



County Durham and Darlington
Fire and Rescue Service



Project Fire Hunter

Fire Dog Application Form

Owners details:

Name	
Address	
Telephone	
email	

Please include a photo of the/each dog in a standing position (in profile) which should include their ears to paws, nose to tail.



Agreed terms:

Statement 1:

I do hereby state that I am the legal owner of the dog(s) listed in the the following section, (Dog applicant), and fully appreciate that should my dog successful complete the selection process to become a Fire Dog with Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service that I gift my dog freely and perminantly to Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Authority.

Statement 2:

I do hereby state that the dog(s) listed in the the following section, (Dog applicant), is to the fullest of my knowledge, free of any preexisting injury, illness, defect or extreme behavioural abnormality.

Signed, (in relation to statement 1 & 2): _____

Date: _____

Dog Applicant(s): **Working Cocker Spaniel breed only**

Dog Name	Date of birth	Microchip number

1.0 What we are looking for from the New Fire Hunter

1.1 The breed we prefer to use for searching fire scenes is a Working Cocker Spaniel breed as the Cocker Spaniel has a proven natural talent for search work and offers the greatest degree of flexibility in working-agility, size, intelligence and adaptable to training.

1.2 Our key requirements for a Fire Investigation Search Dog is: -

1. Working Cocker Spaniel breed (male or female).
2. The dog must be microchipped.
3. The dog will have a Vets record of inoculations / booster.
4. Have no pre-existing illnesses, injuries, missing limbs, unauthorised docked tail, allergies, skin conditions, hip dysplasia or joint problems.
5. Full sight with no defects.
6. Full hearing with no defects.
7. Sociable with people and other dogs.
8. Possess a high play-drive, (fetch and return a ball).
9. Free of any extreme behavioural issues.

- 1.3 The dog must be owned by the person or organisation gifting it to County Durham and Darlington FRS.
- 1.4 The Fire Hunter selection day is set for **Saturday the 8th July** at County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service Training Centre, Bowburn South Industrial Estate, Bowburn DH6 5AD, (time slots will be allocated upon receipt of an application form).
- 1.5 Successful dogs will be invited to attend a second assessment day on **Friday 14th July** at the same location, (Service Training Centre, Bowburn South Industrial Estate, Bowburn DH6 5AD), where the successful dog(s) will be selected for Initial, (boot camp), training prior to specialist search dog training.
- 1.6 The successful dog will be taken on by County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Authority on an 'in training & development' status for a period of 4 weeks from the 14th July 2017.
- 1.7 During this time County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service will assume responsibility for the welfare and care of the dog(s).
- 1.8 If the selected dog(s) demonstrates progression and aptitude as a search dog, (upon achieving the required skills assessments), it will be inducted into the County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service at an attestation ceremony held at Fire Service Headquarters, Belmont.
- 1.9 Upon conclusion of attestation ceremony, the successful dog(s) will transfer into the full ownership of County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Authority and will assume it's 'service' name as a working Fire Investigation Search Dog.

2.0 The test regime (Phase 1) 8th July 2017

Note: Failure of 2 or more tests disqualifies the dog

Test or Activity Behaviour, Physical test, Interaction		Measure of success	Behaviours
1	Smooth tiled floor	Adapts to low-grip surface	Walks and attempts to move over floor
2	Ascend glass sided staircase	Climbs staircase unaffected by apparent open sided staircase <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under control • Confident on stairs 	Confident or responds to coaching and gentle prompting
3	Paper ball roll / retrieval	Interaction and play	Keen to play & retrieve
4	Elevation & physical play	Interaction and play	Keen to play & interact
5	Descending glass sided staircase	Descends staircase unaffected by apparent open sided staircase <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under control • Confident on stairs 	Confident or responds to coaching & gentle prompting under control
6	Tin pan drop / loud bang	Steady behaviour without panicked response	Does not panic / bolt
7	Appliance bay: Minor obstacle cross (coiled rope) Crowd distraction (people shouting) Grip play – toy / rope	Confident movement over rope Steady behaviour without panicked response Interaction and play with human	Attempts to negotiate coiled rope over pathway. Ignores / remains calm. Will hold grip with a toy
8	Villa / FBT area: Fire Appliance running / PTO Light smoke / water/ noise Limited walk to heel / control	Loud unusual noise Basic environmental conditions Basic control	Ignores / remain calm Is not distracted by strange smells Can / attempts to walk under control
9	FBT area: Open stair climb	Confidence on obstacle	Confident or responds to coaching & gentle prompting under control
10	Rear training area (quiet area): Sit, Stay, Down Ball play / Ball follow / Ball chase	Basic commands & reaction, (Dog needs only to try to comply)	Confident or responds to coaching & gentle prompting. High drive to play (ball play)

3.0 The test regime (Phase 2) 14th July 2017

Note: Failure of obstacles tests fails dog

	Test or Activity Behaviour, Physical test, Interaction	Measure of success	Behaviours
1	Smooth floor – low light conditions	Adapts to low-grip, low light environment	Walks and attempts to move over floor
2	Ascend glass sided staircase	Climbs staircase <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climb unaided • Confident on stairs 	Confident or responds to call
3	Descending glass sided staircase	Descends staircase <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under control • Confident on stairs 	Confident or responds to call
4	Ball play / retrieve	Interacts with Handler	Confident, High Drive to play
5	Villa / FBT area: Fire Appliance running / PTO Light smoke / water/ noise Enter darkened container	Loud unusual noise Basic environmental conditions Firm control & resolve	Ignores / remain calm Is not distracted by strange environment
6	FBT area: Open stair climb & obstacle course	Confidence on obstacles	Confident or responds to coaching & gentle prompting under control
7	Rear training area (quiet area): Sit, Stay, Down Ball play / Ball follow / Ball chase	Basic commands & reaction, (Dog will try to comply)	Confident & responds to coaching & commands. High drive to play (ball play)
8	Harness & lead	Will wear harness and conduct basic exercises	Confident & responds to coaching & commands.
9	Carry & lift:	Will allow carry by handler	Confident & responds to coaching & commands.