

Volunteer Job Description

**Position: Breeding Stock Carer and Home Whelper**

**Division: Guide Dog Services WA**

**Reports to: Program Manager, Breeding and Puppy Whelping Coordinator**

**Purpose**

Our Breeding Stock Carers are responsible for providing a safe, secure and welcoming home to one of our Breeding Dogs (Broods). They ensure the health and welfare of the dog and provide transportation of the dog to any appointments required (including veterinary visits and reproductive procedures). At all times, they will ensure the dog’s obedience and social manners are maintained at a high level. They will also provide support to the brood when she is giving birth and care for her and her newborn puppies for the first 8 weeks of their lives, giving them the best start possible, to help them become life-changing Guide or Assistance Dogs. This role is long term, with dogs usually placed at around 15 to 18 months of age, and retiring from the breeding program by 6 years of age.

**Guide Dogs WA will provide:**

* All food, parasite prevention, veterinary care required throughout the dog’s breeding career, as well as initial equipment, such as collar, lead, bedding and chew toys.
* Training and ongoing support by dedicated staff, including during the birthing process and whilst rearing the litter.
* Insurance cover by EverAbility’s Volunteer Insurance policy and/or by the Insurance Commission of WA for the cost of claims for death or injury caused by the negligence of the driver of a registered vehicle.

# Our shared vision

Inclusion and independence for all.

# Our shared values

* Be there for everyone
* Trust and be trustworthy
* Collaborate and be innovative

# Our promise

Our commitment, across all our brands, is to provide a professional, person-centred service and offer quality of life outcomes that help people to live the life they choose.

## We aspire to

* Create a positive environment through our interactions with others
* Promote honesty by having moral and ethical principles
* Practice decision making with confidence
* Build trust through personal leadership
* Embrace change and be solution focused

## We strive to

* Continually pursue excellence and use best practice procedures
* Always act with respect and dignity toward others
* Engage in honourable conduct
* Be accountable for our actions
* Act professionally in all situations, especially when publicly representing our organisation
* Achieve our personal and work goals
* Take a proactive approach to coaching, learning and sharing knowledge

# Key responsibilities and accountabilities

* Provide a safe and secure environment for one of our breeding dogs (Brood).
* Support the brood during the birthing process to ensure the safe delivery of the litter.
* Take care of the brood and newborn litter for the first 8 weeks of age, following Guide Dogs WA guidelines for the care of newborns and early socialisation procedures.

# Skills and attributes required

* Physical capacity to safely walk and handle a large dog (up to 40kg) on a daily basis.
* Valid “C” class drivers licence with good navigational and safe driving history.
* Volunteers are required to provide evidence that they are fully vaccinated against COVID-19.
* Provide a safe and loving home for our dogs, including having allowing the dog to live and sleep inside the house.
* Have a secure fenced yard with access to an outside area.
* Able to devote time to the brood, particularly when she has a litter.
* National Police Clearance dated within the last six months (If the candidate does not possess one, it can be applied for by EverAbility during the volunteer application process).

**What we look for in a volunteer**

* Genuine interest and a passion for volunteering
* Commitment to our cause
* Enthusiasm and positivity
* Integrity
* Good judgement – knowing the difference between right and wrong, good and bad
* Reliability – willing to devote a set amount of time regularly and be punctual
* Empathy – ability to understand the plight of a particular person or situation without being judgemental
* Good communication and interpersonal skills – positive and respectful interaction with everyone
* Self-assurance – able to take constructive criticism on board to improve skills and ability to help others
* Adaptability to cope with change and a busy workplace
* Ability to convey the organisation’s message to groups and individuals

## Time and availability requirements

The time required for this role changes, with a significant amount of time needed when the brood gives birth and for approximately 8 weeks after, when the puppies are placed with Puppy Raisers. Outside of this period, Breeding Stock Carers will be expected to provide their dogs with regular exercise (up to 45 minutes walking per day), attend scheduled training sessions (average one per month) and deliver the dog to Guide Dogs WA offices or approved vets when requested for health checks, reproductive procedures or any other reason requested by Guide Dogs staff.

Please be advised that Guide Dogs WA reserves the right to remove a dog from the Breeding Program and place back into training at any time.

**How to apply**

For more information on eligibility and to submit an application, go to the link below:

<https://www.guidedogswa.com.au/get-involved/>

**Contact Person**

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Title: Volunteer Coordinator

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