



WESTERN AUSTRALIAN
ASSISTANCE AND THERAPY DOGS

WAAT Dogs – Welcome Pack and Application



WESTERN AUSTRALIAN
ASSISTANCE AND THERAPY DOGS

WAAT Dogs is a not-for-profit organisation providing empowerment, support, training and advice for those requiring assistance dogs and therapy dogs in Western Australia.

Please read this 'Welcome Pack' and complete the relevant 'Application Form' if you are interested in being part of the WAAT Dogs Community.



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What type of dog do I need?

It is important that we direct you to the program right for you. Within the industry that can be various terms used to describe dogs who aid people. Within WAAT Dogs we use the following definitions:

Assistance Dogs:

An Assistance Dog is a dog which has been trained specifically to help a person with a disability, medical or health condition. Within WAAT Dogs, all teams are encouraged to work towards passing the WA, Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural (DLGSC) Public Access Test.

Therapy Dogs:

A Therapy Dog is a dog that takes part in therapy interventions that are led by a qualified allied health professional. Therapy Dogs not able to gain public access rights in Australia.

Visiting/Facility Dogs:

A Facility Dog is a dog that is trained to work in a specific facility or type of facility like a residential aged care home. The dog may or may not live on-site. A Visitation Dog is a dog belonging to a volunteer, who trains the dog to visit residential, health or educational facilities to bring enjoyment to the clients or students. Visiting dogs are not able to gain public access rights in Australia.

Emotional Support

Dogs:

An Emotional Support dog is an dog that provides informal support for a person with a diagnosed mental illness or condition. Emotional Support dogs are not able to gain public access rights in Australia, unless they meet the standard required of an Assistance Dog (see above).

QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE • AUSTRALIA • CANINE COMPARISONS			
	ASSISTANCE DOG	THERAPY DOG	COMPANION PET DOG
FULL PUBLIC ACCESS (with DISABLED HANDLER)	✓	✗	✗
WHILE WORKING, EXPOSED TO DIVERSE EXPERIENCES, ENVIRONMENTS & PEOPLE	✓	✓	✗
MAY LIVE WITH THEIR DISABLED HANDLER (Even with a NO PETS POLICY)	✓	✗	✗
SPECIFICALLY TASK TRAINED TO ASSIST ONE PERSON WITH THEIR DISABILITY	✓	✗	✗
PROVIDES EMOTIONAL SUPPORT & COMFORT FOR MANY PEOPLE	✗	✓	✗

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Please note: 'Emotional Support Animals' are NOT RECOGNISED in AUSTRALIA



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WAAT Dogs for ASSISTANCE Dogs

At WAAT Dogs we support people with disabilities, medical or health conditions receive services from an Assistance Dog.

Who is eligible:

WAAT Dogs accepts applications from individuals of all ages, with a disability, medical or health need which may warrant the services from an Assistance Dog. Individuals do not need to be receiving government support (NDIS, Disability Support Pension) to be eligible for WAAT Dogs services. Individuals must reside within WA. For WAAT Dogs, individuals who require a dog for public access work (ie: in shopping centres, hospitals, movies, public transport) are referred to as Assistance Animal teams. If the dog is not required for public access work (i.e.: support at home, dog-friendly places such as walks, dog beaches) please refer to 'Emotional Support Dogs' below.

Services for Assistance Dogs:

Generally speaking, there are two paths that people use to get an Assistance Dog, Owner-Training or an Organisation Dog.

Owner-Training – means that the individual and/or family currently own the dog or intend the dog at the commencement of their training. The dog will live with the individual and/or family, and they will complete training under the guidance of a WAAT Dogs trainer. All costs incurred by the dog during training including purchasing (if required), training, food, vet etc... are the responsibility of the individual and/or family

Organisation Dog – this is where the organisation (WAAT Dogs) has purchased the dog, and it lives with registered volunteers within the WAAT Dogs program until they are suitably matched to a handler who needs them. Dogs may complete all or only part of their training, before being handed over to their potential match depending on the individuals' circumstances. All costs incurred by the dog during training (prior to handover) are the responsibility of WAAT Dogs.

