



Autism  
Assistance  
Dogs  
Ireland

# welcome!

INFORMATION FOR POTENTIAL  
NEW PUPPY FOSTERERS



# ABOUT US...



**10-15**

ENQUIRIES weekly



**2yrs**

and to train an Autism  
Assistance Dog.



**90%**

of our FUNDS come  
from the public



**€0**

we DO NOT CHARGE  
for our ADs



**Assistance Dogs**  
**INTERNATIONAL**  
**ACCREDITED MEMBER**



# WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THIS PRESENTATION?

- Our organisation is growing FAST so we need lots of new puppy fosterers
- This presentation will provide details on becoming a puppy fosterer
- It will establish realistic expectations
- It should highlight the important role puppy fosterers play in changing lives





# ABOUT OUR CHARITY



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# AN AUTISM ASSISTANCE DOG IS TRAINED TO...

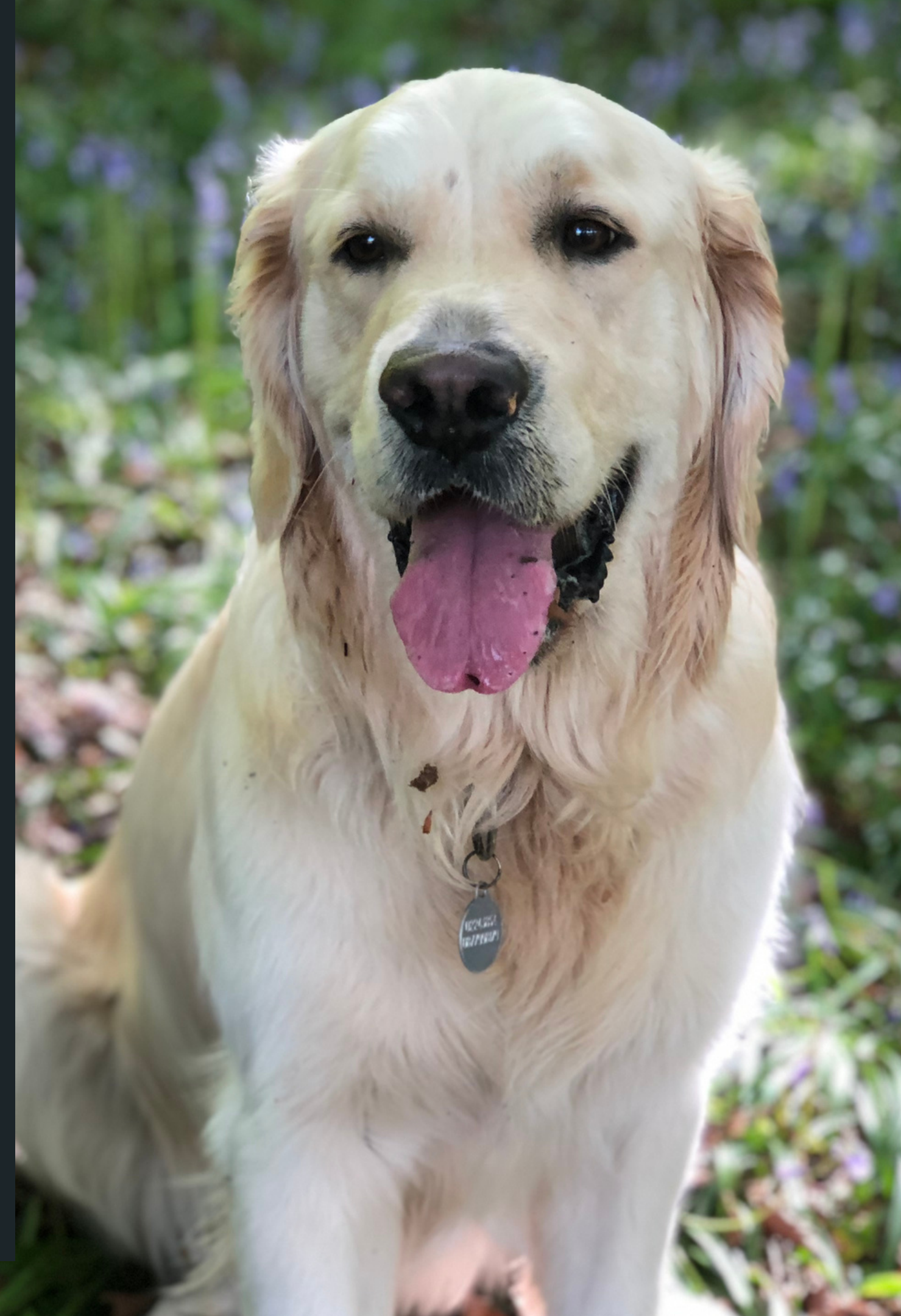
- Stop bolting or eloping
- Reduce anxiety in public
- Provide more understanding within the general public





