



Autism Dogs CIC



School Therapy Dog Programme

Introduction

Autism Dogs CIC offers first class canine training and behavioural skills to dog and owner. Andrew's training expertise covers a wide range of behavioural challenges that include;

- ✓ **Search and Select**
- ✓ **Dangerous dogs**
- ✓ **Puppy training**
- ✓ **Domestic pet dogs**
- ✓ **Assistance Dogs**
- ✓ **Therapy Dogs**
- ✓ **Fire Services Mascots**

Therapy Dogs

Therapy Dogs can improve the lives of people suffering from debilitating mental and physical health conditions and illnesses such as Dementia and Stroke by including animal assisted interventions as part of a holistic approach to treatment.

They can also help to improve development of literacy in children with learning difficulties or that are on the spectrum. The presence of a trained School Therapy Dog can help to develop confidence, engagement, motivation and general enjoyment of reading through the Steady Paws - **lead2read** scheme.



Therapy dogs must meet the following requirements:

- **At least 12 months old**
- **Fit and healthy**
- **Good with people of all ages**
- **Walks well on a loose lead**
- **Does not react badly to other dogs**
- **Does not react badly to distraction or noise**
- **Does not snatch at food from a hand**
- **Loves to be touched and cuddled**
- **Likes to be groomed**
- **Has good toilet habits – never going inside**
- **Patient and can sit and wait quietly for long periods**

Lead2Read - How it works

Research shows that young people particularly those on the spectrum or with learning difficulties, can become especially nervous and stressed when reading to others in a group.

Use of a Therapy Dog can enable a child to become less stressed, less self-conscious and more confident as the dogs are non-judgemental.

Therapy Dogs provide great comfort, encourage positive social behaviours, enhance self-esteem, motivate speech and inspire young people to have fun!



Lead2Read sessions should be no longer than 15 minutes.

The teacher or handler must remain in attendance at all times to manage the dog which must be kept on the lead.

The Therapy dog should be introduced to the class who will be told the dog's name. The chosen child would be sat close to the dog and handler with their book so it is easy to interact.

The teacher will use the dog's presence to encourage the child to engage in the activity. The teacher may ask the child to show the dog pictures or comment that the dog is really enjoying that part of the story. The child effectively reads to the dog and includes him in their response to the story as it progresses.

Important notice

Whilst the dog is under your care in school you are liable for any mishaps, wrong doings, accidents or damages incurred. **It is strongly recommended that you take out 3rd party liability insurance.**

Helpful tips when using your Lead2Read dog

- If the Therapy Dog falls asleep the teacher could tell the child "he is just closing his eyes so he can concentrate on the story".
- If your Therapy Dog becomes lively the teacher could tell the child "Look the dog is really enjoying you reading to him".
- At the end of the reading the child should be encouraged to stroke and pet the dog as a reward.

Training Proposal

It is proposed that the training for the dog and teacher (colleagues), be completed in 2 phases;

Phase 1

Socialisation and Basic training from 3-10 months

14 x Bi-weekly 1 hour sessions @ £50

Skills covered:

Socialising with other Dogs and People, Good Behaviour in new Environments, House training, Sit, Stay, Loose Lead, Lie Down, Recall, Off, Grooming

Phase 2

Advanced training from 10-12 months

8 x weekly 1 hour sessions @ £50 (includes minimum of 2 x sessions at your school)

Skills covered:

Retrieve, Paw, Close, Cuddle, Settle, Wait, Heel no Lead, fetch

Autism Dogs CIC, Millpool Farm, Wards Lane, Congleton

