



WAGS SITTER QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS



Part of a WAGS' dog's training is to learn that at a moment's notice they may have to go from their known, safe environment into a new, strange environment. If, every time this happens during their training, it's an absolutely positive, wonderful experience, they will associate leaving their home and going somewhere new as an okay, fun experience. They also learn that they still have the same "rules" – appropriate to their age and skills.

That's how **WAGS Sitters help continue a WAGS' dog's training – by providing that safe, caring home where the rules are the same.** (No getting on furniture or beds, sitting calmly before eating, walking politely on a leash using a gentle leader/harness if necessary, sleeping quietly in the crate, going potty outside, etc.)

Sitting for a WAGS puppy/dog may last anywhere from a few hours to a few days. It may mean picking up the puppy/dog from the WAGS facility or meeting the Puppy Raiser/Trainer or WAGS staff at a predetermined place (at a field trip, Puppy Raiser/Trainer's home, etc). **WAGS Sitters do not have public access with the WAGS dog.** Taking a dog in public places requires a great deal of training to help our dogs learn appropriate public behavior. **This is a time for our dogs to learn that it's okay for people to come and go and they get to just stay home;** sometimes crated, sometimes not. A crate will be provided by WAGS.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Existing pet animals in the house must be safe behaviorally & medically.
 - Must provide proof that pets are current on vaccinations and free of parasites.
 - If the existing pet dog has ever been in a fight with or had any issue with another dog, bitten/snapped or growled/snarled at a person, chased or killed a cat or other small animal, or gotten defensive over food/toys/sleeping area (resource guarding), this would not be an environment for a WAGS puppy in training. If existing pets are in the home, WAGS staff will determine if the pets are safe behaviorally and medically. Prior to placement of a WAGS dog, current dogs must come to the WAGS facility to interact with a WAGS dog. If successful, a WAGS dog will be brought to the home to interact with dog(s) and/or other pets.
- Ability to come home during the workday, depending on dog's age, to give WAGS puppy opportunity to potty and play
- Time to play with and exercise WAGS puppy/dog

REQUIREMENTS prior to Sitting for puppy in your home:

- Print out and complete volunteer application (found on-line or call to have one mailed to you) and return to WAGS for review by WAGS staff.
- References called.
- Home visit by WAGS staff.
- If pets in the home, interactions with WAGS dog as stated above.
- Attend Orientation to discuss dog psychology, health and hands-on handling skill practice.

Requirements while Sitting with a Wags puppy/dog:

- Maintain safe environment for WAGS puppy/dog
 - Always have WAGS puppy/dog on leash when outside – ALWAYS
 - Use basic WAGS vocabulary to maintain dog's learning (COME HERE, SIT, DOWN, WAIT, LET'S GO, LEAVE IT, OFF, OUTSIDE?, and POTTY)

- For the safety of WAGS' dogs – NO DOG PARKS
- Feed only WAGS prescribed food and treats (provided by Puppy Raiser/Trainer)
- Take WAGS puppy/dog to Veterinarian if necessary

PROVIDED BY WAGS STAFF/PUPPY RAISER/TRAINER to SITTER:

- Dog's collar, leash, gentle leader or harness (if needed) and crate (if needed)
- Any toys, special treats, blankets, etc
- Dog Food
- Monthly Progress Report including information on:
 - Daily routines
 - Normal and emergency veterinarian information
 - Temperament
 - Health
 - Skill knowledge