

## Role profile: dog walking

### About this role

People who are self-isolating or shielding from Covid-19 may not be able to leave their homes to walk their dogs. These people might be isolating due to illness or as a precautionary measure. Realise charity is working with Newcastle under Lyme Borough Council and local community groups to identify vulnerable residents who need support to take care of the pets during this difficult time.

### What the role involves

As a volunteer in this role you will be asked to help with the following tasks:

- Check assignment notes for information and special instructions
- Collect a dog (already harnessed/on a lead) from the home of a vulnerable person requiring support
- Safely and responsibly (cleaning up any mess) walk the dog and return to the owner

Once you have walked and returned the dog you should contact Realise to let us know the task has been completed.

This role will not involve volunteers handling any money or having any direct contact with the resident. This is essential to safeguard the safety of you and the resident.

You will not be expected to enter the resident's home. If any additional support is required due to mobility issues then we will notify you in advance and provide clear instructions.

Please only carry out tasks that have been allocated to you by Realise charity Programme Manager. It is important you do not offer any additional support without discussing this with us first. If you are in any doubt, please give us a call.

### Requirements for the role

Volunteers in this role must have experience with animals and must be able to:

- read, listen, and communicate effectively
- follow instructions provided by the dog owner
- stand for long periods of time and walk at a reasonable pace
- bend at the waist and knee and carry 30 lbs
- safely manage dogs on leash

As a volunteer in this role, you will be expected to dress appropriately including wearing closed-toed and closed-heel shoes, long trousers and weather appropriate clothing.

No PPE is required for this role.

### Support available

As a volunteer you will be able to access the following support from Realise charity:

- Telephone and email support at all times during your volunteering
- Reimbursement of any travel expenses incurred whilst volunteering (see Expenses procedure as part of Volunteering policy)
- Access to online guidance on safeguarding and staying safe

- All volunteers will be covered by either Realise charity or our group, **we are aspire**, policies and procedures.

### **Volunteering guidance**

We want to ensure your safety at all times. Please follow our volunteering guidance at all times and contact us if you have any issues at all – we're here to help!