



CANINE ALLIES CIC RETIREMENT AND MOBILITY POLICY

**Canine Allies CIC
Version: 2.0
Issued: 13 March 2026
Effective from: 27 March 2026**



Retirement and Mobility Policy

This policy sets out to outline the requirements for retirement of assistance dogs within Canine Allies CIC and the standards for mobility expected.

Retirement of an assistance dog

Age

Due to the vast amount of breeds we work with, and the individual dogs' circumstances, we do not have a set age at which we would expect a dog to retire. This is a conversation to have with a veterinary professional, as well as a Canine Allies CIC Trainer.

Health

If a dog were to develop a condition that would significantly impact their ability to assist their handler, we would recommend that this dog be retired from assistance work immediately, and indefinitely. Conditions that would stop a dog from assisting their handler could be:

- Epilepsy
- Aggression
- Blindness
- Deafness
- Injury

This list is not exhaustive, and if you have any concerns, please reach out to a Canine Allies CIC Trainer.

Mobility Work

All dogs must be screened by a veterinarian prior to undertaking training for mobility related tasks. A full report of the hip and elbow investigations must be provided to Emilie Dashwood. X-ray images may be requested, and will be the responsibility of the handler to fund.

Dogs undertaking mobility work must be seen by a veterinarian a minimum of annually, to confirm they are still able to undertake the work comfortably. More information on annual vet checks can be found in the Annual Veterinary Check policy.

Canine Allies CIC

Assistance Dogs

www.canineallies.co.uk | info@canineallies.co.uk



It is also important to ensure all mobility related equipment is suitable for both handler and dog.

Furthermore, the dog must be of an appropriate age, height and weight for the handler that they will be assisting.

Failure to comply with this may result in expulsion from the organisation, and in extreme circumstances, a report with the local animal welfare authority may be filed, as the dog would be classified as subject to harm.