ORGANIZATIONAL OVERVIEW

The mission of Canines for Service (CFS) is to inspire Veteran through life-changing canine partnerships. Canines for Service serves Veterans from all conflicts with service-connected mobility challenges, military sexual trauma, Traumatic Brain Injuries, and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. Veterans are partnered with service dogs at no cost or fundraising requirement.

INTERNERSHIP PROGRAM

The Canines for Service Internship Program is a year-long program that provides knowledge and hands-on experience for the intern while extending the training capacity of CFS. Applications are due by July 17th. CFS Internship starts July 31, 2023.

Class Structure

Months 1-12:
Interns will begin the program by attending instructional classes three days per week:
- Tuesday: 7am - 12pm
- Thursday: 7am - 12pm
- Friday: 7am - 12pm

Each intern will work with multiple service dogs in training. Morning instruction will occur at the training facility, while afternoons will be dedicated to socializing the service dogs in training off-site. Outing locations may include local parks, malls, restaurants, area businesses.

Once the intern has progressed in their skills and training and after a home/apartment inspection, they will begin to take a service dog in training home. Interns are expected to maintain training when not in the facility and will begin outings with the dog on their own. This will continue for the remainder of the program. In-person training with staff will be used to work on handling skills, troubleshooting issues, learning more about the service dog industry, and acquiring the skills to teach additional commands.

Throughout the program, interns will also shadow staff and other trainers during daily operations. This includes temperament testing dogs at local shelters, veterinary visits, and grooming. Interns may use the training facility Monday – Friday beyond the class hours as needed. This timeline is based on both the handler and dog’s performance and ability.
Competency Based Learning
Evaluations, which demonstrate an understanding of training methods, will be given throughout the year-long program. Evaluations include written tests, hands-on assessments, and problem-solving scenarios. Interns and service dogs in training progress at different rates. At least a one-year commitment is necessary to receive the experience needed to train a service dog with Canines for Service and provide ample time to advance through the program. Once the intern has completed the requirements, they will receive a certificate of completion and have the experience of training a service dog with an ADI (Assistance Dogs International) Accredited organization.

Requirements - Interns must be able to:
- Physically and mentally handle and train dogs with various temperaments. (Canines for Service dogs’ range between 60-90lbs.)
- Take a service dog in training into their home/apartment. (Due to N.C. law, rental properties must waive any “no pet policy” or pet fee for service dogs in training).
- Attend additional Canines for Service events that help promote the organization.
- Commit to at least a one-year internship.

Fees
A supply fee of $500 will be due at the time of enrollment into the Canines for Service Internship Program. $400 will be refunded upon completion of the course to take the CCPDT Test. You may go to our website at www.caninesforservice.org and pay the fee under the “donate” button. This fee will cover CFS apparel, training supplies, a grooming kit, toys and bedding, and a L/XL crate.

Disclaimer: Successfully attending and completing the Canines for Service Internship Program does not signify that the graduate is a service/assistance dog trainer or qualified to train and/or place service/assistance dogs. Assistance Dogs International has specific standards that an individual must meet in order to be an assistance dog trainer - and taking part in this class does not meet these requirements.
Canines for Service Internship Program Application

Canines for Service limits the number of interns enrolled in each program. The start date for the 2023 Internship Program is July 31, 2023. Applicants will receive an email indicating acceptance or denial. Applications are due by July 17th.

The following items must be submitted with your application either by email to information@caninesforservice.org by mail or in person at our office Address: 221-1 Old Dairy Road, Wilmington, NC 28405.

1. Verification of high school diploma or equivalent (GED)

2. Photo Identification

3. Two references: one personal and one professional

4. Completed Internship Program Goals form provided.

5. Must be physically and mentally able to handle and train dogs of various temperaments. CFS Dogs can weigh up to 90 lbs.

A total fee of $500 is required prior to starting the internship. $100 is NONREFUNDABLE. The remaining $400 is refundable UPON COMPLETION of your internship. Our goal is to help you prepare for the CCPDT Test. $400 is the current cost of the CCPDT test. The Certification Council of Professional Dog Trainers (CCPDT) is the leading independent certifying organization for professional dog trainers.
Applicant Information

Name of Applicant: 

Date of Birth (MM/DD/YY) ______________________________ Phone: (___) ____________

Email: ________________________________________________

Address: ________________________________________________

City__________________________ State________ Zip: ____________

How did you hear about the CFS Internship Program? _________________________________________________________________

Educational Background

Highest Level of Education and School Attended

☒ High School ____________________________________________

☒ Some College __________________________________________

☒ College Degree _________________________________________

☒ Vocational School _______________________________________

Do you have any professional licenses or certifications?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, please list: ___________________________________________
Employment Information

Are you currently employed?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please list your current employer and occupation:

Employer: ____________________________________________

Occupation: ____________________________________________

Current Supervisor's Name: ________________________________

Employer’s Address: _________________________________ City:

_________________________________________ State_______ Zip:________

May we contact your current employer?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Are you intending to resign from your current position to attend the CFS Internship Program?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If not, how will your employment affect your internship attendance? ____________________________________________

______________________________

Military Service (If applicable)

Branch of Service: ________________________________________

Years of Service (Start and End Date): ____________________________
Dog Experience

Do you have any previous experience with dogs?

☐ Yes   ☒ No

List any specific dog handling experience:

____________________________________________________________________________________

Do you volunteer with any other animal organizations?

☐ Yes   ☒ No

If yes, please list the organizations:

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

Do you have a/any dog(s) of your own at home?

☐ Yes   ☒ No

If yes, please list the age(s) and breed(s) of your dog(s):

____________________________________________________________________________________

Is/are your dog(s) friendly and accepting of other dogs?

☐ Yes   ☒ No

Please list any other animals that live in your home: ________________________________
Conflict of Interest / Confidentiality Agreement

- CONFLICT OF INTEREST: A conflict may exist where an intern, or a relative or business associate of an intern, obtains a non-financial benefit or advantage that they would not have obtained absent of their relationship with the organization, or where their duty or responsibility owed to the organization conflicts with a duty or responsibility owed to some other organization. Conflict of interest may include, but is not limited to, an intern seeking to: 1) obtain preferential treatment by the organization for themselves or relative, or business associate; 2) make use of confidential information obtained from the organization for their own benefit, or for the benefit of a relative, business associate, or other organization; and 3) take advantage of an opportunity, or enable a relative, business associate or other organization to take advantage of an opportunity, which they have reason to believe would be of interest to another organization.

- CONFIDENTIALITY: Intern agrees that any and all knowledge or information that may be obtained in the course of the internship with respect to the conduct and details of the business and with processes or procedures used by the Canines for Service in producing its products will be forever held inviolate and be concealed from any competitor and all other persons. Any client/patient/family information obtained as a result of your internship with Canines for Service shall be kept confidential. If there is an inquiry about a client/patient/family, the intern must politely state that you cannot provide confidential information. Further, information provided in the form of documents (e.g., training manuals, board of director manuals) will be returned to the corporate office of Canines for Services within 10 days after discontinuation of the internship program. Terms of Service: By checking this box and submitting the application, I agree that all statements are truthful, and I agree to the conflict of interest / confidentiality agreement.

☐ I Agree to the Terms of Service

Authorization for Background Verification - I authorize Canines for Service to conduct a background verification. (CFS will initiate the background check upon acceptance into the program. Your Social Security Number will be requested at that time.)

Applicant Signature:_________________________________________ Date: ______________________