to the next step, in-home and professional setting interviews of the applicant are scheduled. All family members must be present at the home interview. After the interview is completed, it will be carefully reviewed. If accepted to receive a Facility Dog, the applicant will be sent an acceptance letter. Once we have received the completed Acceptance Questionnaire, the applicant will be placed on the waiting list to receive a Facility Dog.

Placement Process

Based on the information you provide us about your lifestyle, activity level, home and work environment, and previous experience with dogs, we will select the dog best suited to you from the dogs that are available.

The placement of a Facility Dog is 4-5 days in length, dependent upon the professional's work environment and the needs of the client. Please be aware that you would need to make yourself available to work with the dog and the trainer during the entire placement. This includes taking time off from work or school and arranging for childcare outside of the home. A Facility Dog is placed with one specific professional to work with that professional and the clients with disabilities that (s)he serves. If employment ceases within the organization, the Facility Dog would leave with the professional. If employment at a different organization occurs after receiving the Facility Dog, prior approval from Dogs for Better Lives and written approval from your new employer is necessary before the Facility Dog would be permitted to work in the new workplace. A veterinary trip is planned, at your expense, during placement to introduce your Facility Dog to the veterinarian.

Acknowledgement of Description and Requirements

By initialing below, I acknowledge that I have read and understand the following:

____ Currently, the expected wait time to receive a Facility Dog is 9 to 18 months.

____ I understand that the first year is a training year and will be challenging, and that I am responsible for keeping up the training with the help of the Dogs for Better Lives Training Staff.

How did you first hear about Dogs for Better Lives?



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Facility Dog Application

For DBL use only
Event: _____
Initials: _____
Date: _____

Name: _____ Date: _____

Home Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____

Mailing Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____
(If not the same as above)

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Work Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Profession: _____ Credentials: _____

Description of Job: _____

Please list two (2) Emergency Contacts:

(1) Contact Name: _____ Relationship to Applicant: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

(1) Contact Name: _____ Relationship to Applicant: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Home Environment

I live in a (choose one):

House Duplex Apartment Mobile Home

Other: _____

If you rent, is your property owner aware that you are applying for an assistance dog? Yes No

Describe the home environment. (Size, number of rooms, upstairs, ground floor, noise levels, etc.)

Typically, we require a fenced yard attached to the home. A common use area or dog park will not qualify.

Is your yard fenced? Yes No

If yes, what size is it? Length _____ Width _____ Height _____

If no, when you fence the yard, how large will your fence be?

Length _____ Width _____ Height _____

Type of Dog

Dogs for Better Lives breeds dogs and rescues mixed breed dogs from shelters based on temperament, not appearance. Facility Dogs come in a wide variety of sizes, looks, colors, and coat types.

Once a Facility Dog is ready for placement, we select the applicant we believe is the best match for that dog.

Have you ever had a dog before? Yes No

If yes, what kind? _____

Describe your previous experiences with dogs:

Do you have a dog now? Yes No Do you have any other pets? Yes No

If yes, what kind? _____

If yes, please describe current animal's experience with other dogs:

Please describe where each animal is kept:

Are you willing to re-home animals you already have that do not adapt well to the Facility Dog? Yes No

I (choose answer):

Like Do not like

to play with dogs.

Care Do not care

if dogs lick me.

Like Do not like

to take walks with dogs.

Mind Do not mind

a dog following me all day.

Mind Do not mind

having dog hair on my clothes and furniture.

Want Do not want

my dog to have access to my entire home.

Mind Do not mind

dogs on the furniture.

Please check all the apply to your living situation:

Park or nearby walking trail

Neighbors nearby

Busy streets nearby

Neighborhood dogs running loose

Other: _____

Your Personal History

Please share any pertinent personal and/or professional information you wish us to know:

Physical Ability to Handle a Dog

To have a Facility Dog, you must be able to exercise your dog daily, and you must be able to physically handle the dog.

“Handling” the dog includes:

- Being able to maintain control of a dog on a leash
- Taking a dog for a walk on a leash
- Taking a dog out to potty
- Daily exercise and playtime

I understand Facility Dogs are often large. Yes No

I am able to handle a dog pulling on its leash. Yes No

I am able to play interactively with a dog (playing with toys, throwing a ball, etc) Yes No

Please list any physical issues that may limit or affect your ability to handle a (large) dog:

I am active and energetic. Yes No

I have low energy and do not exercise much. Yes No

I have allergies to dogs. Yes No

If someone living with you has dog allergies, please explain:

I have a fear of dog. Yes No

If someone living with you has a fear of dogs, please explain:

Describe your lifestyle (list activities and outings member of your household enjoy -parks, stores, traveling, etc. Include activities you would like to include a Facility Dog in:

Describe the method of transportation commonly used by you with the dog:

Own vehicle Public Transportation Other – Describe: _____

Would you be comfortable with the dog traveling in your car? Yes No

Placement Week

Are you able to commit to and manage the time required to work with the trainers in your home and place of business during the week of placement? Yes No

What specific difficulties might you have with a Facility Dog training program?

