



Volunteer Role Description: Puppy Raiser

National Service Dogs (NSD) is a registered charity based in Cambridge, ON Canada specializing in training Service Dogs for individuals with Autism, PTSD, Canine Assisted Intervention Dogs, and Companion Dogs for a diverse group of clients.

Objective: Raise a future Service Dog from 8 weeks to 14-16 months of age with the full support of NSD training and health staff. Puppy Raisers will care for, train, socialize and provide a loving home for these dogs in training.

Reports to: Training Team & Health Coordinator

Locations: (could include)

- Your Home
- NSD Office (1286 Cedar Creek Rd., Cambridge)
- NSD Training Space (1440 King St. E., Kitchener)
- Cambridge Veterinary Services (1223 Cedar Creek Rd, Cambridge)
- Oxford County Veterinary Clinic (570 Ingersoll Ave, Woodstock)
- Varying Public Locations in and around the Region of Waterloo

Hours and Scope: Puppy Raiser volunteers welcome an 8 week old puppy into their home full-time. The volunteer will care for the dog until they transition to their Adult Raiser (between 14-16 months of age) with the support of volunteer sitters when needed.

Outside of routine care and training for the dog, NSD requirements are approximately 5-25 hours a month. These hours are referring to attending training classes, vet appointments, providing feedback and at home training sessions. Dogs are always learning, making it difficult to put a definitive time commitment on a dog living with you.

Tasks and Responsibilities:

- Daily care of the dog including feeding, providing fresh water, grooming and exercise
- Volunteers provide; crate, treats, toys, a dog bed, bowls, etc. (food and vet care are covered by NSD)
- Follow NSD behaviour and training expectations of the dog, which are provided by NSD



- Notify the Health Coordinator about changes in the dogs health
- Notify the Training Team about changes in behaviour and training
- Welcome feedback and advice from the NSD Training Team
- Attend training classes
 - Puppy kindergarten (10 weeks): weekly
 - Grade school (5 months): bi-weekly
 - High School (until the dog moves to Adult Raiser): minimum of twice a month
- Be able to transport the dog to vet, training classes, food pick up, and other appointments as required
 - Most vet appointments occur during business hours

Requirements:

- Live within 45 minutes of NSD
- Children that live in the home must be over 5 years of age
- Maximum of 2 personal dogs that are at least 1 year of age
- If living in an apartment, it must be no higher than the 7th floor.

Advancements: Puppy Sitter