# AN AUTISM ASSISTANCE DOG IS NOT TRAINED TO...

- Work 24/7
- Follow the child or alert if they escape
- Interrupt behaviours
- Work with more than one child





# BREEDING & ACQUISITION

## Acquisition:

- We only purchase puppies that have been reared indoors and are well handled
- Puppies' parents are health & temperament tested

## Breeding:

- We have our own breeding programme.
- Puppies' parents are health & temperament tested
- Our litters stay for the first 8 weeks with their mother and begin early training while still in the nest





## FROM 8 WEEKS OLD...

- The puppies are added to the puppy programme.
- They live with volunteer foster families.
- We focus on socialising the puppies and teaching them basic training.
- They learn good social behavior, loose leash walking and recall.
- Puppy Supervisors host puppy classes & arrange training walks.





# FORMAL TRAINING

- Up to 20 weeks of 1-to-1 training

## Trained & Assessed on...

- Ignoring distractions
- Stopping and waiting at kerbs
- Walking on a loose lead
- Responding to commands
- Obedience
- Social behaviour
- Travelling on transport
- Attachment walks





# OUR WAITING LIST

2021: 30 places, filled in 2 minutes

2022: 35 places

2023: 45 places

- A decision to open the waiting list around June/July **every year**
- 12-18 month waiting period
- First come first serve basis **without discrimination.**
- Potential applicants must first attend an information session
- Applicants that **need** and **will benefit** from an AD will be successful





# ABOUT PUPPY FOSTERING



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# WHAT IS EXPECTED OF YOU

## Your home must have...

- A fully enclosed garden or be prepared to have your puppy on lead for toileting every time they go outside if your garden is not fully secure.
- A safe & quiet space indoors for the puppy to rest.

## You and your family must...

- Have someone at home everyday - the puppy cannot be left alone for the first few weeks you have them and after this they can only be left for short periods of time. On short term foster they cannot be left alone as they are in an unfamiliar environment.
- Provide your puppy with lots of little walks and be flexible with time.
- Follow the rules as laid out by the organisation.
- Communicate with the Puppy Supervisors if there are concerns or an emergency.





# WHAT IS EXPECTED OF YOU

## When training your pup...

- Use only positive training techniques - we want the puppy's experience to be enjoyable.
- Follow the rules - For your own and the puppies benefit.
- Maintain the dog's appearance.
- Be honest with the Puppy Supervisors. They are here to support you, but they can't do that if you don't communicate openly.





# SAMPLE SCHEDULE OF A TYPICAL DAY

7:00am: Spending (Urination)

7:15am: Breakfast

7:30am: Spending (bowel movement) - has to be supervised

AM: trip in the car (maybe the school run)

AM: short walk

DURING THE DAY: bring puppy outfor toilet breaks and play with the puppy. Also give the puppy time to nap/relax.

PM: short walk - home from school or alternative walk in locality

PM: Play session in the garden or a free run (off leash)

5:00pm: Dinner

5:30pm: Spending (bowel movement) - has to be supervised

Evening: Relax with family

10:30-11pm: Last bathroom break before bed





# WHAT TO EXPECT FROM US

- Your local puppy supervisor is here to support you and wants you to enjoy your time with the puppy.
- Costs are covered - Vet bills, equipment, toys, feed, etc.
- We will equip you with the knowledge and tools you need (no dog training experience required), you will learn lots!
- You will have access to information on our online learning platform.
- The puppy will arrive with everything it will need for its stay with you (bed, lead, waterbowl, toys, crate etc)





# FAMILY CONSIDERATIONS

- **Other pets:** It can be a big change for your pets to have a puppy in the house. Be prepared to spend some time introducing them correctly.
- **Children:** The puppies can be boisterous and excitable after they move. Puppies can sometimes jump up, exhibit puppy biting and chewing which can be difficult to manage with young children.
- **Workload:** It is tough to balance a busy family life and fostering a puppy.
- **Cleanliness:** Your foster puppy will walk in mud and shed hair in your home which means more housework and washing.





