

# Volunteer Roles for Guide Assistance Dogs

## Puppy educators

If you have the time, dedication and love to provide a safe and positive environment and training for an RSB pup, puppy education might be for you!

Puppy Educators come from a variety of backgrounds, including (but not restricted to) stay at home parents, those employed (with permission from employer if pup to attend workplace) or those retired. If you already have pets in the household we are happy to conduct a quick temperament assessment to check for suitability.

Puppy Educators (PE's) will be caring for the pup from usually 8 weeks of age, up to approx. 14-18 months old when the dog will begin its official training as a Guide or Assistance Dog.

Puppy Educators need to:

- Undergo a police check, interview and property inspection
- Follow RSB guidelines in relation to training, diet and looking after the pup
- Be available for puppy classes with our Puppy Education Supervisors. Pups under one year old will be required to come to two group training sessions a month, with the option of more non-compulsory dog distraction classes
- Have a driver's license and access to a car to transport the dog to vet visits and classes.
- Be able to take the dog to an RSB approved veterinary clinic, including some compulsory visits to Tea Tree Gully Veterinary Clinic
- Prior to 4 months, not leave the puppy at home alone for more than half an hour a day, and when older no longer than 2 hours.
- Have the puppy live and sleep inside the house.
- Be patient, consistent, dedicated and willing to have fun!
- Have a secure fenced back yard, or access to an outdoor area.
- Be willing to help us spread the word about the RSB at Public Relations and Fundraising Events.
- Understand that this pup will need to come back when it is time for formal training, as the pup is destined for great things.



The RSB and the Puppy Education Supervisors are there to provide you with support and guidance by:

- Arranging group training classes and outings in a variety of environments
- Providing you with food and equipment for your dog.
- Covering veterinary costs.
- Supporting you through the training of your puppy
- Finding a home for your puppy when you are on holiday.
- Phone and email support during office hours
- Emergency support for true emergencies at all times
- Updates on your pup on how it progresses through formal training

## Emergency boarders

Emergency boarders are required for temporary care of our puppies, dogs in training and client dogs. Emergency boarders may look after the pups when their puppy educators go on holidays, or are unable to look after the dog for a short amount of time. Emergency boarding times will vary from a day or two, a weekend to many weeks.

Our emergency boarders are our part time puppy educators and all volunteers receive the same initial training.

As an emergency boarder you need to;

- Undergo a police check, interview and property inspection
- Have a secure fenced back yard.
- Have access to a car to transport the dog to vet visits
- Have a puppy living and sleeping inside the house.
- Not leave the dog alone for more than it is comfortable, this will depend on training and age of pup, and is never for longer than 2 hours.
- Be willing to welcome a variety of different dogs into your home with loving arms.

The RSB are there to provide you with support and guidance by:

- Providing you with initial training, and further training should you like
- Providing all food and equipment for the dog.
- Covering veterinary costs.
- Phone and email support during office hours
- Emergency support for true emergencies at all times



## Bed and Breakfast boarders

Bed and Breakfast boarders see the final stage of the dogs training. B&B's are required to drop off the dog to the Gilles Plains office between 7.30am–9am and pick the dog up between 4.30pm–6pm from Monday to Friday. For this reason, most B&B's live close to our Gilles Plains office; however, if you are passing our office on your daily journey, then this role may be for you!

As a Bed and Breakfast Boarder you will need;

- Be able to take an RSB training dog into your home for 5-6 months.
- Be able to drop off and pick up the dog from the Gilles Plains Office daily from Monday-Friday
- Have access to a car to transport the dog to the office and any vet visits.
- Have a secure fenced back yard, or access to an outdoor area
- Not leave the dog at home alone for more than 2 hours a day.
- Have the dog live and sleep inside the house.
- Be patient, consistent, dedicated and willing to have fun!
- Be willing to help us spread the word about the RSB at PR events.

The RSB and the Puppy Education Supervisors are there to provide you with support and guidance by:

- Providing you with food and equipment for your dog.
- Covering veterinary costs.
- Supporting you through the training of your dog
- Phone and email support during office hours
- Emergency support for true emergencies at all times



## Brood Bitch holders

Brood Bitch holders look after female breeding dogs in their home. They are responsible for the health and welfare of the dog, transporting the dog to any appointments required during the breeding process (eg vet visits, matings), as well as maintaining good obedience and social manners.

Generally, our brood bitches have completed their puppy education training and have been selected for their great health and temperament to continue as a RSB Brood Bitch.

If their home and lifestyle allows, Brood Bitch Carers will have the brood bitch whelp in their home with the assistance of the RSBGDS staff and nominated vet and look after these newborn pups until they are eight weeks of age.

The RSB supply all essential equipment and provides comprehensive advice, educational information and support throughout and all feeding and veterinary expenses are also covered

As a Brood Bitch Holder you will need;

- Have access to a car to transport the dog to any vet visits.

- Able to devote time to a bitch, particularly when she has a litter
- Have the dog live and sleep inside the house
- Have a secure fenced back yard, or access to an outdoor area.
- Be calm, caring and willing to have fun!

The RSB and the Puppy Education Supervisors are there to provide you with support and guidance by:

- Providing you with food and equipment for your dog.
- Covering veterinary costs.
- Supporting you through the training of your dog
- Phone and email support during office hours
- Emergency support for true emergencies at all times



## Stud dog holders

Stud dog holders are required to look after the male breeding dogs in their home. Generally our stud dogs have completed their puppy education training and have been selected due to great temperament and health to become a stud dog.

Stud dog holders are responsible for the health and welfare of the dog, transporting the dog to any appointments (eg. Vet visits, matings etc), as well as maintaining obedience and social manners. Studs are used from as young as 14 months and can continue to sire pups whilst they remain fertile and healthy to do so, typically around 7-8 years.

The RSB supplies all essential equipment and food, and covers all veterinary expenses as well as providing comprehensive advice information and support throughout the dog's time on the breeding program.

As a Stud Dog Holder you will need;

- Have access to a car to transport the dog to any vet visits.
- Have ability and time to devote to a stud
- Have the dog live and sleep inside the house
- Have a secure fenced back yard, or access to an outdoor area.
- Be persistent, dedicated and willing to have fun!

The RSB and the Puppy Education Supervisors are there to provide you with support and guidance by:

- Providing you with food and equipment for your dog.
- Covering veterinary costs.
- Supporting you through the training of your dog
- Phone and email support during office hours
- Emergency support for true emergencies at all times