

The *DOGIQ Foundation* trains assistance dogs since 2004. By executing specific tasks they compensate for the dysfunction in people with different kinds of physical disabilities including the blind, deaf or on wheelchairs. Assistance dogs increase independence and self-reliance of people with disabilities. They can bring a new quality to their lives!



For four years, Lions Club Gdynia partners with *DOGIQ Foundation*. Together we help those who dream of an assistance dog. Until now we have completed two projects: “Kalla” in 2010 resulting in an assistance dog for Gdynia’s citizen – Oskar Langner and “Finka” in 2014 where Katarzyna Bierzanowska – citizen of Lublin also received an assistance dog.



Each project is based on purchasing, training and transmission to the new owner of an assistance dog which is a complicated and a multi-phase process.

Phase I – „Acquiring the best puppies” (Breeding program). During this phase we work with the best dog breeders to carefully select that one and only puppy...

Phase II – “Foster family” to which the young puppy is brought to for the next 12 months. The role of the family is to provide the puppy with warm and sense of security, which are necessary for his/her proper development and future profession as well as teaching him good manners - savoir vivre.



VIDEO: <http://barbaraostrowska.com/en/vetra/>



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Phase III – „Advanced training”. At the age of about 14 months a young dog, already under trainer’s care, begins regular training sessions, which are designed to prepare him for a professional work with a disabled person. All of the techniques used during the training are deprived of the use of a force and compulsion, which means that the dog is rewarded for performed operations with treat, fun or affection.

Phase IV – „Adaptation Course” takes about two weeks and takes place onsite. The future owner learns commands and instructions how to work with the dog. They both learn about each other and get to know their characters and habits. The course ends with a team certification.

The full cycle of acquiring and training an assistance dog takes around two years. The total cost is around 7,000 EUR. The DOGIQ foundation is a non-profit organization and does not hire employees so it is dependent on donations from institutions and individuals.

The programme is supported by Baltic Sea Lions together with Lions clubs from Tri-city area LCI District 121 Poland.

We are counting on your support and will appreciate any donation!



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