# RULES FOR ASSISTANCE PUPPIES:

- Furniture: puppies are not allowed on sofas or beds. Be prepared that they will try when they move - you will have to be consistent in your management of this.
- Collar and ID tag must stay on at all times.
- Puppy should not be left at home alone.
- No playing with balls - these can be distracting for the puppy when they become an assistance dog.
- No bones or rawhide - appropriate chews and toys will be provided.





# RULES FOR ASSISTANCE PUPPIES:

- No playing with children's toys.
- Notify your puppy supervisor if you believe your puppy is unwell.
- If your puppy eats anything dangerous - eg chocolate, grapes, coffee, plastic, socks etc please ring the vet immediately and notify your puppy supervisor.
- No feeding from the table and keep your counters clear of food that your puppy could reach.





# ITS LIKE HAVING A TODDLER...

- Please be aware that these puppies are in training, they are not FULLY TRAINED assistance dogs.
- As such they will exhibit all the normal puppy behaviours such as puppy biting, chewing, jumping up, zoomies (short burst of running around madly) and stealing food/socks/toys.
- You might need to sleep downstairs with them the first night as they may be upset after the move.
- It can take a number of days for the puppy to adjust to their new home - please give them time to settle and keep things quiet for the first couple of days.





# LONG TERM FOSTERING VS SHORT TERM FOSTERING



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# HOW DOES TEMPORARY/SHORT TERM FOSTERING WORK?

- The puppy's fosterer will contact you to arrange drop off and collection of the puppy.
- They will bring everything the puppy needs for their stay.
- They will provide you with information on the puppy's daily routine and care.
- If there is a medical emergency please go to the nearest vet to you at the time and ring your puppy supervisor on the way to let them know what has happened and to arrange for payment.
- The puppy's training jacket will **not** be provided. When the puppy is with you they are on their holidays and so will not be working in shops etc.
- This means that the puppy WILL NOT HAVE PUBLIC ACCESS and can only be taken to places suitable for pet dogs.





# HOW DOES LONG TERM PUPPY FOSTERING WORK AND WHAT IS INVOLVED?

- You will be the full time carer of the puppy for a minimum of 6 months.
- You will need to be available during working hours (Mon - Fri) to meet with the puppy supervisor for 1 hour every fortnight for a puppy class or a training walk, the locations may vary but will generally be no longer than a 30minute drive from you. These meetups can be scheduled in advance.
- The puppy supervisor will work with you to help reduce problem behaviours and to help the puppy meet their training milestones.
- You will be expected to schedule and bring the puppy to their vet visits.
- All costs will be covered by the charity (equipment, food, vet bills etc.)
- You will need to follow the rules, a puppy who does not have clear boundaries from the start will be difficult to manage when they are a large 5 month old bundle of energy.
- The puppy will have a training jacket which gives them public access.





## WE ARE ALSO LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEER DRIVERS IN DUBLIN AND MUNSTER

- If, after reading this presentation you don't think puppy fostering is for you, we are also looking for volunteer drivers to transport puppies throughout the Dublin and Munster areas.
- This role would involve collecting a puppy at a given location and transporting them to another location. Everything the puppy needs for the trip will be provided.
- For more information and applying please:

[CLICK HERE](#)