Breeds of Dogs:

Within WA, all types of dogs (that are not banned breeds) may have the potential to be an Assistance Dog. WAAT Dogs trains all their teams with the intention of passing the WA DCITS Public Access Test. Dogs can begin training from as early as puppyhood and during their adult life. Generally speaking, older dogs (8years +) may not be suitable to commence training for the first time as they may find the requirements too difficult, however, this is general advice and may not apply to all dogs.



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WAAT Dogs for THERAPY Dogs

At WAAT Dogs we support therapists and professionals to train and work with their own dogs as 'Therapy Dogs'.

Who is eligible:

WAAT Dogs accepts applications for therapy dogs from a wide range of professionals including but not exclusively: Occupational Therapists, Physiotherapists, Psychologists, Speech Therapists, Counsellors, Chaplains, Dentists, Doctors, Specialists, Social Workers, Art Therapists, Music Therapists etc... Individuals must reside within WA.

Services for Therapy Dogs:

Individuals who wish to work with their dog in a therapeutic setting either usually have a dog in mind or intend to purchase one. WAAT Dogs can provide both training support and 'assessment'.

Training for Therapy Dogs – this is for a professional who already has a dog they think may be suited as a therapy dog with some training or intends to purchase a dog to train as a 'Therapy Dog'. Trainers can help professionals guide a young dog's journey so that when they are old enough, they can commence 'work' or help older dogs prepare to enter the workplace.

Assessment and Qualification of Therapy Dogs – within Australia there is no standardised test or assessment certifying 'Therapy Dogs' to enter workplace. However, best practice recommends that dogs who intend to 'work' be assessed as suitable to complete their role, and that their handler/professional has done personal professional development to safely include an dog in their workplace. Throughout the year WAAT Dogs offers various 'courses' which enables professionals to gain learning on how to successfully integrate and run 'Animal-Assisted Therapy' and the dogs are also assessed over multiple days to provide an 'assessment' of their capabilities.

Breeds of Dogs:

Within WA, all types of dogs (that are not banned breeds) may have the potential to be a Therapy Dog. Dogs can begin training from as early as puppyhood and during their adult life. Generally speaking, older dogs (8years +) may not be suitable to commence training for the first time as they may find the requirements too difficult, however, this is general advice and may not apply to all dogs. Therapy Dog work can be extremely testing for dogs, and therefore many dogs despite having beautiful temperaments may not be assessed as suitable to work.



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WAAT Dogs for VISITING/FACILITY Dogs

At WAAT Dogs we can support members of the public who wish to take their dogs into places such as hospitals, schools, aged-care facilities as volunteer teams. As a training organisation, our focus is on supporting members of the public with training support and/or 'assessment' of the dog's potential to fulfil this role happily. WAAT Dogs does not arrange volunteer visits with organisations and does not provide insurance cover for people who take their own dogs out to such places. There are various organisations within Perth who provide these services such as 'Animal Companions', 'Story Dogs', 'Delta Society'.

Who is eligible:

WAAT Dogs is happy to help provide training support and advice to a member of the public who wishes to take their dog into places such as hospitals, schools, aged-care facilities etc...

Services for Visiting/Facility Dogs:

Individuals who wish to work with their dog in by taking them to places as noted above, either usually have a dog in mind or intend to purchase one.

Training for Visiting/Facility Dogs – WAAT Dogs can support people with training advice and support sessions for members of the public who wish to use their dog for this purpose. The purpose of training will be to ensure your dog has a suitable temperament, personality and behaviour to fulfill their role happily and comfortable.

Breeds of Dogs and Ages:

Within WA, all types of dogs (that are not banned breeds) may have the potential to be a Visiting/Facility Dog. Dogs can begin training from as early as puppyhood and during their adult life. Generally speaking, older dogs (8years +) may not be suitable to commence training for the first time as they may find the requirements too difficult, however, this is general advice and may not apply to all dogs. Visting/Facility Dog work can be extremely testing for dogs, and therefore many dogs despite having beautiful temperaments may not be assessed as suitable to work.



