



Mandatory requirements for the Paws for People® Assessments

Handler and dog team requirements: All prospective handlers must have had some previous dog training experience.

- Both the animal and handler should be groomed and/or dressed appropriately – as if they were going on a volunteer visit.
- Handlers are required to produce a vet certificate proving the dog has been examined by a qualified veterinarian not more than 10 days prior to the assessment. The **veterinarian** will be required to sign off on **de-worming, tick and flea control, vaccinations and a general physical health check.**
- Handlers must be at least 12 years old to be evaluated. All handlers younger than 16 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian and must have written permission to participate from a parent or guardian.
- During the exercises the evaluator will offer the animal a treat. If the animal has special food requirements the handler should supply the treat; however, the handler **may not** use food during the assessment.
- **You and your dog are NOT ready to be evaluated if you cannot walk with your dog (using a flat collar/harness and leash) in a controlled manner. You must be able to ask your dog to Sit, Down (lie down) and Stay WITHOUT using food to LURE your dog. You may not coerce you dog into any of these obedience positions – i.e. pushing your dog down or pushing your dog into a sit position.**
- **The team shall not be evaluated and shall be scored as “Not Appropriate for Visiting” if the handler is under the influence of drugs or alcohol, or smells of alcohol.**

N.B. Items to be provided by the Handler at the assessments:

- A complete handlers’ questionnaire for the Evaluators review.
- The animal’s **current rabies & vaccination certificate – Assessment cannot be done without this.**
- **A Signed copy of this document (Mandatory requirements for the Paws for People® Assessments)**
- **Your signed off Vet Certificate.**
- A towel or small blanket if the animal has to be carried – i.e., cat or very small dog.
- Acceptable FLAT collar/harness. No half-check or collars with chain as a part of the collar.
- Acceptable leash. No chain.
- The animal’s brush or comb.

Animal requirements:

- Animals will not be evaluated if they have any infections, open sores, wounds or stitches.
- Animals will not be evaluated if they are ill, injured or otherwise in pain.
- Animals will not be evaluated if they are taking antibiotics or anti-fungal medication.
- Animals will not be evaluated if they are not well groomed – includes claws, paws, teeth, bums and ears.
- Dogs trained to aggressively protect and/or encouraged to actively bite, even as a component of a dog sport – i.e. – bite work that is part of Schutzhund work – shall not be evaluated.
- Dogs that react obsessively to toys, balls or any other object shall **NOT** be evaluated.

Unacceptable equipment:

- **Metal collars, special training collars such as “pinch”, “spike”, electric or spray collars.**
- **Metal chain and retractable leashes – i.e. – Flexi-leash.**
- **Half-check collars (flat collars with chain)**

Acceptable equipment:

- Well-fitted buckle, quick-release connection, or snap closure collars in **leather or fabric** and fabric harness.
- Rogz flat collars (no chain).
- Leather or fabric leashes not more than 6’ in length.
- Short leashes in leather or fabric.

In the event of testing an animal with any type of disability, the handler should consult with his/her veterinarian prior to the assessment. The handler will be required to present written confirmation from the vet who verifies that the vet believes the dog is physically able to cope with visits, to the evaluator(s).

The dog may NOT growl or show any aggression towards people or other dogs.

The cost of the assessments is R30.00 – payable up front. Results are confidential and remain PFP property.

Please be on time for the assessments – this reflects upon your ability to be on time for visits!

I _____ have read and understand the above document. Date: _____