# Q&A

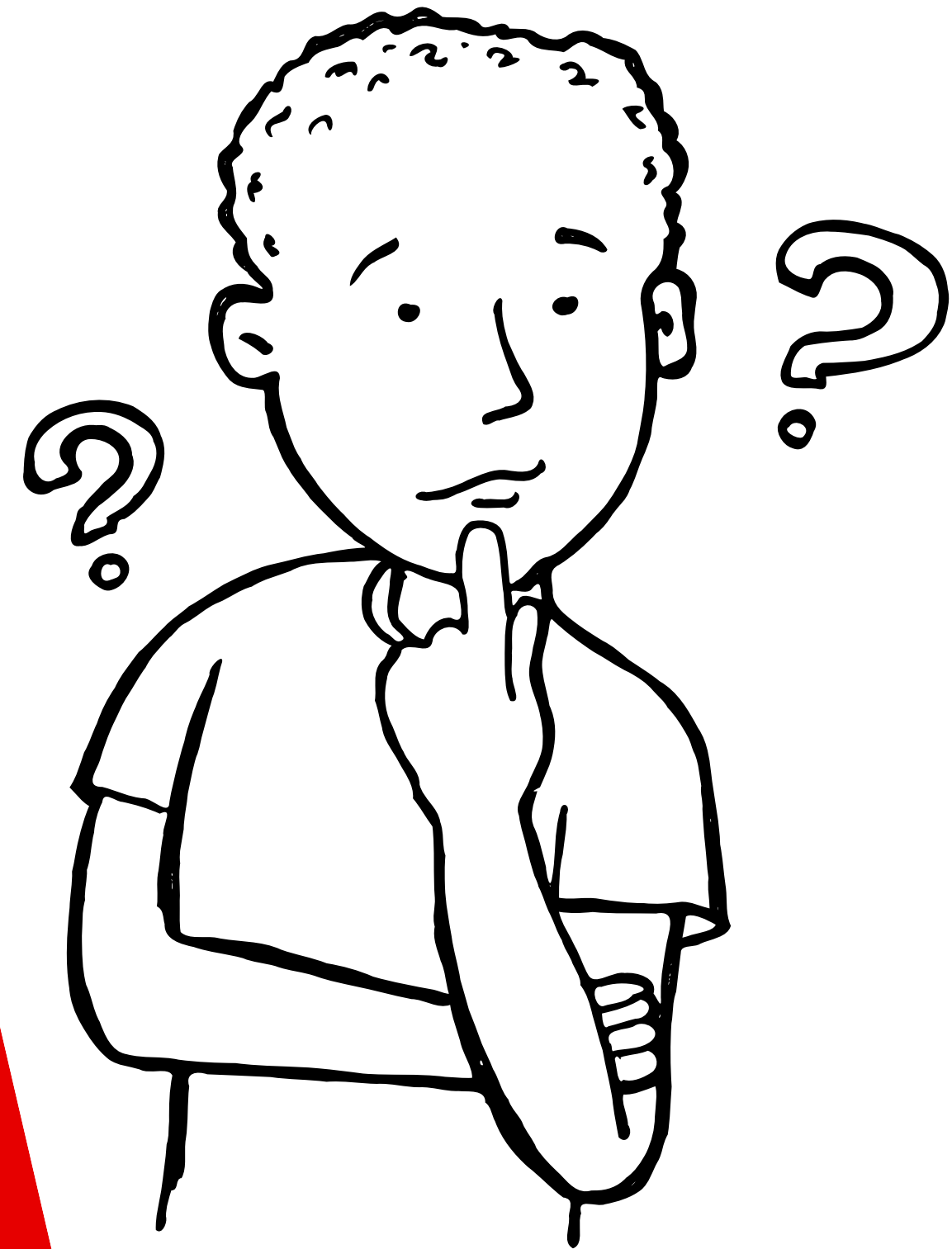


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# WE LIVE IN AN APARTMENT. IS THAT A PROBLEM?

- Ideally you need a safe, enclosed garden. However, an apartment might be acceptable as long as the management company allow for dogs and you have written permission from your landlord (if renting). We will look at all factors at the time of assessment.