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WAAT Dogs for Emotional Support Dogs

At WAAT Dogs we can support members of the public who require an emotional support dog. If they require their dog to accompany them to public spaces such as inside shopping centres, hospitals, doctors' appointments etc... they will need to pursue the 'Assistance Dog' pathway.

If you only require support at home or in dog-friendly places such as going for walks and dog-friendly cafés, then we can assist you with training sessions to help you train your dog to support you at home.

Who is eligible:

WAAT Dogs is happy to help provide training support and advice to a member of the public who wishes for their dog to support them at home.

Services for Emotional Support Dogs:

Training for Emotional Support Dogs – WAAT Dogs can support people with training advice and support sessions for members of the public who wish to use their dog for this purpose. The purpose of training will be to ensure your dog has a suitable temperament, personality and behaviour to aid their individual(s) at home.

Breeds of Dogs and Ages:

Dogs can begin training from as early as puppyhood and during their adult life. Generally speaking, older dogs (8years +) may not be suitable to commence training for the first time as they may find the requirements too difficult, however, this is general advice and may not apply to all dogs.



Schedule of Supports and Costs of Services

WAAT Dogs currently has 'Trainers' and 'Therapy' Staff.

Trainers Supports and Costs:

1:1 Training Sessions – these are sessions run by one of our trainers and are usually for 1hour. This may be for the purpose of training an 'Assistance', 'Therapy', 'Visiting/Facility' or 'Emotional Support' Dog, Training sessions can take place within your home, a park, or suitable community location that you decide with the trainer. Each trainer has a travel radius. Services provided within their travel radius do not incur an additional 'travel charge'. Services that occur outside of this travel radius may incur a 'travel charge'. Some trainers may be able to offer telehealth services.

Cost: \$150/hour

Group Training Sessions – these are sessions run by one of our trainers and are usually for 1hour. Group sessions are most often for the purpose of training assistance dogs but may be open to other types of dogs depending on the location of the group. Set group sessions may have up to 6 dogs present. Individuals and their dogs will be required to travel to the set location to participate in the group training:

Cost: \$65/hour

Therapy Supports and Costs:

Occupational Therapy – WAAT Dogs currently has Occupational Therapists who may be able to offer the following services:

- Applications to the NDIS for Assistance Animal funding
- Information/Advice sessions regarding Assistance Dogs and the process to take
- Report Writing
- Telehealth Support and Services for the above.

Cost: \$190/hour. All OT services are billed at the hourly rate of \$190/hour. If the therapist is required to travel to provide the service, then a travel charge is also applicable at \$97/hour (or part thereof) and kilometre reimbursement of \$0.99/km travelled.



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IMPORTANT to NOTE – All TEAMS AND CLIENTS

- WAAT Dogs is a not-for-profit organization, run predominantly by volunteers. These individuals kindly give up their time and efforts to help people who need Assistance and Therapy dogs to achieve their goals. Disrespectful, abusive, and personal attacks on any member of the WAAT Dogs team will not be tolerated.
- WAAT Dogs maintains a strong focus on maintaining dog welfare. If a WAAT Dogs member of staff notes a welfare concern with your dog, you will be notified and appropriate action will need to take place in order to continue receiving WAAT Dogs services. Such welfare concerns may include (but not exclusively): overweight, un-managed skin conditions, allergies, or handling practices which may incur fear, or injury to a dog.
- WAAT Dogs enforces only 'force-free' training practices. Teams who are noted to use aversive equipment or handling techniques will be notified and if it continues may be removed from the relevant program.
- Sessions may be cancelled by the client/participant with up to 48 hours' notice either via phone or email with no financial cost incurred. Sessions that are cancelled with less than 48 hours' notice may at the discretion of WAAT Dogs incur the full scheduled service fee. Sessions which are cancelled by WAAT Dogs will not be charged.
- WAAT Dogs adheres to a strict privacy and confidentiality policy where all personal information including details of sessions, contact information, etc will only be accessed by WAAT Dog staff as necessary for the provision of services. Information will only be shared with other supporting professions with my or the WAAT Dogs chairpersons expressed permission.
- WAAT Dogs welcomes all feedback and encourages you to first discuss any complaints with your respective WAAT Dog contact. In the case of a complaint/grievance should you feel this has been unresolved with your WAAT Dog contact, please contact: feedback@waatdogs.org.au
- **Costs for services are due upon invoice (unless otherwise specified). If insufficient funds are available through a third-party organisation such as the NDIS or similar, the primary handler (over 18) or family will be liable for the cost of services provided.**
- Engaging in WAAT Dogs services will possibly/likely include the presence and engagement with a dog. This carries an inherent risk when working with a living animal who will make choices. While best efforts will be made to preserve safety, there is still a risk of accident or injury when engaging with animals.
- If you are engaging with WAAT Dogs for any purpose with your own dog you will be required to provide a 'vet clearance' certificate, an example letter that you can take to your preferred vet has been included within this pack (refer to page 31). During training if a trainer notices any concerns regarding your dog's health and/or welfare, we may pause training until such concerns have been investigated and/or resolved.



