

Appeal « Puppy Power



Cute alert! Ok, we're shamelessly pulling on your heart-strings here, but it's all for a good, local cause: Canine Partners

As if you could resist this cute face, volunteer 'parents' are needed to care for puppies just like him.

Canine Partners, which celebrates its 25th anniversary this year, is a national charity based in Midhurst. It receives no government funding and is wholly dependent on public donations and legacies. The charity is also a partner of Help For Heroes.

The team are looking for dog-lovers to take puppies into their own homes and begin their early training for a career as an assistance dog for people with disabilities. And this is a way to help others without the huge commitment associated with taking on a dog for life. Puppy satellite supervisor Ronnie Paskouis says: "Volunteering as a puppy parent is rewarding – puppy parents train puppies in the early stages of their development before they go on to advanced training and are matched with someone who has a disability. "Although previous experience with dogs is not required,

a puppy parent will need to be home most of the day, have a secure, dog-friendly garden, enjoy the fun of classes and outings and have the stamina to manage an active young puppy. Canine Partners will provide food and equipment for the puppy and cover all veterinary costs for the duration of the puppy-parent relationship."

Tempted? Volunteers would be asked to take a pup from the age of eight weeks until they are 12-14 months old. You would need to have time, commitment and a sense of humour, and be able to attend a regular training class. A trainer will be on hand to support you in your key role at classes and at home in one-to-one sessions. Parents teach their pups basic obedience, social skills and core tasks that are essential before they move on to advanced training, where their skills are refined specifically for a disabled person's needs.

● To find out more, call **01730 716017** or email puppyoffice@caninepartners.org.uk



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