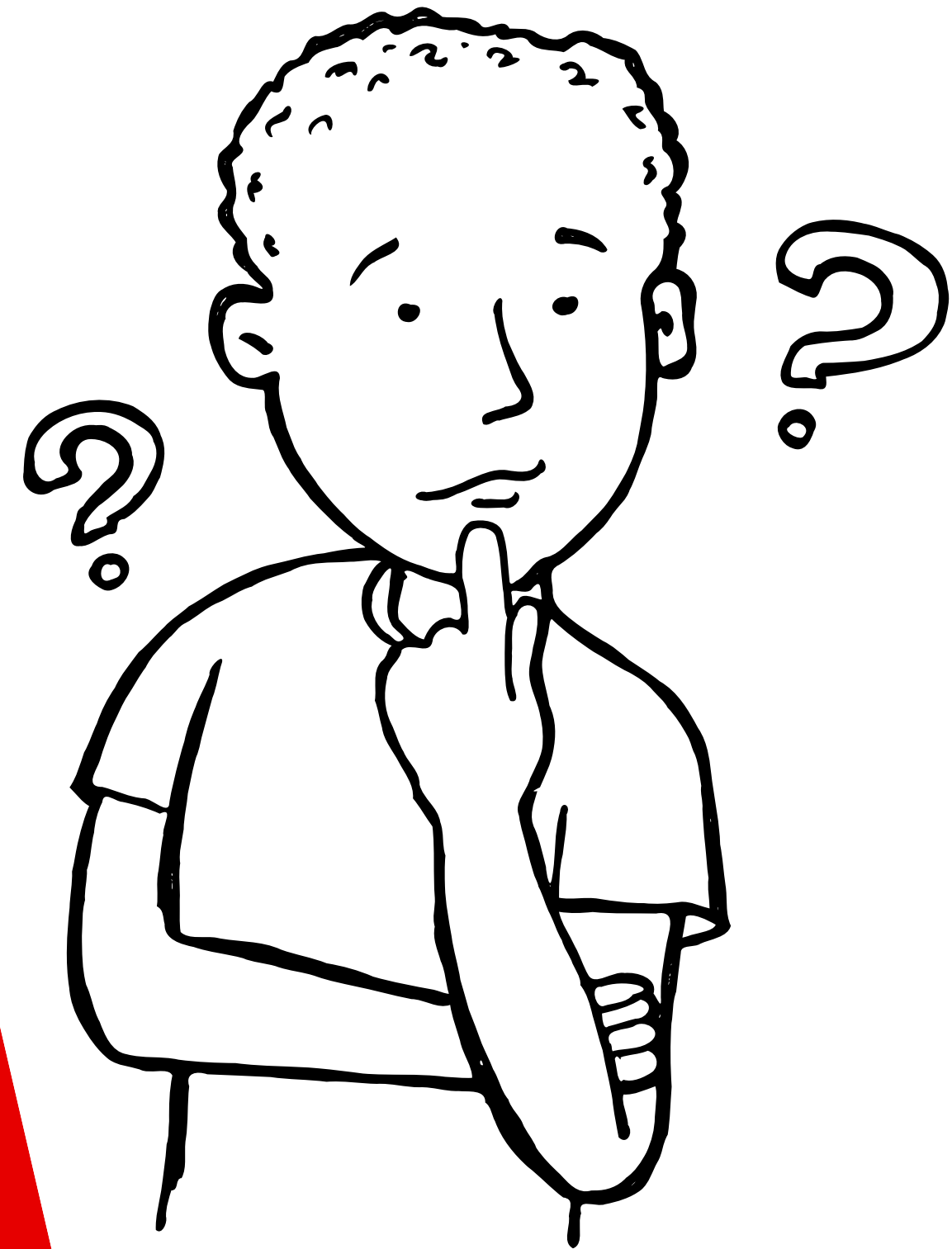


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# I HAVE ANOTHER PET. CAN I STILL FOSTER?

- Your pet should be friendly and well socialised. This does not rule you out from Puppy Fostering, but be aware that if you have a dog, the puppy will have to be walked separately to allow for training walks. All applications will be assessed on a case by case basis.



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# I DON'T HAVE A GARDEN, BUT I LIVE NEAR A PARK?

- This is fine, but your puppy would have to remain on a lead. This will all be assessed during your application process to see if it is viable.



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# WE DON'T HAVE A CAR. ARE WE STILL ELIGIBLE?

- It is one of the requirements that you have a car and this is more about getting the pup used to travelling in the car. If you were interested in short term boarding this might suit better.

