

Applying to register you and your dog as volunteers with WAG

Thank you for your interest in joining the WAG team. As a volunteer you and your dog will be able to carry out therapy visits which can bring joy and comfort to people of all ages and in a variety of situations. And these visits can be hugely rewarding for the volunteers too.

It has long been recognised that animals interacting with people can bring immense therapeutic benefit in many different ways. Our volunteers regularly carry out therapy visits to patients at Health and Social Care premises, schools, day care centres and residents in care homes.

Any breed of dog is welcome. However, he/she must be at least 15 months old and have been in your ownership for a minimum of six months. Additionally, before becoming a registered volunteer, your dog will need to be assessed to make sure that his temperament and behaviour are suitable, and that he is in good health. This is necessary to ensure that he will remain calm and well mannered when visiting vulnerable or elderly people, hospital patients or children.

The assessment takes place over a period of weeks. Firstly we invite you and your dog to attend an Induction Workshop where we will –

- Give a brief explanation of what WAG does in the community
- Deliver a short presentation on canine body language and how to interpret what your dog is trying to tell you.
- Go through the elements of the next level of assessment.

Workshops take place three or four times a year and there is a charge of £10 to take part.

If you are thinking about joining our team of therapy dogs please consider whether your dog:

- Walks calmly on a loose lead wearing a collar
- Responds positively to basic commands (eg sit, wait, come when called)
- Enjoys being fussed
- Takes titbits gently
- Is not unduly worried by sudden noises
- Is under control when on a lead
- Is currently fit and well

If the answer is 'YES' to all the above then please go ahead and complete an application form. If you're unsure about how your dog behaves in any of these areas please email us at woof@wag.org.gg and we can discuss your concerns. The WAG assessment form and criteria can also be downloaded.



Safeguarding:

WAG prefers that our volunteers undergo a DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) check, which is carried out by the Guernsey Vetting Bureau. This is mandatory for those who wish to visit schools and some establishments where they will come into contact with people in vulnerable situations.

So we will ask whether you are willing to undergo a DBS check. If you would prefer not to this will not prevent you from carrying out WAG visits, but it may restrict which establishments you can attend.



Please complete the application form and forward by email to woof@wag.org.gg or post to La Vielle Grange, Rue des Heches, St Peters GY7 9AD



What happens next:

When we have received your completed form we will get in touch to tell you when the next Induction Workshop is taking place.

Once you and your dog have attended the Workshop you will be given a time and date for your dog's assessment.

The result of your dog's assessment will be agreed by WAG's assessment panel consisting of two assessors and a committee member. On successful completion of your assessment you will be contacted by a WAG committee member and asked to provide:

1. The names and e-mail addresses of two character references (if they are not on email, then a postal address will be fine). Please ask them in advance so they will be expecting to hear from us
2. A head and shoulders photograph of yourself and a head and shoulders photograph of your dog (ideally by email but we can scan images sent in the post) These will be used to create the WAG ID badges that you will be asked to wear on your WAG visits

In addition to the ID badges, we will provide a WAG lead and bandana for your dog and branded gilet and polo shirt for you.

Please ensure that both you and your dog are wearing WAG identity badges when carrying out official visits. These are required to ensure you are covered by WAG's public liability insurance.

Thanks for your interest and we look forward to you and your dog joining the WAG team

If you would like further information please contact Marguerite Talmage at woof@wag.org.gg or tel: 07911 719081.