

What is a Companion Dog?



Companion Dogs improve the quality of life and autonomy of their handlers and become an important component to everyday life. Their companionship as well as abilities to aid with tasks can provide relief and reassurance to those who need it most.

Children with disabilities respond strongly to the comforting presence of a Companion Dog. A Companion Dog is an animal they can trust, a special friend and guardian, helping to overcome the difficulties they face. Adults living with a disability would also be eligible to apply for a Companion Dog, and their needs would be accessed on a case by case basis. The Companion Dog program is designed to fulfil the companionship needs of people who are disadvantaged through age, illness, disability or isolation.

Access:

A Companion Dog does not have public access rights.

Eligibility:

- A child or adult with a disability that has been assessed by Guide Dogs WA and identified as benefiting from a Companion Dog
- A demonstrated ability to care for a dog
- Is able to provide a safe and loving home
- Meets the Guide Dogs WA home assessment and handling requirements

Dog Selection Process:

- Sound temperament
- Has good basic obedience
- Engages positively with people

Matching Process:

Guide Dogs WA will selectively match a successful applicant taking into consideration the unique make up of each family, and match the dog that will suit the overall needs and complexities of the family, child or individual.

Placement:

Guide Dogs WA will initially do a pre-allocation trial placement, thereafter a two week trial placement with full support.

Successful Placement:

If the placement is successful Guide Dogs WA will transfer ownership of the dog and complete the relevant documentation.

Note: If this placement is unsuccessful the dog will be considered for the next consumer on the waitlist.