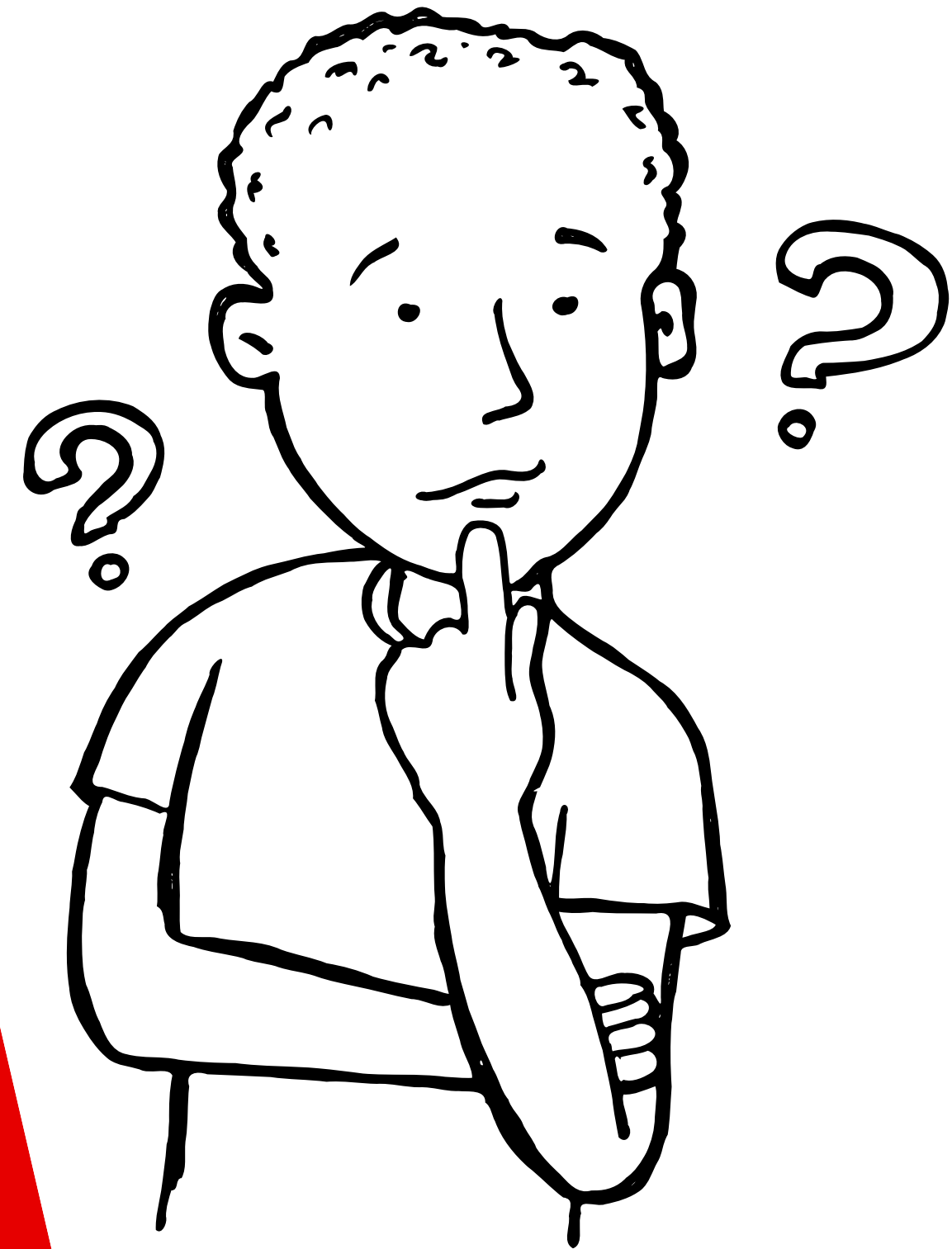


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# MY CHILDREN ARE YOUNG, COULD I STILL FOSTER A PUP?

- It is great for our puppies to grow up around children. Please be aware, puppies are a lot of work, it is like having a toddler! They will go through phases of chewing and puppy biting. This can be hard to manage for young children. If you do have young children and you are interested in applying, please do - we will assess this on a case by case basis.