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APPLYING FOR ASSISTANCE DOG SERVICES

Steps:

1. All teams requiring any assistance dog services will be required to fill in an 'Assistance Animal' Application form and send in a vet clearance form.
2. Teams will also be asked to make themselves a Profile on our Booking software (ProPet) using the following link: <https://waatdogs.propetware.com/customerLogin>
3. Email your completed application form and vet certificate to: enquiries@waatdogs.org.au
4. Optional: A letter from a GP or similar, outlining the disability, medical or health condition warranting the support of an Assistance Dog.
5. Once received a member of the team will be in contact to arrange your next step. Group sessions can be booked in via your ProPet login. Individual sessions are required to be booked through the Admin office.

For teams who already have a dog to be trained: your first session will likely be a training session to see what areas need to be targeted in training

For teams who do not already have a dog and are looking for a WAAT Dog trained dog: your first session will be with either a trainer or therapist to identify your needs

For teams who would like to seek NDIS funding for an Assistance Dog and;

- a. Have their own dog – you will need to complete a therapy services application form and also a training assessment of their dog
- b. Would like to purchase a fully trained dog – you will need to complete a therapy services application form and the process may include a home assessment.

Using ProPet:

- WAAT Dogs will be required to book you in for individual training session to ensure you are booked in with a local and suitable trainer
- You can use your ProPet software to book yourself into any upcoming Group Sessions



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Application Form for Assistance Dog Services:

Preferred Pronouns:	
Client Name: <i>Person with a Disability. Medical or Health Condition</i>	
Date of Birth:	
Address:	
Phone Contact:	
Email Address:	

Diagnosed Condition	<i>Please outline the reason and need for an Assistance Dog?</i>
Impact on Training	<i>Please outline if there are any things which may impact/occur during training? E.g.: Seizures, Diabetic Shock, Fainting, PTSD, Agoraphobia...?</i>
Assistance Dog Help	<i>How do you see an Assistance Dog helping you?</i>

Do you have your own dog that you would like assessed for suitability to become an Assistance Dog?

YES (please fill in the next section)

/

NO (skip to page 14)



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DOG DETAILS:

Registered Name:	
Date of Birth:	
Breed:	
Weight:	
Colour:	
Sex/Gender:	
Desexed:	
Microchip Number:	
Registering Shire:	
Vaccination Details:	

Training Completed to Date:	<i>Please outline the training you have completed to date?</i>
Dog's Strengths	<i>Please outline what you see as your dog's strengths?</i>
Areas to Target in Training	<i>Please outline what areas you feel may need targeting in training?</i>



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Invoicing Information:

Send Invoices to:

Checklist/Agreement (Please Initial):

I have read and agree to the points on "IMPORTANT TO NOTE – ALL TEAMS" on Page 10	
I have read and agree to the SCHEDULE OF SERVICES AND FEES on Page 9	
I agree to use respectful communication with all WAAT Dogs Staff and Volunteers:	
I agree to use 'force-free' training practices while engaged with WAAT Dogs:	
I agree to privately cover costs incurred as part of WAAT Dogs programs should funding be unable to cover this:	
I understand that WAAT Dogs trainers will issue a 'jacket' when they deem suitable	
I understand that no individual may be under the influence of illicit drugs or alcohol during direct engagement with WAAT Dogs staff	
I understand that smoking in the presence of a WAAT Dogs member of staff is not permitted	
I understand that training of an Assistance Dog may include visits to my home	
I understand that if I am engaging in WAAT Dogs services with my own dog, I will be required to provide a 'vet clearance' certificate	
I agree to the use of audio/visual equipment during service provision as required.	

