

CANINE PARTNERS ADOPT A PUPPY SCHEME Q&A

1: Sponsoring a Puppy - what will I actually need to do?

Just complete the form and email it or send it back to us. This is a co-sponsorship scheme where you help to fund the training of a Canine Partners puppy, until they are matched with their future Partner.

2: What will I receive?

On becoming a sponsor, you or your gift recipient will receive a special certificate, photo, training details and toy puppy. Then, every few months, you will receive a pupdate with photos and news on how your puppy is doing. You will receive at least three pupdates over the initial 12 month subscription period and (Partnership willing) a graduation update. If you continue to support Canine Partners by regular giving we will send regular pupdates and automatically choose another puppy after graduation for you to follow. Financial supporters receive bi-annual newsletters and an annual "Partners" Magazine when printed.

3: Am I the only person sponsoring this puppy?

No. It's a co-sponsorship scheme. It costs a lot of money to breed, rear and train a Canine Partners puppy through to Partnership (£10k), so we need many people to sponsor an "Adopt a Puppy" puppy - an extended family if you like.

4: Will I meet my puppy?

You can join us and see a puppy and dogs in training at any of our Information Sessions, dates are available at www.caninepartners.co.uk. Unfortunately it is not practical for all co-sponsors to meet the puppy they sponsored, as just starting its life as a Canine Partner and will need to concentrate fully on its training if it is to succeed. But we will keep you up to date with the progress of your puppy, so you can see exactly how it is getting on.

5: How often will I receive updates about my puppy?

You will receive an update every three to four months, which includes news and pictures on your puppy.

6: Can I sponsor more than one puppy at a time or sponsor one for friends or family?

Absolutely, just fill in the form accordingly. If you want to sponsor more than one puppy or if you want to buy a gift for more than one person there are normally two puppies available for adoption, and we do introduce new puppies to the adoption scheme periodically. However, if you prefer to increase your monthly sponsorship for just one puppy, we would very gratefully accept your donation.

7: Can I name my puppy?

Your puppy is already at least a few weeks old and will have been named. Our puppies are named alphabetically and we are now on the second round of the alphabet. NB: To protect the anonymity of Puppy Parents and future Partnerships we change the puppy's name on the scheme.

8: What happens after the 18 months?

By this stage the puppy will have been through what we call basic and advanced training. Successful dogs will "graduate", a bit like going to University, and be partnered up with a disabled person. Once your first puppy has qualified we would love to offer you another puppy to sponsor, so that you can continue to help people with disabilities.

9: What happens if my puppy fails its training?

Many of the dogs that do not become full Canine Partners still perform a valuable role for the charity and become a companion dog for a disabled person with full time parental or nursing care. Or demonstration dogs; raising awareness of the charity at events around the UK.

It is unfortunate but inevitable that not all dogs that enter the training programme are ultimately partnered. This may be due to health problems that develop or that their performance during initial puppy training means they are not suited to being an assistance dog. Our puppies are continually assessed throughout the training programme and, due to the high number of criteria that we ask them to fulfil, even some that show early promise do not necessarily graduate as a Canine Partner. Canine Partner's pass rate is approximately 70% and this is comparable with other members of Assistance Dogs UK.

10: What's the money used for?

Your contribution could be used for a whole host of services, from feeding to training, to vets' bills. We receive no government funding, and rely entirely on voluntary income to deliver its services. Your generous donations will provide independence and freedom for people with disabilities. For every pound given to fund the working of the charity in 2007 - 71p was allocated to Charity Operations, 19p to Fundraising and 9p to reserves fund and governance.

11: How much does it cost to train a dog?

It costs £10,000 to train a dog from puppy to partnership, a further £10,000 training an individual to learn how to train, work with, and care for their assistance dog and support the partnership for an average 9 years before the dog retires. This includes all the costs, from breeding, through to training, matching of the partnership, the entire dog's food and vet's fees and even to finding it a home at retirement. Your sponsorship helps towards this cost and to making a partnership happen.

12: How can I pay for my Adopt a Puppy sponsorship?

The easiest way is to set up a monthly direct debit from £1 a week (£4 a month over 13 months) It couldn't be easier, you just print off our online sign-up form, or call us and we'll either send you a form by email or mail, send it to us and we will do the rest! Alternatively, you can make a one off subscription of £52 per puppy.

Please note that the adoption scheme is only available for individuals. If your company is considering naming, sponsoring a unique puppy and/or dog through advanced training, please see our corporate partnerships details at www.caninepartners.co.uk

12: When will I stop paying the direct debit?

Donations will take place on a monthly basis, and as we near the end of your puppy's training we will contact you to see if you wish to continue and we will update you on the progress of the new partnership. If at any time you should wish to cease your sponsorship, please just let us know.

13: What is Gift Aid?

Make your donation worth a third more at no extra cost to you. If you are a UK tax payer, and complete the required Gift Aid declaration (on the sponsorship form), we can reclaim the tax on any donations you have made in the last six years or make in the future, under the HM Revenue and Customs Gift Aid scheme. This increases the value of your donation by 28p for each £1 given, without costing you a penny extra. We can now only claim Gift Aid tax relief of 25p on every pound you give. However HMRC will also be operating transitional provisions for Gift Aid donations made from 6 April 2008 until 5 April 2011, playing a Government supplement of 3p on every pound you give. All you need to do is complete our Gift Aid declaration, and we do the rest. Please let us know if your tax circumstances change so we can update our records.

THANK YOU FROM PARTNERS, DOGS, PUPPIES, STAFF & VOLUNTEERS AT CANINE PARTNERS FOR YOUR SUPPORT