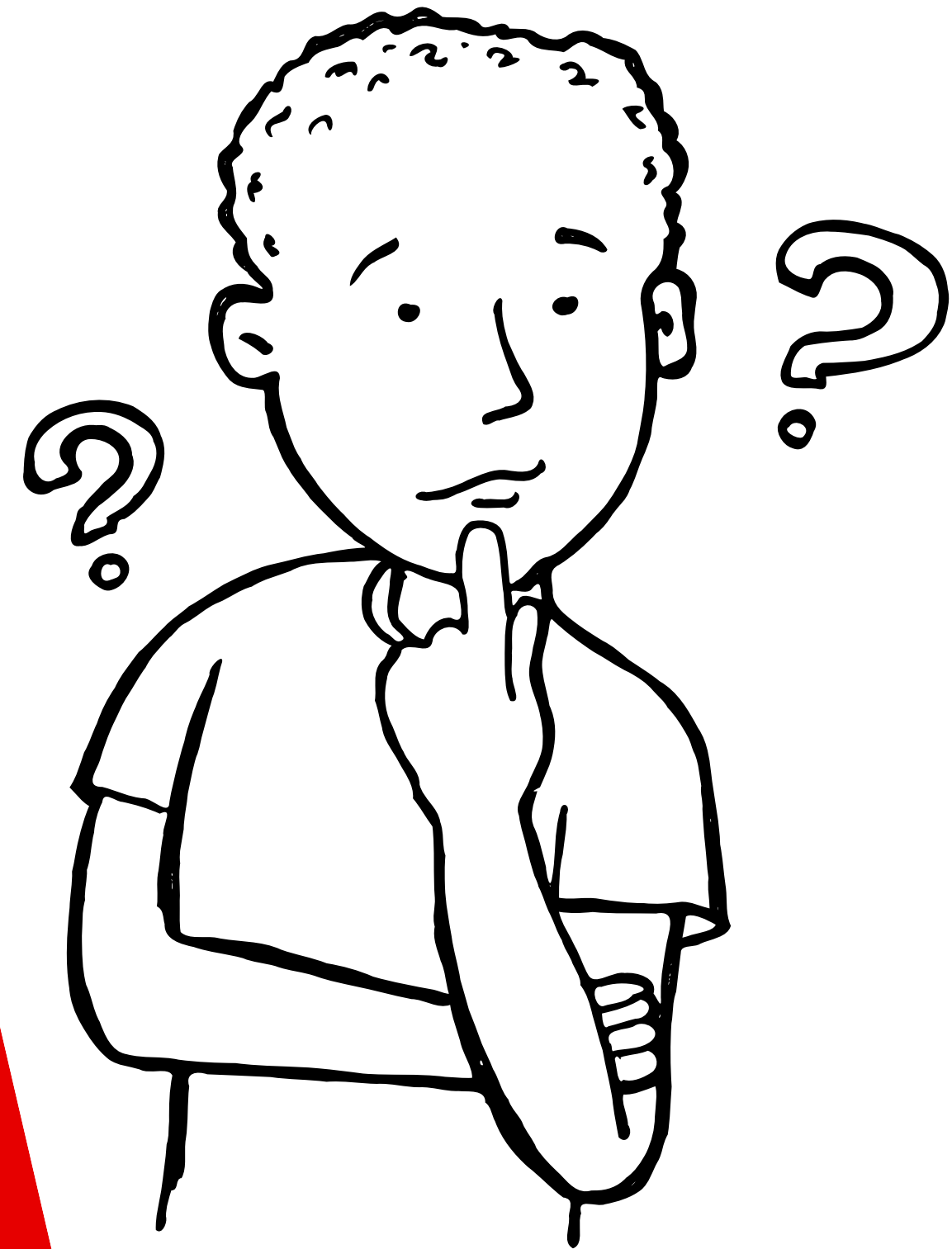


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# I DON'T LIVE IN DUBLIN OR MUNSTER... BUT I STILL WANT TO FOSTER?

- We are currently operating only in Dublin and Munster, but we hope to expand our operations in the future. If you live outside the two regions but are willing to travel, please apply and we will assess your situation.



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