

## **Pawsitive Squad CIC Quality Control and Moderation of Assistance Dogs Policy & Procedure**

At Pawsitive Squad CIC, we are committed to ensuring assistance dog teams working within our organisation are working at, or above the standard generally accepted for assistance dogs and that handlers are competent and knowledgeable welfare, dog emotions and other relevant theoretical areas.

Due to the complex needs of the young people we support, moderation in person by an unknown person is likely to make assessments inaccessible for many of our clients, therefore we have created a moderation system which enables clear and detailed moderation through e-portfolio alongside the live, in person assessment with their regular trainer.

### **Bronze, gold and annual reassessments procedure:**

*As the bronze assessment is what determines a dog beginning public access training, the gold marking the dog moving from 'in training' to 'fully trained' status and the annual reassessment maintains the 'fully trained' status, the moderation procedure is more strict for these compared to the silver assessment which is just to mark progression of training.*

- 1) Pawsitive Squad CIC, uses 'evidence for learning' as our e-portfolio and assessment software. For each assessment a standardised framework, outlining all requirements to pass the level is used to enable objective assessment and clear recording and evidence collection.
- 2) For each criterion, the owner and trainer must upload at least one piece of photograph/video evidence. Where duration is assessed (such as for settling under table) video evidence of a specified time must be submitted.
- 3) The dog and parent/carer/ young person must attend a group assessment session. During the assessment session the dog's behaviour will be assessed live by the trainer and video evidence will also be gathered for each criterion.
- 4) Upon completion of the live assessment, the assessment and evidence portfolio will be sent to an internal moderator within our organisation. All bronze, gold and annual reassessments will be internally moderated from April 2022. This moderator will verify the photograph/ video evidence supports the grading/outcome selected. Verification takes up to 14 working days.
- 5) Once verified, the handler will be notified of the result which will include the breakdown of scoring for each criterion.

### **External verification**

A selection of 10% of our assistance dogs & assistance dogs in training, across the levels, will be externally verified each year. The externally verified dogs will be selected at random within each level (bronze, silver, gold, qualified with annual reassessment). The portfolio for these dogs for external verification will be moderated by a qualified dog professional with experience in dog handling, emotion, and behaviour (such as dog trainer, vet assistant etc).

**Policy creation date: 30/03/2022**

**By Heather Pyne.**

**Review due by 1/4/2023**