

Dogs 4 Dementia Pilot Expression of Interest Form



*Please Note: This form is **not** a final application form for a Dementia Assistance Dog. This package is to give you information on our pilot and to provide HammondCare information to assess if you would be a suitable candidate for the Dogs 4 Dementia Pilot Project and to then be sent an application form.*

If after reading the documentation you require further information, please visit the website www.Dogs4Dementia.com.au or contact us on (02) 8437 7355.

Please send this completed Expression of Interest Form to:

Dementia Centre, Pallister House
Greenwich Hospital
97-115 River Road
Greenwich NSW 2065

W: www.Dogs4Dementia.com.au E: dogs@hammond.com.au P: 02 8437 7355

Applicant Contact Detail

Name:

Date of birth:

Address:

Suburb:

State:

Postcode:

Home telephone:

Mobile:

Email address:

Preferred correspondence method:

Email

Post

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Dogs 4 Dementia Project Overview

Dogs 4 Dementia is an innovative pilot program designed to bring together 8 assistance dogs with 8 carers of people living with dementia in the community. It will test and evaluate whether support from specially trained assistance dogs can improve the quality of life for a person with dementia and their carer and allow them to remain living at home for longer. The assistance dogs will be trained to perform key tasks according to the individual needs of the couple. We will be building on work done by the Dementia Dog Project in Scotland.

Definition: A Dementia Assistance Dog is trained over a two year period to assist individuals living with Dementia and their carers by providing physical and emotional support to both. These dogs increase the independence and self-esteem of recipients and are trained to provide home support, community support and community access support.

Intended for: These dogs are trained to support their recipient in their home and community environments. They are trained to travel on public transport and support the recipient in public settings.

Expectations: Each Dementia Assistance Dog will require re-testing **each year** in order to maintain it's ability to function and be licensed as an *Dementia Assistance Dog. Assistance Dogs Australia our partners will support you and your dog in this process. However, we also require commitment from the recipient to follow specific guidelines to ensure the dog's ongoing wellbeing is provided and training is maintained.

**As per the required criteria of Assistance Dogs International –
Governing Body for all Assistance Animals World-wide.*

Our partner Assistance Dogs Australia (ADA) trains Labrador and Golden Retrievers to enhance the quality of life of people living with dementia and their families. People are always astounded with the skills of a specially trained dog but as with all dog training it takes patience, persistence, dedication and consistency on the part of the handler.

A dog is not the answer for everyone, so please consider the following carefully before filling in this expression of interest form for a Dementia Assistance Dog. It is important that the whole family is in agreement and is fully aware of the implications of owning a dog.

A number of considerations need to be taken into account before owning a dog.

It may help you to think about the following...

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Do you have the time and energy?

The dog is well trained and well socialised, however, you need to practice skills and reinforce behaviours with a dog every day. It will be your responsibility to continue the training that we started to maintain the high standards of your dog being able to assist you.

- Can you contribute the physical and mental energy required particularly in the first 6-12 months?
- All dogs in order to stay fit and healthy must be walked a minimum of twice daily for at least 30-40 minutes on each occasion. Is someone willing to exercise the dog?

Is this the right time for you?

The first year requires a great deal of effort and you will need to make sure you have the time to dedicate to develop your skills, the dog's skills and the bond and communication between you.

- What demands do you have on your time over the next 12-18 months?
- Do you have the time to commit to working with a new dog?

Are your expectations realistic?

Living with a Dementia Assistance Dog can be a life changing experience with many advantages, however, as with any partnership it does not happen overnight. To reap the rewards there will be some challenges and frustrations to overcome. You will have to make some changes to accommodate your new dog, so please consider:

- Can you plan and think ahead in order to avoid problems?
- Are you prepared to take on the role of "leader" with all the responsibilities that this entails?

How will having a dog affect family and friends?

- How will the other people in your life feel about having a dog around constantly?
- What areas of life may be affected positively or negatively?

Are my current living arrangements suitable?

Think about the possible modifications you may need to make...

- Is your current housing suitable and safe for a dog?
- Will the dog have enough room to exercise and toilet safely?
- Are you or someone else prepared to exercise the dog in wet weather?
- Are there others who can be relied upon to help with the dog if needed?

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Can I live with a dog?

Living with a dog involves some not so pleasant tasks. If you are fanatical about cleanliness then think about...

- Who is going to pick up poo, both at home and out on walks?
- How will you deal with wounds and accidents?
- Dogs lose hair and require regular grooming...Who will do this?
- Slobber on your clothes...can you deal with this?
- Dogs can be attracted to things and potentially pull.

We do not intend this to discourage you from expressing your interest but we do strongly suggest that you consider these issues and how they would affect you. If you honestly decide that the benefits of having a dog outweigh the challenges then we welcome your expression of interest.

Expectations: Providing the dog with a secure loving home, with a commitment to maintain the quality of training throughout the dog's life. Requirements of health and wellbeing are maintained including exercise and mental stimulation to support the benefits that accompany a well-trained Dementia Dog.

CRITERIA FOR PARTICIPANTS

1. Participants must have full support from other family members, or people living in the same household. This involves facilitating the relationship between the dog and participant and in many cases having limited direct interaction with the dog themselves.
2. The participants can be any age. However, there must be a designated full time carer and a person who has a formal diagnosis of dementia and they are living in the community.
3. The participant plus any family members who have direct access to the dog must not have any allergies to dogs.
4. The participant or family member needs to be able to provide care and all requirements of an active large breed dog (Vet, food, financially, exercise etc...) While the project will support these costs for the first year of participation, from then on the costs will be borne by the participants.
5. An able bodied adult needs to be responsible for the dog at all times.
6. Participants must be in a position to adapt their lifestyle and accommodation to owning a dog.
7. Participants do not have another dog in the home.

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Please answer the following questions:

1. Are you caring for a person living with a clinical diagnosis of Dementia?

Yes No

2. What is the full diagnosis and what was the date of onset?

(use additional pages if required)

3. Please tell us about your day to day living i.e. own home with spouse/full time carer, living alone or living in residential care

4. Does your family support your interest to apply for a Dementia Assistance Dog?

Yes No

5. How do you feel a Dementia Assistance Dog may assist you?

(use an additional page if required)

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6. Do you currently have a dog living in your home?

Yes No

7. Do you have any other medical conditions/disabilities other than dementia?

Yes No

If so please describe:

Acknowledgement and Rights:

I _____ (name) acknowledge that HammondCare assesses expression of interests on his or her merits and following this assessment HammondCare will have the right at their discretion to advise you that you are not suitable to apply for a Dementia Assistance Dog.

All applicants personal information is treated as strictly confidential and only those with a need to know have access to this information. All applicants are protected by HammondCare's Privacy Policy. HammondCare complies with the NSW Privacy and Personal Information Act 1998.

I agree that all information provided to HammondCare will be complete and accurate.

Full Name:

Signature: _____

Date: _____