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WellPaws Certification Process

Support and Assistance Dogs



Emotional/Personal Support Dog

A well-behaved and well-trained family pet who provides comfort in times of need

Advanced Support Dog

Even dogs who would not cope with full public access can provide support

Assistance Dog In Training

A Support Dog who has the right skills and temperament, who is in the right environment, may begin training as an assistance dog

Assistance Dog

A dog who is specially trained to mitigate a persons' disability, and has the right to public access

WELLPAWS SUPPORT DOG

WELLPAWS ASSISTANCE DOG

1. Support Dog Dog & handler/recipient learns healthy skills to support one another

- 20 hour (approx.) therapeutic dog training curriculum with dual qualified animal assisted therapist/dog trainer
- Optional on-site group sessions
- Not eligible for public access

2. Advanced Support Dog Dog & handler/recipient workshops therapeutic support skills and applied training

- Begin working through the personalised ESD to AD training & socialisation plan with dual qualified animal assisted therapist/dog trainer
- Optional on-site group sessions
- Not eligible for public access

IF ELIGIBLE

3. Assistance Dog in Training

- Consultation with the recipient's therapeutic team
- Assessment of suitability & eligibility of dog and handler/recipient
- Workshops in public access (e.g. shopping centre, restaurant)
- 1 individual home/work/school visit

IF ELIGIBLE

4. Assistance Dog

- Formal assessment of therapeutic skills to mitigate disability
- Assessment of safety and sociability
- Public Access Test
- Annual Re-Certification

WellPaws: Not all dogs can be assistance dogs with public access, but all dogs can provide comfort and support