



**PAWtected CIC**

**Membership  
Application  
Handbook**

**May 2023**

# Welcome

Thank you for taking the time to look at our Assistance Dog Membership. We hope that this handbook will help you understand what is involve 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 help understanding this handbook, please get in touch with our team.

We offer free webinars each month that explores being 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) and a member of our team will get back to you within 5 working days.

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 Membership

## Milestones

PreMember – This is the foundation level where most will join with their puppies or young dogs. These dogs stay in pet-friendly locations.

Assistance Dog Prospect – This is where we start training assistance dog behaviours. These dogs stay in pet-friendly locations

Assistance Dog in Training – This is where we introduce more challenging assistance dog behaviours, explore disability mitigation tasks, and finally refine the dog's skills. These dogs are being introduced to working locations.

Assistance dog – At this point the dog is considered fully trained.

## 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 milestone. This includes the enrolment, course fees and required uniform. A complete breakdown of these costs is included at the end of this handbook.

- PreMember – £65.00
- Assistance Dog Prospect - £60.00
- Assistance Dog in Training - £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.

Our uniform is proudly sponsored by The Matthew Ludlam Foundation.

## 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 over 2 months and has not yet reached their 5<sup>th</sup> birthday.
- 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?**

Generally, untrained puppies are able to complete our program in around 2-3 years, however dogs are not robots and this is not guaranteed.

## **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.

## PreMember

Enrolment fee: £20.00

- 1:1 training support through your journal
- PreMember uniform hire\*

Course fee 1: £30.00

- Foundation Canine Skills
- Basic Exposure
- Intermediate Exposure
- Basic Assistance Dog Awareness (theory)
- Intermediate Assistance Dog Awareness (theory)

## Assistance Dog Prospect Member

Progression fee 1: £15.00

- 1:1 training support through your journal

Course fee 2: £20.00

- Basic Assistance Dog
- Advanced Exposure
- Advanced Assistance Dog Awareness (theory)

## Assistance Dog in Training Member

Progression fee 2: £25.00

- Blue Passport\*
- ADiT uniform hire\* (optional upgrades for additional costs)
- 1:1 training support through your journal

Course fee 3: £25.00

- Intermediate Assistance Dog
- Advanced Assistance Dog
- Assistance Dog Exposure

Plus task training courses as appropriate (free).

## **Assistance Dog Member**

Qualification fee: £25.00

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

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, funding is not available for these items unless medically required.