

Assistance Dog Trainer / Instructors



Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind are seeking to employ qualified and experienced Assistance Dog Trainers and Instructors to train dogs for use by children with Autism.

The Role - The Trainer / Instructor will be a qualified Assistance Dog Trainer or Instructor and will provide specialist training and support to allocated dogs under the care of the Technical Training Team. The training provided allows the dog to progress in the appropriate manner to advanced training standard and to progress on to qualify an Assistance Dog. As we also train Guide Dogs, there is an excellent opportunity for experienced Assistance Dog Trainers / instructors to expand their skills and learn to work with both Assistance and Guide Dogs.

The Location – The successful candidate will be based in our Headquarters in Cork, Republic of Ireland.

Salary – Competitive salary on offer. Salary will be commensurate with ability and experience and role which you are offered.

Key Responsibilities

- Carry out preliminary assessment of dogs.
- Prepare selected dogs according to the pre-determined training programme to ensure that dogs are supplied within desired time frame and quality.
- Identify temperamental and behavioural issues and ensure the application of appropriate solutions.
- Highlight all health issues and promptly refer them for review.
- Adapt pre-determined programme and implement individual training programmes for allocated dogs.
- Assist in training for new staff, students, Puppy Raisers, Apprentice Assistance Dog Trainers and others, as required.
- Highlight dogs that are ready for the progression of training and recommend dogs that should be withdrawn.
- Maintain accurate and up-to-date records on our database system, PAWS.
- Maintain regular and appropriate communication with Puppy Raisers to update on the dogs' progress.
- Report and document all accidents and incidents relating to dogs and also with third parties, in line with current Health and Safety policies.
- Work with the Client Services Team to ensure Aftercare visits are carried out in a timely manner including maintaining accurate records for client after care.

- Work as part of a team to support each other and, from time to time, support other departments such as Fundraising to ensure the efficient and effective operations of Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind.
- Any other duties as outlined by your manager from time-to-time.

Qualifications & Experience

- Previous experience of dog handling skills and knowledge, demonstrating the successful delivery of an outcome essential.
- Knowledge of dog training and methods, staff training and instructional techniques and canine behaviour essential.
- Skilled in analysing dogs' temperaments to provide a successful outcome for each dog.
- Ability to demonstrate an understanding of dog psychology and behaviour modification.
- Ability to successfully embrace and solve problem behaviours.
- Flexibility is required in adapting existing procedures to meet current need.
- Excellent communication skills.
- Guide Dog Training Qualification/Certificate of Higher Education in Canine Assistance Dog training, Animal Care Qualification or an IGDF equivalent qualification.

Special Conditions

- Full clean driving license essential.
- Some out of hours working, travel and overnight stays throughout the country required from time to time.

**If you wish to apply for this role, please forward your CV in confidence to recruitment@guidedogs.ie
Alternatively, if you wish to discuss this opportunity, please contact Mel Conway, Head of HR / H&S at melconway@guidedogs.ie or via telephone on +353 21 4878231 / +353 85 8009227.**