



**PAWtected CIC**

**Fast Track  
Membership  
Application  
Handbook**

**May 2023**

# Welcome

Thank you for taking the time to look at our Fast Track Assistance Dog Membership. We hope that this handbook will help you understand what is involved with our membership 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 offer free webinars each month that explores becoming a member with PAWtected CIC. Head to [www.pawtected.co.uk/welcome](http://www.pawtected.co.uk/welcome) to find the upcoming dates.

We can be contacted by email to [membership@pawtected.co.uk](mailto:membership@pawtected.co.uk) at any time.

Thank you,

Abigail and Christine

(PAWtected CIC management)

PAWtected CIC is proud that our uniform is sponsored by the Matthew Ludlam Foundation.



[www.tmlf.co.uk](http://www.tmlf.co.uk)

# 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.

## What is an assistance dog?

Assistance dogs are lifesaving and life changing auxiliary aids. These dogs are specifically trained to mitigate their handlers' disabilities and are a vital part of their independence. It takes a lot of training and dedication to train a dog to assistance dog status. All assistance dog handlers, regardless of how their dog has been trained, are protected by UK law.

More information: <https://www.pawtected.co.uk/Resources/>

## Assistance dog training options

We have three levels of support available for those training assistance dogs. This document explores the membership option.

	Independent	Associate	Membership
Discounted courses	No discount	25% off courses 50% off mini courses	50% off courses 100% off mini courses
Live sessions	No access	Limited access	Unlimited access
Assistance dog uniform	Not available from us	Optional, without a logo	Yes, with a logo
Structured training pathway	Yes	Yes	Yes
Certificates	Yes	Yes	Yes
Access refusal advocacy	All public resources and training available	Self advocacy resources and training	Individual support, resources, and training
Community group	Public facebook group	Public facebook group	Private facebook group

# Introduction to the Fast Track Membership

## Introduction

The Fast Track Membership is for dogs with extensive experience working as assistance dogs. A list of activities are provided within this handbook, please ensure that your dog can perform all of these confidently prior to application.

As a Fast Track Member, you will be required to complete our Assistance Dog Skills Assessment and a minimum of 6 weeks of training logs. During this time, you can continue working your dog independently, you are not yet a member of PAWtected CIC.

Once you've completed the required training, you will become a PAWtected CIC Assistance Dog and be eligible for our uniform.

## Benefits and Support

We aim to provide the best support we can throughout our program. Our team are always happy to answer any questions and provide adjustments as needed, please get in touch with us.

- PAWtected CIC branded assistance dog uniform
- Structured training progression with certificates to evidence training
- 1:1 virtual training support through your journal
- Live group sessions
- Private, admin monitored, Facebook community group.
- Online Moodle system allowing you to progress at your own pace.
- 50% off courses and free mini courses
- 1:1 advocacy support once qualified.
- And more!

If you ever need support that is not listed, please ask our team and we will do our best to support you.

## Responsibilities

As a member, you will be responsible for certain things so that we can effectively provide you with the training service.

- Completion of weekly logs/monthly reports
- Regular training
- Videoing assessments
- Communicating with the team

## Costs

The costs below are the total amount for each stage. This includes the enrolment, course fees and required uniform. A complete breakdown of these costs is included at the end of this handbook.

- Fast Track – £65.00
- Assistance Dog - £50.00
- Annual reassessment - £20.00

We work hard to keep the costs of our membership low so that it is available to anyone who needs it. If cost is a restriction, there is information on different funding available on our website.

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## Training activities

You must be confident that your dog can perform all of the following activities. If you are concerned or unsure about a specific activity, please contact us to discuss this before applying.