Name of Client/Handler:	
Signature:	
Form Completed by:	
Date:	



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APPLYING FOR THERAPY DOG SERVICES

Steps:

1. All teams requiring any therapy dog services including training and therapy dog courses will be required to fill in an 'Therapy Dog' Application form (commences on page 16)
2. Teams will also be asked to make themselves a Profile on our Booking software (ProPet) using the following link: <https://waatdogs.propetware.com/customerLogin>
3. Email your completed form to: enquiries@waatdogs.org.au
4. Once received a member of the team will be in contact to arrange your next step. Group sessions can be booked in via your ProPet login. Individual sessions are required to be booked through the Admin office.

For teams who

- Have a young dog they feel would be suited to therapy dog work but requires further training
- Have a dog they feel may be suited for therapy dog work but you are unsure
- Are looking to 'assess' if their dog may have the potential to be a therapy dog

Then your first session will likely be with a trainer who can provide you with guidance and training for shaping young dogs to develop the skills they need to be a therapy dog. They can also give you an indication of whether they show appropriate behaviour, temperament and trainability to be a therapy dog.

For teams who

- Feel they have a dog ready to enter the workforce as a therapy dog
- Although being young, would like to complete a formal course on therapy dog work

Then you are welcome to contact us to complete a 'temperament' check on your dog, but also keep an eye out for 'Therapy Dog Courses' that are run periodically during the year, usually during school holidays. These are multi-day events which will require dog and handlers to attend the in-person days and complete professional learning, as well as simulated therapy settings.

The costs of these courses vary depending on the format, so please keep an eye on social media for upcoming courses and details.



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Application Form for Therapy Dog Services

Preferred Pronouns:	
Therapist/Handler Name:	
Date of Birth:	
Address:	
Phone Contact:	
Email Address:	

DOG DETAILS:

Registered Name:	
Date of Birth:	
Breed:	
Current Weight:	
Colour:	
Sex/Gender:	
Desexed:	
Microchip Number:	
Registering Shire:	
Vaccination Details:	

THERAPY DOG TEAM DETAILS:

Therapy Dog Team	<i>Please outline the industry you work in, your role and what you hope to achieve by having a therapy dog?</i>



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Impact on Training	<i>Please outline if there are any things which may impact/occur during training that you would like us to be aware of for both the handler and the dog? E.g.: Disability, Medical Conditions, Allergies, Dietary Preferences etc....?</i>
Dog's Strengths	<i>Please outline what you see as your dog's strengths?</i>
Areas to Target in Training	<i>Please outline what areas you feel may need targeting in training for the dog or what areas you are looking for support in?</i>

Invoicing Information:

Send invoices to:	
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Checklist/Agreement (Please Initial):

I have read and agreed to the points on "IMPORTANT TO NOTE – ALL TEAMS" on Page 10	
I have read and agreed to the SCHEDULE OF SERVICES AND FEES on Page 9	
I agree to use respectful communication with all WAAT Dogs Staff and Volunteers:	
I agree to use 'force-free' training practices while engaged with WAAT Dogs:	
I agree to privately cover costs incurred as part of WAAT Dogs programs:	



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I understand that there is no such as thing as an accreditation program for Therapy Dogs that is publicly/government recognised	
I understand that 'Therapy Dogs' do not receive public access ** unless they are a registered assistance dog for their handler	
I understand that no individual may be under the influence of illicit drugs or alcohol during direct engagement with WAAT Dogs staff	
I understand that smoking in the presence of a WAAT Dogs member of staff is not permitted	
I understand that training of a Therapy Dog may include visits to my home	
I understand that if I am engaging in WAAT Dogs services with my own dog, I will be required to provide a 'vet clearance' certificate	
I agree to the use of audio/visual equipment during service provision as required.	

