

**DOGS FOR BETTER LIVES
JOB DESCRIPTION**



Job Title: Certified Assistance Dog Trainer

Job Status: Full-Time, Non-Exempt

Reports to: Training Director

Location: Central Point, Oregon

Company Overview:

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 all people served. Dogs for Better Lives trains and places Assistance Dogs with clients throughout the United States and is supported by a nationwide donor base.

With more than 30 employees on one site in Southern Oregon, Dogs for Better Lives and its staff enjoy nearly 200 days of sunshine annually in Central Point, making it a destination for outdoor enthusiasts of all kinds. Located in the Rogue Valley, employees enjoy close proximity to Medford International Airport, accessibility to major hospitals, hiking trails, golf courses, and ski areas with full availability of all amenities of a big city without the congestion.

Job Summary:

The Certified Assistance Dog Trainer acquires, trains, and places Hearing Dogs, Autism Assistance Dogs, and Program Assistance Dogs with people who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have other disabilities supported by the mission of Dogs for better Lives.

Essential Duties and Responsibilities:

- Acquires dogs who meet the temperament and physical criteria for successful Assistance Dog training from shelters, pounds, and individuals.
- Trains and places Assistance Dogs with clients.
- Assists with training of employees in three-year apprentice program.
- Instructs Kennel Technicians in the proper methods of basic dog care and obedience.
- Assists with evaluation of Assistance Dog applicants after in-home interview is completed.
- Works cooperatively with other Certified Instructors and the training of their string of canines.
- Follows established procedures to ensure proper medication, inoculation, grooming and maintenance of canines' general health.
- Works in the development and maintenance of the canine training facility and quarantine kennels.
- Provides follow up with clients after placement by phone, written communication or in-home visits.
- 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 Director.

Essential Qualifications:

- Four (4) year college degree or equivalent work experience required.
- Successful completion of three-year trainer apprenticeship program at Dogs for Better Lives or Certification as a trainer through an organization accredited by ADI (Assistance Dogs International) with a minimum of 10 successful placements of dogs with clients.
- Knowledge of, and experience using, operant conditioning techniques.
- Must pass a criminal background check.

- Must be 25 years of age and have a valid Driver's License and excellent driving record.
- Certified Assistance Dog Trainers must be able to travel frequently. These trips last 5 to 10 days and involve flying and driving, day and night. Must be willing and able to travel up to 9 times a year, for durations of a week or more.
- Proficient in Microsoft Office Suite.
- 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.
- ADI Instructor Certification strongly desired.
- 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 but works 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.

Dogs for Better Lives is an Equal Opportunity Employer.