



JOB TITLE:	Bio Detection Specialist Trainer
LOCATION:	Great Horwood, near Milton Keynes
REMUNERATION:	Dependent on experience
JOB TYPE:	This will start as a temporary role to start with the potential to become permanent
HOURS:	Full time, with the likelihood of extended hours during the COVID-19 Project

Medical Detection Dogs trains dogs to save lives.

We are the world leading organisation for research into canine olfactory diagnostics. We train dogs to detect the odour of disease with the aim of developing faster, more efficient and less invasive diagnostics that lead to better patient outcomes.

Our Bio Detection research includes cancer, neurological disease and bacterial infections, and now COVID-19 and has the potential to benefit millions. We already apply what we know about the science of canine olfaction to benefit people by training Medical Alert Assistance Dogs, which help individuals manage complex, life-threatening medical conditions.

The Job

You will be part of our world leading Bio Detection Research team supporting the training of dogs to detect the odour of disease with a particular focus on our COVID-19 Detection Project. In the event this role becomes permanent you would participate in other research projects which we hope will lead to methods by which those diseases are diagnosed at the earliest possible stage, thereby increasing the chances of survival.

We are looking for someone highly motivated with demonstrable experience of training and operating dogs in odour detection at a professional level, preferably passive search detection work. Ideally you will have a degree or equivalent recognised qualification in animal training, and if not proven relevant experience is essential. You should be well organised, methodical and have excellent attention to detail. You will be expected to work to the charity's standards, following all appropriate health & safety and clinical research protocols. You should also have a specialist knowledge of canine odour detection systems and reward based training, and experience of applying that.

Responsibilities

Odour Detection Training

- Take responsibility for the young dogs allocated to you for Early Scent Training (EST) as part of the assessment of their suitability as a bio detection dog and follow the protocols for that training programme.
- Undertake the training of bio detection dogs in the identification of specific disease odours as part of the research projects to which you are allocated, operating to our established methods and in accordance with project protocols and working to the project timetable.
- Maintain accurate records of all work and data collected, inputting as required into the charity's database; assist with the analysis of dog performance based on that data and prepare reports

and updates within project timescales.

- Adhere to protocols including those relating to the handling of samples and the prevention of odour contamination.

Project Delivery

- Ensure that the assigned project progresses according to the project timetable, dogs are trained in the recognition of odour following MDD training practice and performance is maintained at the agreed level of accuracy
- Provide regular progress reports including analysis of training data in the required format to the Chief Scientific Officer or Research Assistant in a timely manner.
- Support the Research Assistant with the collection and analysis of data in relation to the assigned research project for the purpose of monitoring progress and to ensure robust data is available for presentations, project reports or manuscripts for research papers and publications.
- Support the development of dog training techniques through sharing your knowledge and experience during project design and training.
- When required, assist with the design of tests and experiments and/or development of study protocols, SOPs, ethics and regulatory applications in relation to the assigned research project and more generally in support of the charity's research and other objectives.
- Work with the Supply & Training Manager, the Chief Scientific Officer and others as necessary to plan future dog requirements for the assigned research project in good time.
- Generally, assist with the smooth running of the assigned project.

Dog Welfare and Fosterer Support

- Support the Health & Welfare team with up to date information about project dogs to ensure their welfare is maintained to a high standard and to enable them to update Fosterers on the progress of projects and generally to support them in their voluntary role.
- Support the training of volunteer Fosterers when required.
- From time to time you may be required to transport charity dogs from and to their volunteer fosterers.

Other

- Share best practice with colleagues across the charity, and when required plan and deliver training to staff.
- Preparation and cleaning of bio-detection equipment and rooms.
- Support the charity's fundraising and communications activities when required, for example providing information about particular dogs on your projects for social media posts.
- The charity is often featured in the media, which may include filming of bio detection activities for media broadcast and you may therefore be featured.

Other tasks or ad hoc duties agreed with your line manager required to ensure the successful running of the charity.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

<p>SKILLS AND ABILITIES</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excellent canine training, handling and behavioural skills • Excellent observational skills. • Ability to plan work, be organised and ensure that time is utilised effectively for yourself, colleagues, socialisers and fosterers. • Ability to communicate effectively and appropriately with a wide range of people internally and externally. This will include volunteers, other professional service providers, members of the public, the media, managers and other colleagues. • The ability to carry out basic data analysis to a given format is desirable but not essential. • High level of IT literacy and report writing skills
<p>KNOWLEDGE & EXPERIENCE</p>	<p>Essential:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A specialist level of knowledge of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Canine odour detection systems · Reward based training · Canine behaviour • Experience of training and operating detection dogs. • Proven experience of delivering dog training at a professional level. • Understand the importance of, and deliver, the highest standard of animal welfare. <p>Desirable:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience of instructional techniques. • Understanding of dog psychology and/or the assessment of dog temperament. • Knowledge of health and safety of dog handling including the Law in relation to interaction with dogs. • Experience of working with experimental design and research protocols. • A basic knowledge of the various medical conditions with which the charity works, or the aptitude and willingness to acquire it.
<p>PERSONAL ATTRIBUTES</p>	<p>You should be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highly motivated, diligent and hard working • Supportive of the charitable aims of Medical Detection Dogs and capable of working as part of a team, as well as able to motivate yourself. • Adaptable and positively embrace change by not only being flexible towards the ideas of others but also putting forward ideas to colleagues. • Creative in problem solving and making appropriate responses to new ideas and unexpected situations

Values & Behaviours

Working at Medical Detection Dogs will be a richly rewarding experience. Our Values & Behaviours encapsulate who we are, what we stand for and what it will feel like to be part of our team:

1. We treat each other with respect and courtesy
2. We act professionally at all times
3. We accept responsibility for our own performance and behaviour
4. We are honest and open in our dealings with each other
5. We are inclusive and open minded
6. We provide a safe space for challenging opinion, behaviour and decisions
7. We give credit when and to whom it is due
8. We support one another in achieving our goals

And of course, we advocate for Medical Detection Dogs whenever we get the chance and we pride ourselves on our role as ambassadors.

Finally, the successful candidate will also be expected to:

- Hold a full UK Driving Licence
- Provide proof of identity and eligibility to work in the UK.
- Undertake a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check
- Work some evenings and weekends, especially in relation to the COVID-19 Project