DREAM OF HAVING A DOG BUT CAN'T MAKE IT WORK?

RAISE A SERVICE DOG PUPPY!

Enjoy having a puppy without the worry of costs, lack of experience, or your schedule!

Learn how to train a dog while doing something meaningful!

Why Volunteer with Wellness Wags?

- Dog food, veterinary care and a crate provided
- Free training classes and support provided from qualified trainers using humane and ethical methods
- Volunteering that adapts to your lifestyle—enjoy your usual routine with a puppy by your side
- Enjoy a puppy without a life long commitment to owning a dog
- Service dogs in training qualify for exemptions from "no pets" policies—for housing and public places
- Make new friends by joining a supportive puppy-raising network
- Directly impact someone in your community by helping transform a puppy into a life-changing service dog
- With your love and dedication, this puppy will grow into an amazing gift for a Nova Scotian with a disability, lifeline of independence and well-being for years to come

Link to Apply:

wellnesswags.ca/puppy-raising

APPLY NOW!

For More Information: **wellnesswags.ca**
Follow us on Socials: **@wellness.wags**

WELLNESS WAGS
ASSISTANCE DOGS

PUPPY RAISING FAQ

WELLNESS WAGS ASSISTANCE DOGS

What is puppy raising?
Puppy raising is a volunteer opportunity where you temporarily care for a future service dog during its early developmental stages. You'll be responsible for training basic cues, socializing the puppy in various public environments, and providing a safe and loving home while it grows, in hopes that it will graduate as a mobility service dog to support a Nova Scotian with a physical disability, or an autism service dog, to support a family with a child on the autism spectrum.

Who can become a puppy raiser?
We welcome any individuals or families who have the time, dedication, and the ability to expose the puppy to various public environments and social settings such as malls, grocery stores, restaurants, workplaces, schools, and events. Retired couples, young professionals, and university students all make ideal puppy raiser! Co-raising with a roommate, friend, colleague, or family member can also be arranged!

What support will I receive?
Wellness Wags provides comprehensive education and support to ensure you're well-prepared. This includes a manual, online modules, group puppy classes, 1:1 in-home training sessions, guidance from our experienced team, and covering the costs of veterinary care, supplying dog food, and a crate.

How long will I have the puppy?
Typically, you will raise the puppy from about 8-12 weeks old, until about 12 to 18 months. During this time, you'll help prepare the dog for its advanced training as a service dog.

What does puppy raising involve?
Puppy raisers are required to attend weekly puppy classes for the first few months that are critical to a puppy development, and then classes drop to bi-weekly. You'll introduce the puppy to basic cues like sit, stay, and come, as well as house training, and loose leash walking. Socialization is a major part of puppy raising, meaning the dog shouldn't be left at home on a daily basis, but rather should accompany you to work or school, as well as in public spaces like stores, restaurants or other various errands. As the puppy gains confidence, it will be important to occasionally expose them to crowds and public transit, and other novel experiences other animals, grocery carts, or mascots, just to name a few!

What is the benefit of volunteering as a puppy raiser?
By becoming a puppy raiser, you'll gain valuable experience in dog training, contribute to your community, and enjoy the companionship of a puppy almost everywhere you go, without the long-term commitment or cost of dog ownership. You'll also be part of an amazing journey in helping a dog transform someone's life.

www.wellnesswags.ca
902-903-3700
info@wellnesswags.ca
Mount Uniacke, Nova Scotia , B0N 1Z0, Canada

Scan me to learn more!

What breed of puppy would I be raising?
Wellness Wags primarily uses Golden Retrievers and Labrador Retrievers from our own breeding program, in collaboration with other service dog organizations who prioritize the same qualities of health, behaviour and temperament for this type of job. Occasionally, we may use other breeds if they are donated to our program.

Do I need previous experience with dogs?
No prior experience is necessary! Wellness Wags will provide you with the training classes, 1:1 support, and resources needed to succeed in puppy raising.

Can I have other pets while I puppy raise?
Yes! Any other dogs in the home must be social and friendly with other dogs, and will be assessed at the home visit. Cats and other small pets are not an issue.

Can I cuddle with and have fun with the puppy?
Yes! All puppies need love and play! There are a few specific rules to follow, but when the harness comes off and the dog is “off duty”, it gets to do mostly anything else a regular pet dog would do.

Do I need a backyard?
No! Many puppy raisers live in apartments or condos! Learning how to go to the bathroom on leash is an important skill for the puppies to learn, and usually these raisers excel in this area of expertise!

Do I need to car?
No, but all puppy raisers should have access to a ride, a car to borrow, or be willing to take a taxi/Uber as needed. All puppy raisers must commit to attending vet visits (routine and emergency), and attending puppy classes in various transit accessible locations around HRM. Our dogs are not permitted to run beside bikes. Puppy raisers are responsible for getting large bags of dog food home from puppy classes.

Do I need to supply anything for the puppy?
Although Wellness Wags provides the most expensive components, puppy raisers are responsible for providing basic dog supplies: a fabric martingale collar, leash, treats, toys, poop bags, grooming supplies, dog bowls, a dog bed or mat, and a treat pouch or fanny pack. Some raisers may already own suitable equipment, while others may have other pets that require specific types of toys or beds . Due to the unique requirements and preferences of each home and raiser—whether it’s colour, pattern, size, or shape—you're encouraged to choose items that suit your personal preferences and style, as long as they are safe for a large breed dog. You can buy new, used, thrift, share or borrow these items, and they remain yours when the puppy is returned. They can be used for a future pet... or your second Wellness Wags puppy!

What happens after I return the dog for advanced training?
If your puppy is successfully placed as a service dog, you will be invited to a graduation to meet their new partner. Alternative career paths may include being chosen as a breeder to help our mission by creating the next generation, or pursue a better suited job elsewhere! If the puppy is chosen as a breeder or gets disqualified from the program, the raiser may be given the opportunity to adopt the dog to enjoy pet life!

How do I sign up?
If you’re interested in becoming a puppy raiser, please fill out the application through our website!
Head to www.wellnesswags.ca/puppy-raising or scan the QR code below!

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