



Breeding and Puppy Development Assistant Warrior Canine Connection – Boyds, MD

Warrior Canine Connection is a nonprofit organization with a unique and highly effective service dog training model we call Mission Based Trauma Recovery. In short, active duty Service Members and Military Veterans with combat related stress are engaged to help us train Golden Retrievers and Labradors to be service dogs. By learning to train service dogs, these Warrior Trainers are given a chance to develop practical skills such as patience, positive reinforcement, emotional regulation, and effective communication skills, while simultaneously helping to prepare the dog to assist a fellow injured Veteran in the future. Our service dogs learn up to 90 commands during a comprehensive, two-year training process. After those two years of training, the dogs are professionally matched with a disabled Veteran who has mobility impairments or psychological injuries.

As a Warrior Canine Connection Breeding and Puppy Development Assistant, the Employee will be responsible for assisting with breeding, training, socialization and well-being of WCC puppies. The employee will also provide one-on-one instruction and teach small group classes to Warrior Trainers, as well as to puppy parents, third parties, and community volunteers. The employee is expected to work collaboratively and perform all duties and responsibilities in a timely and professional manner.

This is a full-time position with occasional weekend/evening hours.

This is a job that will truly make a difference in the world, and in the lives of the individual Veterans and Service Members we work with every day.

What the job involves:

- Work with the other breeding team members to develop a production plan to ensure enough broods/studs in the colony to produce the needed number of pups entering training each year.
- In collaboration with the breeding team, collect and enter data regarding the health and temperament of breeding stock and neonates.
- In collaboration with the breeding team, regularly communicate key health and temperament metrics of program dogs, including recommendations for addressing concerns, to program leadership.
- Provide socialization, experiences and training to young puppies at the facility.
- Lead or assist in small group classes for our volunteer Warrior Trainers, puppy parents, and volunteers.
- Be an active member of a team whelping litters of future service dogs.
- Assist with overall care of broods and neonates currently at the facility. Maintain records accordingly.
- Assist with volunteer management and communication.
- Monitor and evaluate the puppies as they progress through training and



socialization stages; enter data and complete required forms and reports in a timely manner.

- Assist with logistics of pups as they enter WCC puppy parent program.
- Assist with care and management of WCC broods/studs in caretaker homes.
- Maintain a clean, safe environment for the dogs and humans at the program site.
- Comply with or exceed Assistance Dog International minimum standards and ethics.
- Participate in staff meetings, professional development and community awareness activities.
- Participate in programs, trainings, and clinical supervision as required by WCC or the host facility rules.
- Maintain detailed records, enter data, and complete required forms and reports in a timely manner.
- Maintain and monitor supplies and equipment for the breeding and puppy department inform manager, or designated supply coordinator, when additional supplies and equipment need to be ordered.
- Communicate any emergency canine health problems directly to the Director of Dog Programs and your primary supervisor as soon as they are identified. Non-emergency issues should be communicated to your supervisor.
- Transport program dogs, as directed, to receive veterinary care and provide support for exams such as eye and cardiac check



Preferred Experience, Skills, Background:

- A clear understanding of the general care and wellbeing of broods, studs and neonates.
- An understanding or desire to understand canine reproduction, ovulation timing and stud/brood management and care.
- An understanding or desire to understand industry standard medical clearances.
- Ability to properly interpret treatment plans and prescriptions and administer medications
- Understanding of kennel procedures and strict disease control
- Physical stamina to be on your feet bending, lifting, scooping, and hosing
- Ability to work weekends, evenings, overnights and holidays
- Detail oriented and demonstrably strong work ethic – this can be demanding work.
- Friendly, calm, mature, patient, and professional demeanor with excellent communication skills.
- Desire to work with Veterans and the knowledge, skills, and ability to effectively interact and work with Veterans who have experienced combat trauma and/or psychological health or physical injuries.
- The ability to work independently with minimal supervision – you must learn quickly.
- Ability to prioritize work tasks - organization skills and time management are critical.
- Ability to instruct people with a variety of backgrounds and skill levels in the WCC training methodology and best practices for service dog training.
- Ability to learn and manage a variety of administrative processes.
- Basic computer skills and competency in Microsoft Office applications in order to maintain dog records, training charts, puppy evaluations, etc. Salesforce experience is a plus.
- Possess a valid driver's license, working vehicle and insurance.

Compensation and Benefits:

Exceptional compensation package including salary, medical, dental, and retirement benefits for full-time employees.

To Apply:

To apply for this position, please provide a cover letter and resume to HR@warriorcanineconnection.org Attention: Hiring Manager.

Warrior Canine Connection is an equal opportunity employer. All qualified applicants will be considered without regard to race, color, religion, sex, age, national or ethnic origin, disability, or any other characteristic protected by law.

Job Type: Full-time