

## Assistance Dog

An assistance Dog is permitted to accompany their person, in most public places, at most times, in accordance with the Equalities Act 2010. A dog providing what is considered 'Emotional Support' does not have that privilege, giving them only the same freedoms as that of a pet dog.

However, Capable Creatures wants to help push for a movement away from whether a task/work is considered 'assistive' or 'emotionally supportive' towards whether the dog mitigates disabling symptoms, so that the barriers to undertaking the activities of everyday living, which the non-disabled person takes for granted, are diminished, enabling the person with the 'Mental Health Disability' to live a more balanced and engaged life - no longer prisoners in their own homes, active members in their communities, taking up training/paid/unpaid work and much more.



## Where to find us

**Tel:** 023 80559163

**Email:**

capablecreatures@capablecreatures.org

**Facebook:**

[www.facebook.com/capablecreatures](http://www.facebook.com/capablecreatures)

[www.facebook.com/groups/peersupportdogwalking/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/peersupportdogwalking/)

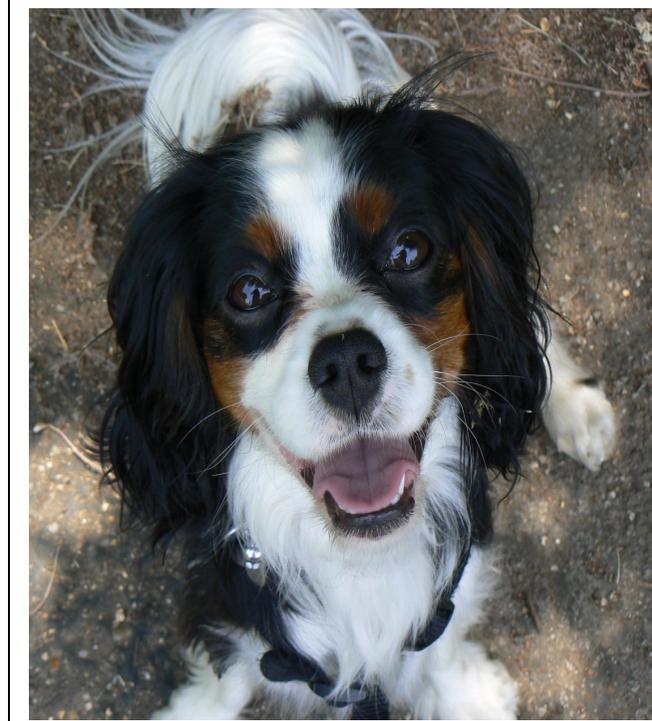
**Twitter:** @Guides4DMind

**Website:** [www.capablecreatures.org](http://www.capablecreatures.org)



### Want to help or get involved?

Do you have a mental health condition or support someone who has then you can help by publicising Capable Creatures & our activities or become actively involved in growing this new initiative. Make a direct donation, sponsor our peer support group for dog owners/lovers with mental health conditions or training & support of G4M ADs and partners - contact us for the details. Qualified as a dog trainer, psychologist, fundraiser, lawyer, social media geek or other professional and interested in contributing, we'd love to hear from you.



**Capable  
Creatures -  
Guides for  
the Mind**

## **Who we are**

Capable Creatures, transpired from the very personal experience of Lise Marron, already enduring mental health difficulties, suffered physical and mental trauma, on being assaulted by a group of youths, in 2002.

The difficulties and symptoms Lise experiences, due to her Mental Health Disability, are greatly mitigated through the training of and having a specially trained 'unofficial' dual purpose 'Guide for the Mind' and 'Physical' Assistance Dog, called Daithí, by her side.

Having Daithí by her side, has given her the ability to live a more balanced, diverse life; better interact with and contribute to her local community.

Currently, 'Guide for the Mind' Assistance Dogs (G4DM ADs), often referred to as 'Psychological' Assistance Dogs (PADs), are not recognised or available in the UK. Lise wants this to change. To help her in this work Lise has undertaken a Certificate in Dog Behaviour and Training, by Sarah Whitehouse.

## **Purpose**

The purpose of Capable Creatures, a not for profit User Led Organisation, is to assist individuals with Mental Health Support Needs, in accordance with the Equalities Act 2010, to train their own 'Guide for the Mind' Assistance Dogs, have them 'officially recognised' and provide life-time support of these working partnerships.

We promote and demonstrate responsible dog ownership through the provision of information and peer support for dog owners/lovers with mental health condition. We plan therapeutic dog assisted activities. Family, PAs/Carers are also welcome.

## **What is a Guide for the Mind Assistance Dog**

A 'Guides for the Mind' (G4DM) Assistance Dog, is a dog specifically trained to assist a person with a Mental Health Disability. Like other assistance dogs, these dogs are trained to perform specific work /tasks, which mitigate symptoms and lessen barriers to undertaking the average daily activities, which the non-disabled person take for granted, thus qualifying as a Disability.

## **Currently Recognised 'Guide for the Mind' Assistive Tasks**

Common 'Guide for the Mind' tasks include - reminding their person to take their medication at specified times, act as an alarm - helping their person to get up in the morning, persuade their person to leave the house to exercise each day. They can also be trained tasks that mitigate specific disabling symptoms a person experiences due to their given mental health condition, e.g. post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

## **Not Currently Recognised as 'Guide for the Mind' Assistive Tasks**

However, there are some work/tasks that are currently considered as 'Emotional Support' and not 'assistive' tasks, here in the UK. Dogs trained to provide what is considered 'Emotional Support' are not legitimately accepted as Assistance Dogs, in the UK and cannot be registered as such.