**Module 1** – Filmed in a store or similar working environments with the dog vested and working.

- Toilet on cue before entering the building
- Enter the building
- Basic commands
- Startling experiences
- Distance
- Ignore dropped food
- Walk past food
- Disability mitigation
- Ignore merchandise while handler browses
- Queue at checkout
- Use checkout
- Exit

**Module 2** – Filmed in a public place with the dog vested and working.

- Walking
- Turns
- Stops
- Crossing the road
- Pass a person
- Settle during a conversation
- Pass a dog
- Leave food on hand
- Leave food on the floor
- Play and regain control
- 30 second stay
- Settle under a table/chair for 10 minutes

**Module 3** – Filmed in a relaxed environment with the dog unvested and off duty.

- Enter, travel in and exit a vehicle then navigate surrounding area
- Walking with stops and turns
- Toilet appropriately
- Greet a person
- Recall
- Focus on the handler
- Take a treat nicely
- Play with the handler
- Proximity to other dogs
- Basic commands

#### **Module 4 – Filmed at home.**

- Isolation
- Handling

#### **Module 5 – Written assignment**

- Handling access refusals
- Legislation
- What the law means as a handler
- What the law means as a service provider

### **Eligibility**

Please go through the checklist to ensure that you and your dog are eligible for our membership. If you are unable to check an option, please contact us.

#### **Handler requirements**

- The applicant has a disability as defined by the Equality Act 2010.
- The applicant is not involved with another organisation, charity or company which provides training or advice regarding assistance dogs.
- The applicant commits to regular training, weekly training logs until graduation, monthly reports after graduation and reassessment of skills annually.
- The applicant commits to the financial requirements of the membership.
- The applicant understands that the uniform is mandatory whilst in public places.
- The applicant will remain in regular contact with PAWtected CIC.
- The applicant commits to training without the use of fear or pain.

#### **Dog requirements**

- The dog aged between 18 months and 10 years.
- The dog has a minimum of 6 months training covering a range of general behaviour and assistance dog specific skills.
- The dog has a minimum of 2 months assistance dog working experience.
- The dog can confidently perform all of the tasks listed.
- The dog is of good health and has been checked by a veterinarian in the last 12 months.
- The dog will be insured for public liability claims before starting public work.
- The dog is up to date with all vaccinations and can provide documentation.
- The dog is microchipped and wears an up to date tag at all times.
- The dog is on a suitable balanced diet. If fed raw, please contact us before applying to discuss this.
- Any bitch will be spayed prior to qualification.

# Frequently Asked Questions

## **I have an older or qualified dog that I would like to join the membership, an I do this?**

Yes! We have a special fast track option for dogs that are experienced with working as an assistance dog. Please see the Fast Track Membership Handbook for details.

If your dog is older than the age bracket, please contact us to discuss as we may be able to provide support.

## **Does my dog have to wear a uniform?**

Yes, as a member you are representing us. Should you wish your dog to wear different gear, please look into our independent or associate assistance dog training options.

## **I don't think I can afford it, are there any funding options?**

Yes, we provide a range of different funding options. Please see our website for more information. Our uniform is proudly sponsored by The Matthew Ludlam Foundation.

## **What breeds do you accept?**

We accept any legal breeds as members.

## **How long will the training process take?**

We expect Fast Track Members to have completed the initial assessment section within 2-3 months as additional training shouldn't be required.

## **How does the membership work?**

In a nutshell! The training is broken down into two main sections:

- Videoing training and assessment for your trainer to review.
- Written weekly summaries of activities which your trainer provides feedback and support.

There is lots more involved, please get in touch if you'd like to discuss this.

## **Can I join the membership if I am training the dog for my child or on behalf of a vulnerable adult?**

Yes, we have provisions for children, young people and vulnerable adults. Please contact us for details.

# Costs

There are two types of costs involved with our membership: course and progression. Course costs are purchased as and when you require the next course. Progression costs are purchased as you move into each new level.

Course costs are subject to change, please see our store for the most up to date information. 50% discount is included.

Our uniform is proudly sponsored by The Matthew Ludlam Foundation. All items marked with a \* remain the property of PAWtected CIC and must be returned.

## Fast Track

Enrolment fee: £15.00

- 1:1 training support through your journal

Course fee 1: £30.00

- Assistance Dog Skills Assessment

## Assistance Dog Member

Qualification fee: £25.00

- Blue Passport\* stamping
- AD uniform hire\* (optional upgrades for additional costs)
- Journal

## Annual resubscription

Annual reassessment fee: £25.00

- Assistance Dog Skills Assessment
- Blue Passport\* Stamping
- Journal

## Optional gear

We have a range of optional gear available including lead slips, settle mats and more from £20. These all remain the property of PAWtected CIC.