



DOGGY DORM HOST

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WELLNESS WAGS ASSISTANCE DOGS

Doggy Dorms: Volunteer Opportunity

Location: Mount Uniacke, Nova Scotia

About Wellness Wags

Wellness Wags Assistance Dogs is a Nova Scotia-based nonprofit that breeds, raises, and trains assistance dogs for people in our community with disabilities, free of charge. Our programs include Autism Service Dogs for children, Mobility Service Dogs for individuals with physical disabilities, and Facility Dogs that support settings like hospitals, advocacy centres, and community organizations.

Our training philosophy is rooted in trust, respect, and humane, modern practices that prioritize each dog's well-being, confidence, and individuality. From puppyhood to placement, our work is powered by community volunteers, donors, and strong community partnerships.

Doggy Dorm Overview

Help support future assistance dogs during the final stage of their journey before graduation!

We are looking for caring and dependable volunteers to join our Doggy Dorms program by providing temporary homes in **MOUNT UNIACKE** for dogs in advanced training. Doggy Dorm Hosts welcome a service dog in training into their home for a 2-3 month placement, providing day-to-day care, structure, exercise, downtime, and consistency while the dog continues working with our advanced training team through scheduled sessions and outings each week.

Doggy Dorm Hosts play an important role in helping dogs generalize their skills in a real home environment while also giving them the opportunity to rest, reset, and simply enjoy being part of a family.



Dogs in the Doggy Dorms program are already:

- House & Crate trained
- Socialized in public settings
- Well into their service dog training journey
- Comfortable with routines and structure

Wellness Wags Provides:

- All dog food and essential supplies
- All Veterinary care
- Ongoing training guidance and support
- Scheduled advanced training sessions and outings for the dog
- Continued communication throughout the placement



How to Apply

Scan the QR code or visit wellnesswags.ca/volunteer and submit a Volunteer Application Form.

Be sure to select the "Doggy Dorm" volunteer option when applying!

Please review our FAQ sheet here!





Doggy Dorm Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

What would my role as a Doggy Dorm Host be?

Doggy Dorm Hosts provide the dog's day-to-day care and home routine outside of scheduled training sessions. This includes maintaining a calm, safe, and structured home environment, following the dog's established routines and rules, and supporting consistency with training expectations. Hosts are also responsible for providing appropriate exercise, enrichment, rest, and downtime while helping dogs continue practicing good manners and appropriate behaviour in everyday life. Wellness Wags will coordinate scheduled pick-ups and drop-offs with Doggy Dorm hosts for the dogs to continue receiving formal advanced training sessions and outings. Doggy Dorm hosts are also **required to submit a short reporting form on a weekly basis** to keep us updated!

How long is the commitment?

Doggy Dorm placements are typically 2-3 month rotational commitments. Hosts welcome one dog into their home for a short period while the dog continues advanced training with the Wellness Wags team. As dogs graduate or move through the program, new dogs may rotate into Doggy Dorm homes depending on their availability!

Where can I be located?

Doggy Dorm hosts must be located in Mount Uniacke, Nova Scotia, or very close by, as dogs attend regular training sessions and outings with the Wellness Wags advanced training team based in Mount Uniacke. Part of your role as a doggy dorm host is dropping the dog off for scheduled training sessions on East Uniacke Road.

How often do dogs attend training?

Dogs in the Doggy Dorms program typically attend approximately 3+ training sessions or outings per week with the Wellness Wags advanced training team. Hosts should have enough flexibility in their schedule to accommodate planned pick-ups and drop-offs during weekdays, evenings, or weekends as needed.

What kind of schedule do hosts need?

We're looking for volunteers who can provide a relatively consistent home environment during the week and flexibility for scheduled training outings, pick-ups, and drop-offs during daytime hours, evenings, or weekends. Retirees, work-from-home individuals, stay-at-home parents, and people with flexible schedules are often especially well suited for this role.

What happens if I go on vacation or need time away?

We understand that life happens! If a Doggy Dorm Host has upcoming travel plans, vacations, or temporary schedule changes, Wellness Wags works closely with a network of reliable Puppy Sitters to coordinate support or temporary care options when needed. Before taking on a 2-3 month placement, open communication and advance notice for any time you will be away are greatly appreciated so we can plan accordingly!

Can I have pets or children in the home?

Yes! Friendly, well-behaved pets and respectful children are welcome, as long as the environment remains safe, calm, and structured for the service dog in training. Homes with reactive dogs are not conducive to being a Doggy Dorm Host.



What support does Wellness Wags provide?

Wellness Wags provides all dog food and supplies, veterinary care and coverage, ongoing training guidance, and continued support throughout the placement. Dogs continue participating in scheduled advanced training sessions and outings with the Wellness Wags team during the week, and volunteers remain in regular communication with staff to ensure everyone feels supported. Doggy Dorm Hosts are never expected to navigate the experience alone, and our team is always available to provide guidance, answer questions, and help troubleshoot challenges that may arise.

Do I need previous dog experience?

No previous experience with dogs is required to become a Doggy Dorm Host. Wellness Wags provides ongoing guidance and support throughout the placement to help volunteers feel confident and prepared.

We are primarily looking for caring, dependable homes that are committed to following our training guidelines and maintaining consistency in daily routines and expectations. It is important that everyone in the home is on the same page and able to support the same structure for the dog throughout their placement.

Consistency is a key part of a dog's learning and development. When expectations are clear and steady across all handlers, it helps the dog build reliable habits that will carry into their future working life. This ensures they are well-prepared to transition smoothly to their eventual client and can perform their role with confidence and clarity. Our goal is to set each dog up for success by creating a stable, supportive environment where learning is consistent and reinforced throughout their training journey!

How to Apply

Please visit wellnesswags.ca/volunteer and submit a Volunteer Application Form. Be sure to select the "Doggy Dorm" volunteer option when applying!