Name of Client/Handler:	
Signature:	
Form Completed by:	
Date:	



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APPLYING FOR Training Services for a Visiting/Facility or Emotional Support Dog:

Steps:

1. All teams who require training for any other purpose including visiting/facility dog or emotional support dog will be required to fill in an 'General Training' Application form (commences on page 20)
2. Teams will also be asked to make themselves a Profile on our Booking software (ProPet) using the following link: <https://waatdogs.propetware.com/customerLogin>
3. Email your completed form to: enquiries@waatdogs.org.au
4. Once received a member of the team will be in contact to arrange your next step. Group sessions can be booked in via your ProPet login. Individual sessions are required to be booked through the Admin office.

Please note that WAAT Dogs does not provide insurance cover or connections for individuals who wish to engage in Visiting or Facility Style work with their dog. WAAT Dogs offers training support.

Organisations such as Story Dogs or Animal Companions have their own assessments, and tests which teams may be required to complete, in order to then be signed up with their organisations. These organisations offer support to teams wishing to volunteer in their community including making connections with such facilities such as schools, libraries, hospitals and may provide insurance cover for such visits (you will need to check with the organisation).



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Application Form for General Training Services

Preferred Pronouns:	
Handler Name:	
Date of Birth:	
Address:	
Phone Contact:	
Email Address:	

DOG DETAILS:

Registered Name:	
Date of Birth:	
Breed:	
Current Weight:	
Colour:	
Sex/Gender:	
Desexed:	
Microchip Number:	
Registering Shire:	
Vaccination Details:	

Please outline the industry you work in, your role and what you hope to achieve with your dog?

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Impact on Training	<i>Please outline if there are any things which may impact/occur during training that you would like us to be aware of for both the handler and the dog? E.g.: Disability, Medical Conditions, Allergies, Dietary Preferences etc....?</i>
Dog's strengths	<i>Please outline what you see as your dog's strengths?</i>
Areas to target in training	<i>Please outline what areas you feel may need targeting in training for the dog or what areas you are looking for support in?</i>

Invoicing Information:

Send invoices to:	
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Checklist/Agreement (Please Initial):

I have read and agreed to the points on "IMPORTANT TO NOTE – ALL TEAMS" on Page 10	
I have read and agreed to the SCHEDULE OF SERVICES AND FEES on Page 9	
I agree to use respectful communication with all WAAT Dogs Staff and Volunteers:	
I agree to use 'force-free' training practices while engaged with WAAT Dogs:	
I agree to privately cover costs incurred as part of WAAT Dogs programs:	



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I understand that only dogs who have passed a Public Access Test and are assigned/live with their person with a disability, medical or health condition gain public access rights	
I understand that no individual may be under the influence of illicit drugs or alcohol during direct engagement with WAAT Dogs staff	
I understand that smoking in the presence of a WAAT Dogs member of staff is not permitted	
I understand that training of a Therapy Dog may include visits to my home	
I understand that if I am engaging in WAAT Dogs services with my own dog, I will be required to provide a 'vet clearance' certificate	
I agree to the use of audio/visual equipment during service provision as required.	

Name of Client/Handler:	
Signature:	
Form Completed by:	
Date:	



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APPLYING FOR OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY SERVICES

Steps:

1. All teams who require Occupational Therapy Services including for the purpose of providing direct therapy services or assessment will be required to fill in a 'General Training' Application form (commences on page 24)
2. Teams will also be asked to make themselves a Profile on our Booking software (ProPet) using the following link: <https://waatdogs.propetware.com/customerLogin>
3. Email your completed form to: enquiries@waatdogs.org.au
4. Once received a member of the team will be in contact to arrange your next step.

The availability of ongoing Occupational Therapy services for purposes other than Assistance Dog Assessments are currently unavailable.

We continue to offer Assistance Dog Assessments by our therapy team, however, due to high demand you may incur a wait for up to 8 weeks.

