

**DOGS FOR BETTER LIVES  
JOB DESCRIPTION**



**Assistance Dog Trainer**

**How to apply:**

Send your resume and cover letter to [jon@dogsforbetterlives.org](mailto:jon@dogsforbetterlives.org)

**About Us:**

Recognized nationally as a premier nonprofit organization, Dogs for Better Lives' mission is to professionally train dogs to help people and enhance lives while maintaining a lifelong commitment to all dogs rescued or bred and the people served. Dogs for Better Lives trains and places dogs throughout the United States and is supported by a nationwide donor base. As an Equal Opportunity Employer, we believe in finding the right people for the mission. Dogs for Better Lives' employees embrace a work life balance while being trusted to achieve our goals and serve our clients and dogs. Through our employee driven values, we aim to grow to serve more clients while maintaining our commitment to our clients, dogs, and donors. Dogs for Better Lives has continuing growth opportunities for those seeking increasing responsibilities as we continue to develop a world class nonprofit.

**About the job:**

Our Assistance Dog Trainers acquire, train, and place Hearing Dogs, Autism Assistance Dogs and Facility Dogs with people who are Deaf, hard of hearing or have other disabilities supported by our mission. (A focus on PTSD Assistance Dogs is on the horizon.) The position is full time/exempt, reporting to the executive director of our new campus located on picturesque Cape Cod in Falmouth, MA ([https://travel.usnews.com/Cape\\_Cod\\_MA/](https://travel.usnews.com/Cape_Cod_MA/)). Our full-time employees receive an excellent employer paid benefits package which includes the following: medical, dental, vision, STD/LTD, basic life insurance, generous time off (flex/sick days, vacation, 10 paid holidays, 2 floating days off).

**Essential Duties and Responsibilities:**

- Trains and matches Assistance Dogs with clients.
- Assists Training Manger with training of Trainers in three-year apprentice program.
- Assists Kennel Technicians in the proper methods of basic dog care and obedience, and kennel cleaning.
- Works cooperatively with other Trainers and the training of their string of canines.
- Follows established training parameters and procedures to ensure proper training, medication, inoculation, grooming and maintenance of canines' general health.
- Provides follow up with clients after placement by phone, written communication or in-home visits as needed.
- Participates in choosing, evaluating and classification of Assistance Dog trainees.
- Participates in public relations presentations and demonstrations to show how Assistance Dogs work to provide assistance to people who are Deaf, hard of hearing, or have other disabilities in addition to promoting our mission and encouraging donations.
- Perform other duties as required by the organization and the Training Manager.

**Essential Qualifications:**

- Four (4) year college degree or equivalent work experience required.
- Successful completion of three-year trainer apprenticeship program through an organization accredited by ADI (Assistance Dogs International) with a minimum of 10 successful placements of dogs with clients.
- ADI Instructor Certification strongly desired.
- Experience working with both purpose bred and shelter dogs preferred.
- Knowledge of, and experience using, operant conditioning techniques.
- Must pass a criminal background check.

- Must be able to travel occasionally for durations of a week or more.
- Proficient in Microsoft Office 365.
- For the safety of the employee, other employees, and the dogs, an employee must have hearing within normal limits (for an adult, hearing thresholds no greater than 25 dB HL from 500 Hz through 4000 Hz, for both ears, with or without hearing aids, implants or other devices. Employees must be able to hear the wide variety of sounds at different levels and pitches from a variety of directions and distances that dogs make while interacting with people and each other. This includes:
  - Detect barking at all levels and tones
  - Determine direction barking is coming from
  - Detect change in type of bark, tone, volume
  - Detect low growl, direction
  - Hear a dog running behind them
  - Hear talking in a normal range
  - When training a dog, the trainer must be able to hear all the sounds and tones that he/she is training the dog to hear in order to reward behavior and ensure successful outcomes.
- Physically capable of lifting dogs up to 65 pounds, the agility to move quickly, climb stairs, operate office equipment and computers with ease, and the ability to get up and down easily while working and playing with the dogs.
- Ability to communicate using American Sign Language is desirable.

**Essential Requirements:**

- Enjoys building and maintaining relationships with staff.
- Successfully able to lead self and others through a process and adhere to timelines.
- Shares in the passion for the mission of Dogs for Better Lives.
- Self-starter and independent with limited supervision while working collaboratively.
- Ability to prioritize and handle multiple tasks.
- Highly skilled in interpersonal and written communication.
- Ability to meet and greet the public in a friendly and courteous manner.
- Comfortable and experienced with public speaking.
- Respects and maintains privileged confidential information.
- Values continuous learning and seeks ongoing training and development.

*Note: This is a job description, not an employment contract. This job description does not state or imply these are the only duties to be performed by the employee occupying this position. Employees will be required to follow any other job-related duties required by management.*