ACCEPTED AND RECOMMENDED DOG BREEDS POLICY

PAWSOME ASSISTANCE DOGS Inc has a policy, regarding accepted/recommended Dog Breeds, and the restrictions applied to certain dogs or breeds.

If you wish to register your AD with PAD, and do not already have a dog, please do not purchase a dog without consulting the Association.

If you already have a Dog, working as an Assistance Dog informally, or that you are hoping to train as an Assistance Dog, via registration with PAD, you need to be aware of what restrictions both PAD and the Assistance Dog community in general, have in relation to the age, breed, and origins of the dog.

Dogs that may be suited as working dogs or pets are not necessarily going to be suitable as an Assistance Dog.

As an AD has a working life of approximately 7+years, depending on the breed, it is important that the choice you make is going to meet your needs for the full working life of the dog.

Choosing a dog that "you like, or always wanted" is not necessarily going to meet requirement for you or the association and may end in disappointment for you.

PAD uses the International Association of Assistance Dog Partners (IAADP) Standards when deciding if a dog is suitable for training as an Assistance Dog:-

"IAADP Policy Prohibiting the Enrolment of Protection Trained or Aggressive dogs. Any dog who is protection trained, attack trained or one who exhibits aggressive behaviour in violation of our Minimum Training Standards for Public Access ***is NOT eligible for enrolment as an Assistance Dog*** *in IAADP,* ***or renewal, no matter what disability related tasks or alerts the dog is said to perform****. If an IAADP Partner member's dog later displays aggressive behaviour and cannot be rehabilitated within a reasonable time period, ethically, that dog should be retired as unfit for duty outside the home, as the dog does not qualify as an assistance dog under our Minimum Training Standards for Public Access".*

1. **Working Dog Breeds are not recommended. You need to be aware that it is quite likely, that the Executive will reject working dog breeds i.e., Dogs whose breeding line has the intent of guarding, hunting, sledding, high drive, agility, or herding. Particularly where, in Australia, those breeds are still primarily bred for a working purpose.**
2. PAD acknowledges that there are working dog breeds, with lines in Australia, not bred to work, but are bred as pets with some of the inherent drives subdued. PAD will take this into consideration when assessing the individual dog.
3. Exceptions may be given to cross breeds, if not crossed with another working dog breed. Such exceptions are on an individual basis, and by application only.
4. Working dogs are, in addition to their working traits, often oversized, intelligent but stubborn, require extensive training, are inherently independent making them in general not suited to the needs of a Handler.
5. **Other non-working dog breeds may also not acceptable as Assistance Dogs due to being timid, anxious, yappy, or aggressive, or because the medical limitations or poor training history of the breed, or because they are considered by experts as dangerous breeds.** Exceptions may be given to cross breeds, if not crossed with another dog on the list in 1 or 4. Such exceptions are on an individual basis, and by application only
6. **As a general guide, PAD does not accept Rescue dogs as Assistance Dogs, due to the lack of medical and temperament history.**
7. **PAD generally does not accept dogs older than 2 years, because the older the dog, the longer it takes to build the bond and the training standards required for public access.** Exceptions will be considered where a dog, older than 2 years has been given extensive training and socialisation, making it ready to progress to Assistance Dog training in a short space in time.
8. **Competitive Dog lines are often highly intelligent, but are bred for agility and/or independence, they therefore generally do not make good Assistance Dogs.**
9. PAD recommends that the potential Handler consider all the relevant factors before choosing a breed and discuss those requirements with the Association prior to the purchase of a dog. Considerations may include the home environment, yard size, the needs of the Handler both now and in the future, the health and mobility of the Handler, the Handler's requirements in terms of the size of the dog. PAD does not recommend large dogs as these present public access issues.
10. **PAD does not accept dogs under breeding guardianships, neither does it accept Assistance Dogs being used for breeding purposes. Dogs are to be de-sexed at a time recommended by the vet for that specific dog/breed.** Generally, PAD would expect all dogs to be de-sexed by the time they are two years old, unless there are extreme circumstances causing the vet to recommend delaying this further**.**
11. **PAD Assistance Dogs cannot be involved in any form of competitive work – Obedience, Tricks, Show, Agility, Luring or similar. The only competition PAD will approve is photography competitions, and permission must be sort and received in writing for the dog to be identified by the PAD jacket in the photo.**

12. **PAD considers all application on a case-by-case basis.** Anyone wishing to apply for an exception to these rules will be required to do so in writing, showing just cause for an exemption, and including a written vet recommendation and health status report for the dog. Reports in writing from a professional trainer who has previously been working with the dog in question, as to its current standard may be required. Provision of this documentation in no way implies the application will be accepted.
13. **Where an exemption has been made, the Team and more specifically the dog will be on probationary registration for a period of twelve months, at which time the Executive will make a decision if the dog and Handler have met standard, under the exemptions provided.**
14. **In accordance with the IAADP standards, any dog (or Handler) that fails to meet and maintain standard, is not eligible to remain registered with PAD "no matter what disability related tasks or alerts the dog is said to perform"**
15. ***Acceptance and continued registration of all Teams is at the discretion of the Executive***. Both the Handler and the Dog must prove they are able to maintain public access standards and are complying with all Policies and Procedures in the Handler documents agreed to at the time of registration or renewal. A Handler who pays their registration or annual renewal fees, is deemed to have agreed to the Policies and Procedures of the Association in relation to a registered Team.
16. PAD acknowledges that Teams accepted and registered prior to this Policy, in January 2022; may include a dog breed listed in this policy as not acceptable or recommended. Those Teams have been given an automatic exemption from those Rules, due to their registration and acceptance prior to the Policy coming into effect.
17. **PAD reserves the right to add to, or remove, dog breeds from the not accepted/ recommended list of breeds at the discretion of the Executive and without prior notice to the Public or Handler Teams.**
18. This Policy forms part of the Association's By-Laws.

Further information in relation to this policy, can be received by contacting the Administration at pawsomeassistancedogs@outlook.com

Any decision made by the Executive in relation to this Policy is final, and without appeal.