Place of Employment

Name of Employer: _____ Phone: _____

Supervisor's Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Street Address: _____

Type of Facility in which the applicant works. Please check all that apply:

Pre-school Regular Integrated School Specialized Program in a School Home

Medical Office Private Office High-rise Building

Other: _____

Age Range of Clients: _____ Primary Diagnosis of Clients: _____

Please describe the indoor environment of your work place:

Will the dog have an area away from clients? Yes No

If so, where? _____

Will you use the Facility Dog with clients outside of the work environment? If so, where?

Please choose the following that best describes the outside area of your work place:

Park or nearby walking trails Office Buildings nearby Busy streets nearby

Other: _____

Facility Dogs are trained to work with teachers, licensed therapists, physicians, and other “helping professionals” in a variety of ways. Facility dogs can bring a calm, encouraging, and non-judgmental presence into a classroom environment, encouraging students with special needs to stay in school and help them gain valuable life and interpersonal skills. Facility Dogs can also provide comfort to children who have experienced trauma, help to lower stress and anxiety, and encourage children to work toward therapeutic goals. All dogs receive the same basic training, and each dog receives additional specialized training depending on the needs of the professional or client the dog serves.

Please describe how you would integrate a Facility Dog into your professional environment. Be specific about the needs of the population you serve, how you believe a Facility Dog would benefit this population, and the tasks you would expect a Facility Dog to perform.

Please outline what a typical work day would look like for a Facility Dog working with you.

Include:

- Morning routines at home
- Hourly, Daily, Weekly Schedules with clients
- Tasks performed for the client
- Where the interaction takes place with the dog and client
- Breaks and down time for the dog
- Locations of the dog during down time
- Classroom environment

Morning:

Afternoon:

Evening:

Weekends:

Do you have clients who use adaptive equipment?

Yes No

If yes, what type? _____

Have you discussed utilizing a dog with your employer/co-workers?

Yes No

What was their response?

Ability to Work and Live with a Facility Dog

For a Facility Dog to work well with you, you must be the person to ensure the dog is fed, exercised, and cared for. You need to set up daily obedience sessions with the dog at a time when you can work patiently with the dog.

Yes No I am able to work with the dog. I understand it is important for me to be the one who practices obedience commands with the dog so (s)he learns to listen and obey me.

Comment: _____

Yes No I am willing and able to patiently teach a trained Facility Dog to respond to me. This means I will pay for and participate in obedience classes or hire a private trainer.

Comment: _____

Yes No I am able to accept constructive criticism and correction.

Comment: _____

Yes No Generally, I am able to deal with frustration. If No, please explain:

Anticipating problems: People who think about how they would deal with problems before they happen are better equipped to deal with them. Please list the types of things that could get in your way of working with and caring for your dog daily (for example: illness, taking care of children, work schedule, etc.).

Please give details:

Family Support

For a Facility Dog to work well for you, everyone living in your home must like dogs and be supportive of the process.

Yes No I have talked with everyone I live with about getting a Facility Dog. They support my decision to apply for a dog. If no, please explain:

Please list other people living in your home.

Name	Age (if minor child)	Relationship to you (Optional)	Does this person have a hearing loss? If so, how severe is it?	Any other physical or emotional challenges (optional)	Work/School Hours

If no children are living in your home, how often do children visit your home?

Our Facility Dogs are provided to you free of charge. You are solely responsible for all the on-going costs of keeping your dog fed, healthy, and working for you.

On-going costs for a Facility Dog include:

- High quality dog food
- Toys and treats for training rewards
- Regular vet check-ups
- Emergency vet treatment
- Grooming

We estimate the yearly cost of having a Facility Dog to be more than \$750. Emergency vet trips can significantly increase this amount.

We do not recommend you apply for a Facility Dog if it will be a financial hardship for you.

Yes No I understand I am fully responsible for the care of the dog after it comes to live with me.

Yes No I expect and am able to pay for yearly vet expenses and unexpected vet expenses.

Yes No I understand that to keep a Program Assistance dog working I will need to buy new toys and treats on an ongoing basis.

Yes No I understand I need to feed my Program Assistance Dog a high quality dog food and that this will cost more than “grocery store” dog food that is less nutritious.

In the event of Extreme Veterinary Emergency Expenses:

Yes No I will be able to take care of the bill myself.

Yes No I will be able to get help from friends/relatives.

Yes No I would need special financial assistance.

Dogs for Better Lives does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, national origin, color, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, age, veteran status, disability or any other legally protected status. It is our intention that all qualified applicants be given equal opportunity and that selection decisions are based on dog placement needs for both you, the dog, and any related factors.

Please include one letter of personal recommendation to be submitted by a non-family member with this application.

Please E-Mail completed application to: info@dogsforbetterlives.org

If unable to E-Mail, please mail to: Dogs for Better Lives
10175 Wheeler Road
Central Point, OR 97502

Dogs for Better Lives is a non-profit corporation organized under the laws of the State of Oregon.

Dogs for Better Lives controls access to applicant/client files, holds all applicant/client information strictly confidential, and agrees that such information shall be used only for the designated purposes, and shall not be used for any other purpose or disclosed to any third party.