



Job Description: Service Dog Instructor

Position Title: Instructor

Location: Dogs with Wings Assistance Dog Society, Edmonton, AB

Reports To: Director, Canine Operations

Start Date: The role is available immediately, with a flexible start date.

Position Type: Part-time (22.5 hours per week), with the potential to transition into a full-time role.

Position Overview:

Dogs with Wings operates on five core organizational values: **well-being, compassion, harmony, connection, and hope**. These values are imperative to fostering teamwork and collaboration within our organization. By following these values in a meaningful way, we ensure positive enrichment for all—staff, volunteers, clients, and the dogs we train.

Dogs with Wings also adheres to a **training philosophy** that aligns with **positive reinforcement** and the **Least Intrusive, Minimally Aversive (LIMA) approach**, as outlined on our website. The **humane hierarchy** is taken seriously, and adherence to these principles is essential in maintaining the highest standards of ethical and effective Service Dog training. Violations of our training philosophy will result in appropriate consequences to ensure the continued well-being of the dogs in our care.

The Instructor plays a crucial role in the training, care, and placement of Service Dogs. This position involves hands-on dog training, client instruction, and collaboration with the training team to ensure the successful preparation and placement of high-quality Service Dogs with individuals with disabilities and Facility Dogs with social service agencies.

Key Responsibilities:

Canine Training and Development:

- Conduct hands-on training sessions for Service Dogs in obedience, task-specific skills, and public access behaviors.
- Implement and adhere to established training protocols and policies to maintain the highest standards of Service Dog training and care.
- Assess and evaluate dogs' progress regularly, making necessary adjustments to training plans to meet individual dogs' needs.

Client Instruction and Support:

- Educate clients on proper handling, training techniques, and care for their Service Dogs.
- Provide ongoing support and training to clients post-placement, ensuring successful dog-handler partnerships.
- Develop and deliver client education programs and resources.

Program Support:

- Assist in the supervision and mentorship of Apprentice Instructor(s), providing guidance and support in their professional development.
- Participate in the recruitment and training of new apprentices, fostering a collaborative learning environment.
- Maintain detailed records of each dog's training progress and client interactions.

Canine Health and Welfare:

- Monitor and ensure the health, well-being, and proper care of all dogs in training.
- Implement exercise, nutrition, and health care programs for dogs, maintaining detailed records.
- Collaborate with the veterinary team to ensure comprehensive health care and timely medical interventions for all dogs.

Stakeholder Engagement:

- Collaborate with key stakeholders, including donors, volunteers, and partner organizations, to support program initiatives.
- Represent the organization at community events, public speaking engagements, and industry conferences.
- Work with Assistance Dogs International (ADI) and other accrediting bodies to maintain accreditation standards.

*Other responsibilities may be assigned as directed by the Director of Canine Operations, ensuring flexibility and adaptability to meet the evolving needs of the organization.

Qualifications:

- Bachelor's degree in Animal Science, Veterinary Science, or a related field (preferred but not required).
- Minimum of 2 years of experience in Service Dog training and client instruction.
- Strong understanding of canine behavior, training techniques, and health care.
- Excellent communication, organizational, and interpersonal skills.



- Ability to work collaboratively with a diverse team of professionals.
- Commitment to the mission and values of the organization.

Preferred Qualifications:

- Instructor certification from a recognized Service Dog training organization.
- Experience with Assistance Dogs International (ADI) accreditation process.
- Dog training certification from either IAABC, CCPDT, KPA
- Background in nonprofit management.

Compensation & Benefits:

Dogs with Wings offers a competitive salary based on experience, along with a comprehensive benefits package that includes medical and dental coverage. Employees are eligible for benefits after successfully completing a 3-month probationary period. In addition to paid vacation and personal leave, we offer flexible working hours when needed (e.g., for appointments or personal needs) and actively promote mental health and well-being, including support for therapy and other wellness resources. Employees also have opportunities for professional development through training and industry conferences. Our work environment is collaborative, supportive, and dog-friendly, providing a meaningful and rewarding experience for those passionate about making a difference.

Dogs with Wings is an equal opportunity employer and encourages applicants from diverse backgrounds to apply.

To Apply: Please submit your resume and cover letter to Piera Angotti, Director of Canine Operations at piera@dogswithwings.ca.

Application Deadline:

Applications will be accepted until a suitable candidate is found.

Please note: Interviews may be scheduled throughout the posting period, so we encourage interested applicants to apply early.