



Hounds For Heroes

## assistance dogs

for injured/disabled men and women of the Armed Forces and Emergency Services



## Together we can... build a brighter future

**Hounds For Heroes assistance dogs can help overcome some of physical barriers and obstacles caused by your disability; promoting an increased sense of freedom, providing a loyal comrade and just maybe the beginning of a new life.**

Life with an assistance dog from Hounds For Heroes could soon benefit you in many ways, from helping to increasing your self-esteem to enabling you to do more on a daily basis. An assistance dog will help you overcome some of your disabilities by assisting you in those everyday tasks that you currently struggle with. An assistance dog may even inspire you to lead a more active and outgoing lifestyle, and help you embark on new adventures that at one time seemed unattainable.

A Hounds for Heroes assistance dog lives to serve and help you, and in doing so may provide you with the sense of comradeship and camaraderie that existed and was experienced during your service career.

Hounds For Heroes believes that everyone who fits our criteria, and requires the services of one of our dogs, should be able to experience the positive and life enhancing impact they will bring. The cost of the assistance dog's food, equipment, insurance and veterinary treatments are met by Hounds for Heroes

Therefore you can safely apply knowing that in having one of our dogs there will not be a negative impact on your existing income.

**Having an assistance dog will transform your life.**

### Who qualifies for an assistance dog?

As a charity that provides specially trained assistance dogs to injured and disabled men and women of the UK Armed Forces and Emergency Services there are some criteria to our application process:

- You must be over 18
- You must have served in H.M. Armed Forces either as a regular or a reservist, or been employed as a member of the emergency services.
- You must still live in the United Kingdom
- We accept injuries from all conflicts or incidents, there is no time limiting criteria
- Your injuries or disabilities could have happened either on/off duty, or after your service period.
- You must not have any open wounds, and be at least 2 years post injury, this is to ensure you have healed and mentally adjusted
- You must be physically and cognitively capable of participating in the training process, up to one hour a day
- You must be able to independently command and handle your assigned dog
- You must be able to meet the care needs of an assistance dog



## Types of conditions

Hounds For Heroes welcomes applications from men and women of the UK Armed Forces and Emergency services who have suffered life changing illness or injury.

We do not look at the severity of the disability when determining the need for a Hounds For Heroes assistance dog.

This is a short list of life changing illnesses or injuries we can cater for\*:

- Acquired Brain Injury
- Amputees
- Arthritis
- Degenerative diseases that affect mobility
- Chronic back/neck problems
- Chronic Fatigue/
- M.E./Fibromyalgia
- Ehler Danlos Syndrome
- Multiple Sclerosis
- Muscular Dystrophy
- Parkinson's Disease
- Spinal Cord Injuries / Paralysis

\*If your injury or disability is not listed please do not hesitate to get in touch with us about applying, we may be able to help.

## Our Assessment Program

Your journey to a more enabled life begins with you making the initial contact to us, requesting our client application pack. Once completed, and once your suitability for having a Hounds for Heroes dog has been established, you will be invited onto the next stage of our programme of assessment. This will be undertaken so that we can establish an accurate picture of how one of our highly trained assistance dogs might be able to assist you to maximum/optimum benefit.

Once the assessment program has been successfully completed, and we believe we can help, you will then be invited to attend a residential training course where we will teach you how to work with, and develop a strong working relationship, with your dog. On successful completion of this course you will go home with your new assistance dog, on probation. Once we are satisfied that you have successfully passed your probation period you will be invited to attend a 'Passing Out' parade and receive your full partnership certificate. Hounds For Heroes will continue to fully support you throughout your working partnership with regular visits and on going training by our aftercare department.



## Contact us now!

Ring **01730 823118** or email [enquiries@houndsforheroes.com](mailto:enquiries@houndsforheroes.com) with your contact details; such as name, address, telephone number and email address.

Postal address: Unit 2b, Rookery Farm Buildings, Ramsdean, Petersfield, Hampshire, GU32 1RU

**Visit: [www.houndsforheroes.com](http://www.houndsforheroes.com)**

Hounds For Heroes is a registered charity that provides specially trained assistance dogs to injured and disabled men and women of both the UK Armed Forces and Emergency Services. Charity reg. no: 1134359 (England & Wales) SC043751 (Scotland)

**Printed versions of this leaflet are available - please contact our office on the number above.**

