



**BELIEVET™**

CANINE  
SERVICE PARTNERS

## **Volunteer Roles Description and Specification**

**Role Title:** Foster Puppy Raiser

### **Main Purpose of the Role:**

As a volunteer Foster Puppy Raiser for Believet, you will be responsible for caring for, socializing, and teaching good behaviors to your Believet service dog prospect. The care, attention, and work you are putting into your foster dog will help these dogs grow into a life saving service dog for our injured military veterans. Through your service, you are directly giving back to our nation's heroes and making a real difference in the lives of veterans and their families, providing freedom, independence, and helping them return to a more normal life.

### **What does the role involve?**

- Providing a safe, caring environment for the dogs to grow up in.
- Teaching fundamental good behaviors including: House breaking, appropriate play behaviors, and appropriate social interaction with people and other dogs.
- Meeting with Believet trainers once per month to learn basic obedience with positive reinforcement: "Sit", "leave it", "touch", and walking properly on a leash. As the puppy gets older, these obedience commands will expand to help you bring the well behaved puppy into more stores and public places.
- Report injuries, sickness, and behavior problems to Believet trainers and learn how to train through common problems.
- Report detrimental behaviors to Believet (resource guarding, aggression, fear, anxiety, etc.)
- Fosters have the opportunity to become Believet Ambassadors attending community and fundraising events with their foster dog and bring awareness to Believet's mission.

### **Who would be suitable for this role?**

This role would be suitable for someone who loves dogs and has previous dog experience. This role is for people who are over the age of 25, can provide a stable, non-disruptive living environment, and does not smoke in their home or vehicle. This person may have up to 2 other dogs in their home, as long as they can safely and appropriately cohabit with the puppy. The person should have a schedule that allows them to be available to the puppy 80% of the time to meet the puppy's needs to relieve itself, feed, and play/socialize. This person needs to be able to recognize injury or sickness and other care needs. Puppy Raisers may live anywhere in the U.S, as long as they are able to keep contact with Believet at least once per month and uphold Believet care standards.

### **When?**

Puppy Raisers have their foster puppy from as young as 8 weeks old to as old as one year old, although the dog's formal training at the Believet training center can start as early as 10 months old. See the Puppy Raising Timeline for more information.