



Reading Dogs

Thinking of Registering your Dog as a Reading Dog?

Here are a few things to think about,

- Reading Dog sessions tend to take place during school time (term time weekdays within school hours). Any dog registering as a Reading Dog would need to be available, along with its owner, during these times.
- You would need to be able to transport your dog to these sessions and commit to a minimum of 2 weekly sessions if required.
- Dogs must be 2 years old or above and you must have owned your dog for a minimum of 6 months to be eligible for the programme.
- Consider whether your dog would be suitable for this type of work. Children can be excitable, happy, nervous, scared, upset etc. Our Reading Dogs need to be comfortable in every situation, comfortable with new venues and comfortable with children. Safety is of the utmost importance to us and all potential Reading Dogs will have to pass an assessment with our dog behaviourist. Amongst other things, the dogs must:
 - Know all their basic commands
 - Be comfortable in new environments
 - Be comfortable being touched (this includes ears, tail, feet and face)
 - Be calm and comfortable around children
 - Not be startled easily
 - Show no signs of aggression or nervousness
 - Have an up to date pet passport/ vaccination card
 - Be regularly de-wormed
 - Be neutered/spayed
 - Be registered with the municipality
 - Have short clipped nails
 - Be toilet trained
 - Be able to sit and stay without the owner sitting with them

- As the owner and dog's handler, you must also be comfortable around children and confident in running a reading session (training is provided).
- Dog breeds restricted by the UAE's Ministry of Climate Change and Environment (MOCCA) will not be accepted.
- We consider dogs of all shapes and sizes (as long as they fit the above criteria and pass their assessment). We have dogs that come from homes with and without children, however we have found that dogs that are experienced with children are better suited to this work.
- Acceptance on the programme is subject to the dog's owner obtaining a good conduct certificate from Dubai Police at their own cost.