Occupational Therapy Services for the purpose of an Assistance Dog Assessment may include the following depending on the individual's circumstance:

- OT Sessions – which may be conducted at home or via telehealth
- Report Writing
- Liaising with other members of the individuals treating, therapy team
- Liaising with dog trainers or the WAAT Dogs training team

Occupational Therapy Services may be covered under NDIS plans depending on the individual's plan. Clarification should be sought before engagement, as rejection of funds from the NDIS will result in invoices being issued to the family/client directly. It is recommended to allow up to 20 hours of Occupational Therapy for the purpose of completing the full assistance dog assessment, although not all hours may be needed in all situations.

Currently WAAT Dogs is a 'not-registered' NDIS provider, meaning that only plan-managed and self-managed individuals can be provided with WAAT Dogs services. Additionally, WAAT Dogs is only able to issue invoices for Occupational Therapy services under "Capacity Building: Improved Daily Living" funds.

Part of the process of applying for an Assistance Dog through the NDIS may include a 'trainers' assessment of either the dog, the home or the individual. This is not usually covered by the NDIS and will need to be paid privately at the 'trainers' rate included in the schedule of services.



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Application Form for Occupational Therapy Services

Preferred Pronouns:	
Client Name: <i>Person with a Disability. Medical or Health Condition</i>	
Date of Birth:	
Address:	
Phone Contact:	
Email Address:	

Diagnosed Condition	<i>Please outline the reason and need for an Assistance Dog?</i>
Assistance Dog Help	<i>How do you see an Assistance Dog helping the nominated individual?</i>
Main Areas of Difficulties	<i>Please outline what areas of difficulty are most impactful on your life?</i>
Impact on Therapy	<i>Please outline anything you wish us to know prior to meeting you?</i>



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Goals of Therapy	<i>Please outline what you would like to see achieved from engaging in therapy?</i>

Please outline your support network below. ***By providing their contact information below you give permission for us to contact these people as required during the training process.*** WAAT Dogs value your choice, should you wish us not to contact your team, then we would appreciate you indicating whether you receive the below support by putting a 'Yes' next to the relevant service however, without contact information they will not be contacted.

Family Member:	
Contact Info:	
Psychologist:	
Contact Info:	
Counsellor:	
Contact Info:	
Occupational Therapist:	
Contact Info:	
Physiotherapist:	
Contact Info:	
Speech Therapist:	
Contact Info:	



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Support Coordinator:	
Contact Info:	
Support Worker:	
Contact Info:	
Friend:	
Contact Info:	
Other: _____	
Contact Info:	

Do you have your own dog that you intend to have as your Assistance Dog?

YES (please fill in the next section)

/

NO (skip to page 27 'Invoicing')

DOG DETAILS:

Registered Name:	
Date of Birth:	
Breed:	
Weight:	
Colour:	
Sex/Gender:	
Desexed:	
Microchip Number:	
Registering Shire:	
Vaccination Details:	

Training Completed to Date:	<i>Please outline the training you have completed to date?</i>
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Dog's Strengths	<i>Please outline what you see as your dog's strengths?</i>
Areas to Target in Training	<i>Please outline what areas you feel may need targeting in training?</i>

Invoicing Information:

Send Invoices to:	
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Checklist/Agreement (Please Initial):

I have read and agreed to the points on "IMPORTANT TO NOTE – ALL TEAMS" on Page 10	
I have read and agreed to the SCHEDULE OF SERVICES AND FEES on Page 9	
I agree to use respectful communication with all WAAT Dogs Staff and Volunteers:	
I understand that no individual may be under the influence of illicit drugs or alcohol during direct engagement with WAAT Dogs staff	
I understand that smoking in the presence of a WAAT Dogs member of staff is not permitted	
I understand that the process of engaging with an OT may include visits to my home	



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I understand that if I am engaging in WAAT Dogs services with my own dog, I will be required to provide a 'vet clearance' certificate	
I agree to the use of audio/visual equipment during service provision as required.	

Name of Client/Handler:	
Signature:	
Form Completed by:	
Date:	



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COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

Training Questions:

1. How old should my dog be before I start training?

Training can start at any point. It is good to start early, if possible, to help shape your dog's experiences to be positive and give them the confidence to be an Assistance Dog.

