

## *Pet P.A. Application Considerations*

### YOUR ROUTINE DUTIES AS A PET SITTER:

- Providing photo updates and messages daily
- Daily feeding, putting out fresh water every morning/ evening
- Brushing pets
- Providing exercise through play
- Cleaning litter boxes
- Additional services may include giving medications, cleaning up pet mess, vacuuming up pet hair or collecting the client's mail or newspaper
- Carers are also responsible for notifying owners and taking pets to the vet if they should become sick or suffer an injury while under your supervision.

### DO YOU HAVE CAPABILITIES ESSENTIAL FOR THE JOB?

To perform pet care services safely and effectively, Pet P.A. Carers need to possess the following physical, mental, and emotional capacities:

#### ESSENTIAL PHYSICAL CAPABILITIES

- Quick reflexes and ability to use both hands simultaneously (example: opening a door while holding an animal)
- High level of manual dexterity to leash/ harness animals
- Ability to walk unaided on unpaved, uneven, rugged and sometimes muddy and slippery gardens and lawn areas
- Ability to bend and squat in order to leash/ harness and pick up an animal
- Average vision to move safely around homes and yards, to be able to observe animal body language without difficulty, to be able to read notes on animals' paperwork and from a smartphone.
- Average sense of smell and touch in order to assess body condition of animals, and to note signs of illness or injury
- Ability to hear if animal is growling or making sounds indicating fear or pain
- Ability to speak and effectively communicate verbally as well as in written form
- Ability to manoeuvre well in tight spaces and react or move quickly in order to prevent dogs or cats from escaping
- Ability to handle and restrain animals of small to large size (up to 50kg) with extreme caution and care.
- Must not have strong allergies to dogs, cats or other companion animals that can't be managed by medication or to chemicals used in cleaning.
- Ability to deal with strong and unpleasant odours, fleas, faeces and possible wounds or injuries to animals in your care



## YOUR BEST FRIEND'S PERSONAL ASSISTANT

- Must have the ability to judge an animal's reaction and to change voice to a soft or strong, authoritative tone in order to calm a dog's response or to give commands
- Possess immune system strong enough to tolerate exposure to occasional zoonotic diseases such as ringworm or mange.

### ESSENTIAL MENTAL CAPABILITIES

- Ability to understand, remember and follow instructions and procedures
- High level reading, writing, spelling and communication skills and a good command of the English language
- Possess problem-solving capabilities
- Must be aware of potentially dangerous situations when working with the animals and must be able to remain calm with animals who are upset; behave sensitively and confidently; show good judgment, be resourceful, and act appropriately in these situations.

### ESSENTIAL EMOTIONAL CAPABILITIES

- Ability to cope with unexpected animal behaviour without assistance
- Ability to understand SPCA policies and positions regarding companion animals, animal control, and other key animal welfare issues and an ability and willingness to represent those policies when interacting appropriately and accurately with pets.

### LEVEL OF SUPERVISION

- Once trained, you must be able to work with minimal supervision, yet must recognise limitations in knowledge and abilities, and ask for help when needed.
- You should be able to work independently for long periods of time.

### OTHER

- A fairly high level of experience and familiarity with cats and dogs and their behaviour & anatomy is desirable
- All animal care positions involve some cleaning or maintenance

Should you be comfortable with, and possess all of the above qualities, we encourage you to complete the Pet P.A. Application Form!

You are welcome to contact us should you have any concerns or queries!

LOVE & LICKS

*Pet P.A.*

