



# Wellbeing Dog Suitability Assessment

It is important that all OK9 Wellbeing and Trauma Support Dogs have the temperament to be successful in the role and to enjoy the work. The following is a summary of the standards for which the dog should be assessed. It is strongly recommended that the dog is assessed by an independent qualified person such as a dog training instructor within the force's Dog Unit or other qualified person. The assessment should take into consideration the role they will be expected to play and the various environments they will work within.

**Preparation** – dogs should have completed a socialisation and training programme to prepare for the work they will be required to do. This may include but is not restricted to puppy and dog training classes obtaining a KC 'Good Citizen' qualification or similar award.

**Health** – dogs must be healthy and fully vaccinated, flea and worm treated and registered at a veterinary practise where they have annual check-ups. They must be kept clean with fur free of tangles and matting, debris or offensive odours, nails should be trimmed to prevent scratching, their equipment must also be clean and in good condition. Any dog showing signs of poor health while working should be withdrawn from the workplace and allowed to rest and obtain suitable treatment if needed. A dog must not be overweight. Dog waste must be picked up and disposed of safely and the handler must practise regular hand washing, sanitisation and infection control.

**Temperament** – the dog must enjoy socialisation, play and interacting with a number of different people. The dog will accept playing, stroking, handling and touching by strangers. The dog must not overreact to unusual situations, noises or distractions.

**Behaviour** - The dog will not be overly vocal, she/he will be able to walk through a crowd of people and cope with vehicles, flashing lights and sirens. The dog should be safe in any environment without barking, growling, biting, mouthing, jumping up or scratching any person. The dog should not guard resources such as toys or food and should show control without snatching or begging. If the dog shows signs of stress he/she is to be immediately withdrawn from the workplace. The dog should be able to interact safely with other dogs.

**Handlers** – Handlers are the guardians of the dog's welfare and this responsibility should be a priority. Their knowledge of the dog is key to ensuring safe and successful interactions. They should be able to quickly recognise signs of stress or illness and take appropriate action in the best interests of the dog. This may include withdrawing the dog from Wellbeing Dog duties. They will accept and adhere to the requirements of the Wellbeing Dog Risk Assessment and the Standard Operating Procedures in relation to the use of Wellbeing Dogs.

Handlers need to show that they have their Wellbeing Dog under control at all times. The dog should be able to walk without excessive pulling on a relaxed lead. The handler must show that the dog can wait patiently under his control in a 'sit' or 'down' or 'stand' position. Handlers need to be able to hold their Wellbeing Dog in a restraining manner in case of an emergency or if the dog has to be suddenly removed from a situation.

**Ongoing suitability** – the Handler will continuously assess the dog for his/her ongoing suitability for the role and withdraw the dog if she/he is not thriving in the role or is ill or needs to be retired. The dog should be assessed each year for his/her ongoing suitability in the role.

# OK9 Suitability Assessment

Area assessed	Notes for assessor - all of the standards set must be achieved	Standard reached?
<b>Preparation</b>	Is the dog fully socialised and has basic 'polite' characteristics?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
	<div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 50px;"></div>	
<b>Health</b>	Is the dog healthy? Check body score for weight. Check coat, eyes, ears, teeth, claws and equipment.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
	<div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 50px;"></div>	
<b>Temperament</b>	Does the dog enjoy attention and handling?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
	Is the dog happy to engage with people for play, petting and treats?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
	<div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 50px;"></div>	
<b>Behaviour</b>	Is the dog generally quiet?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
	Does the dog recover quickly from loud and unexpected noises?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
	Can he/she cope well with the environment she/he is working in?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
	Does the dog show any guarding, aggressive, stress or unwanted behaviour?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
	<div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 50px;"></div>	
<b>Handler</b>	Is the Handler knowledgeable about the dog, the WBD RA & SOP's and his/her responsibilities?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
	Does the handler have the dog under control at all times and is able to restrain the dog if needed?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 50px;"></div>		

Handler: \_\_\_\_\_ Dog: \_\_\_\_\_ Assessor: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Force: \_\_\_\_\_ Pass or Fail: \_\_\_\_\_

OK9 Dog Jacket size:  XS  S  M  L  XL Service Level Agreement  Yes  No

Please email a copy of this form to [garry.botterill@college.police.uk](mailto:garry.botterill@college.police.uk) for our records and we will send the jacket size you have selected for the dog providing the Service Level Agreement has also been signed and submitted.