2. Where will my training session be held?

Your first training session is usually held at your house. You can also discuss with your trainer doing sessions at a local public place, shopping centre or anywhere else you think would benefit you and your dog.

3. What if I don't like my trainer?

Finding the right fit is instrumental to your training journey. If for any reason you don't feel that your trainer is not the right fit just get in touch with us and we will discuss a different option.

4. How long will it take to train my dog to be an Assistance Dog?

Length of training varies greatly depending on the dog, consistency with what training is implemented and the role the dog needs to fill. WA DLGSC requires dogs to be at least 12 months old before sitting their BOA test. Most dogs will train for at least 12-18 months.

5. What about other animals, can they be Assistance Animals too?

Yes, while it may lead to more questions, WAAT Dogs are willing to work with individuals who may have needs for an Assistance Animal that is not a dog if it is within our scope to do so.

6. I would like to train my dog to help others, what are my options?

Lots of Assistance Dog handlers want to help their community, and may include taking their dog to a school, aged care facility or similar. While this can be possible, if you need an Assistance Dog for yourself, we will encourage you to train to this standard first to avoid confusion for the dog. Commonly dogs who train for both roles early in life get confused as to when they can say hi, and when they are not meant to. If you do not require an Assistance Dog for yourself and only want to help others, then contact us for therapy dog training.

7. How much is training?

Individual Training sessions are \$150/hour, and Group Training sessions are \$65/hour.

8. How can my dog get Public Access Rights?

When a dog is ready (minimum 12 months of age, and deemed 'ready' by their trainer), WAAT Dogs can put your forward for a BOA test with the DCITS (Department of Creative Industries, Tourism and Sport). If successful, 6 months later you will sit your PAT test which if passed will provide for between 12-24 months of public access.

Funding Questions:

1. Will NDIS fund me for an Assistance Dog?

NDIS does fund Assistance Dogs for people who, following an application they feel the Animal is a reasonable, necessary, effective and beneficial support. WAAT Dogs has therapists who can assist you to complete the assessment and application process.



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2. How is WAAT Dogs funded?

WAAT Dogs is a not-for-profit charity. All of the funds we receive are from services provided, donations and/or grants.

3. What about your staff?

The majority of WAAT Dog staff are volunteers. Our trainers and therapists' sub-contract to WAAT Dogs and receive a percentage of the service fee.

WAAT Dogs Questions:

1. Where is WAAT Dogs based?

WAAT Dogs is currently mobile and has trainers throughout the Perth Metropolitan area. Our trainers will travel outside of Perth when we have a number of people needing help. Our therapists are primarily based North of the River, but do provide support via telehealth to the rest of WA.

2. Does WAAT Dogs provide fully trained Assistance Dogs?

Currently, WAAT Dogs has a small number of dogs who are purchased by WAAT Dogs and will be purchased by people with disabilities, medical or health conditions who require them.

3. What makes WAAT Dogs different?

WAAT Dogs is the only organisation in WA which provides Assistance Dogs and training services with open inclusiveness to people with disabilities, medical, health conditions who require them. Additionally, WAAT Dogs has a team of therapists who have experience working with Assistance and Therapy Dogs to support handlers through this process. Furthermore, our trainers have undergone training so they can support their handlers. Lastly, WAAT Dogs is uniquely qualified with leading therapists and trainers, providing 'therapy dog' training and courses to professionals in WA.



Example Letter to Take to Vets

I am applying to the Western Australian Assistance and Therapy Dogs Association for the purpose of:

-
-
-

I am required to provide a certificate/letter from my vet outlining if my dog is in their opinion able to complete the above role in the context of:

- Pain
- Joint Concerns
- Age
- Weight
- Skin Conditions
- Allergies
- Neurological Conditions
- Behaviour/Temperament

And any other conditions which the vet feels may potentially influence the dog's capacity to complete the desired role.

Inclusion of any of the above does not necessarily preclude the dog and handler from engaging in WAAT Dogs services but may require considerations and accommodations.

Thank you for providing us with your support and assisting us with ensuring the welfare of the dogs who engage with WAAT Dogs services.