



Volunteer Role Description: Whelping Home

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: Play a vital role in the making of future Service Dogs. Breeder Caretaker volunteers care for, maintain training, and provide a loving home for our dams (moms) and their puppies or sires (dads).

Reports to: Health & Breeding Coordinator

Location: (could include)

- Your Home
- NSD Office (1286 Cedar Creek Road, Cambridge)
- Cambridge Veterinary Services (1223 Cedar Creek Rd, Cambridge)
- Oxford County Veterinary Clinic (570 Ingersoll Ave, Woodstock)
- Graham Animal Hospital (98A Trafalgar Rd N, Hillsburgh)
- Lions Foundation Breeding Facility (3751 Chilligo Rd, Breslau)
- Varying public locations in and around the Region of Waterloo

Hours and Scope: Whelping home volunteers welcome a pregnant Dam into their home approximately 2 weeks before her due date. The volunteer will care for the dog and her litter of puppies for approximately 10 weeks (2 weeks before the puppies are born, 8 weeks while the puppies develop) until the puppies are ready to move to puppy raisers. NSD maintains ownership of the dog and could transition them from the breeding program to become a working Service Dog should the circumstances be such.

This role is a large commitment and volunteers must be prepared to dedicate a large portion of time daily to the care of the dam and puppies.

Tasks and Responsibilities:

Everyday:

- Daily care of the dog including feeding, providing fresh water, and exercise
- Maintain training and NSD expectations
- Be able to transport the dog to vet appointments as required



- Notify NSD Health Coordinator about changes in the dogs health, behaviours.
- Other tasks as required

During pregnancy and whelp:

- Communicate with NSD Health Coordinator about dam and puppies
- Welcome NSD staff into your home during the whelp of the puppies
- Welcome NSD volunteers into your home to help with puppy care and training
- Have a flexible schedule to be available for puppy needs 24/7 for the first 3 weeks of the puppies life
 - Puppies can be left alone for a maximum of 1-2 hours a day once 3 weeks
- Care for, weigh, clean (including laundry), and help with feeding of puppies
- Help the newborn puppies learn, be exposed to new things, and of course enjoy puppy snuggles
- Have outdoor access for the puppies to be exposed to the outdoors
- Have a quiet, dark space for newborn puppies and a larger, higher traffic space for the puppies to transition to at 3-weeks old
- Be able to handle physically demanding tasks that include bending over often, kneeling, etc.

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 must be at least 1 year of age

Advancements: Puppy Starter, Puppy Raiser