



PAWtected CIC

**Associate
Application
Handbook**

February 2022

Welcome

Thank you for taking the time to look at our Associate program. We hope that this handbook will help you understand what is involved so that you can make the best decision for you and your dog.

Please read all of this handbook before applying. If you have any questions or need any help understanding this handbook, please get in touch with our team.

We can be contacted by email to enquiries@pawtected.co.uk at any time.

Thank you,

Abigail and Christine

(PAWtected CIC management)

General information

What is PAWtected CIC?

PAWtected CIC is an organisation who help owners train their own dogs to become assistance dogs. We can provide support with training, advocacy, and working. We also provide general dog training, assistance dog education, community groups, volunteering and training opportunities.

As an organisation, we value the following:

- Quality
- Inclusion and community
- Achievement
- Encouragement to fulfil potential
- Ethical training and high standards of care.

What is the Associate Program

The PAWtected CIC Associate program allows you to support our work, while receiving some exclusive perks. We welcome all dog owners, from pet dogs, sport dogs, to working dogs, you don't even need to have a dog!

As an associate, you may be eligible to represent PAWtected CIC at events.

Benefits

Associate

- Reduced course costs
- Early access to new content
- Free mini courses
- Free weekly live education sessions
- Supporting the work of PAWtected CIC
- Exclusive products and resources.

Associate assistance dog

In addition to the benefits listed for general associates, any associates with an assistance dog also get the following benefits:

- Optional non-logo gear/uniform in a choice of colours
- Free virtual resources to support self-advocacy
- Exclusive products
- Structured training and assessment pathways

We are always continuing to release resources and additional perks, so do get in touch if you are looking for something not currently offered.

Please be aware that associates do not get 1:1 training, advocacy or support.

Application process

After reading through this handbook, please complete the application form found on our website.

The team will respond to your application within 3 working days. We will only refuse applications in exceptional cases.

If your application was successful, you will be invited to make the first purchase on our store and you will be added to the relevant courses. On the associate course page, you will be able to access the discount codes for our store.

Costs

Associate fees

Initial set up fee: £40.00

Annual fee: £20.00 (due every September)

Discounts

You are responsible for paying the costs of courses and products from our store.

Course discount: 25%

Mini course discount: 100%

Assistance Dog Skills Assessment: £15 coupon per year

Frequently Asked Questions

What options are there for assistance dogs?

We offer a comprehensive and a fast track assistance dog pathway. The comprehensive pathway provides complete training and is suitable for all dogs from 8 weeks of age. The fast track pathway is for dogs with prior experience working as an assistance dog.

Regardless of which pathway you choose, continual training throughout your dogs working life is vital. We advise taking our Assistance Dog Skills Assessment annually to ensure that your dog maintains their training standards. Associates get a significant discount on this course.

Does my dog have to wear your vests?

No, for associate assistance dogs we have optional gear available in a choice of colours. This gear does not have the PAWtected CIC logo on it and is different to our member gear.

What breeds do you accept?

We accept any legal breeds onto our program.

Ethos

By applying to become an PAWtected CIC Associate, you agree to abide by the following ethos while on the program.

All PAWtected CIC Associates agree to the following statements:

I will ensure that all of the 5 animal welfare freedoms are met, as outlined by the Animal Welfare Act 2006.

I will ensure that my dog is healthy and that I consult with a registered vet for advice regarding my dog's health. I am aware of my dogs needs relating to diet, weight, exercise, training, and preventative healthcare.

I will ensure that my dog is trained ethically and without the use of fear or pain.

I understand my legal obligations as a dog owner.

In addition to those mentioned above, Associate Assistance Dogs also agree to the following statements:

I have a disability as defined by the Equality Act 2010 and my dog is able to, or will learn how to, mitigate this disability.

I will ensure my dog is clean and well presented whilst working, including smart and easily understandable gear identifying my dog as an assistance dog. Inappropriate language will be avoided.

I will ensure that I use appropriate terminology when identifying my assistance dog.

I will ensure that my dog has a suitable level of training and that training standards are maintained throughout the dogs working life

I understand the laws relating to access and are able to communicate these when needed.