

Participatory Research Fund Project Preparing for Assistance Dog Retirement

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Overview:

The UK currently sees ± 7000 assistance dog users, who will use on average 3-4 dogs during their lifetime. There is however a lack of information around assistance dogs.

This PPIE project is part of a bigger research programme that investigates how retirement of assistance dogs affects the wellbeing of the user and their family, and the welfare of the dog.

Project aims:

The aim of this project is to find out what important issues are for assistance dog users and assistance dog providers, to ensure that our research has impact where it matters most.

Funding of £9500 was used for:

- “Thank you” vouchers for 4 focus group sessions to discuss issues and experiences
- “Thank you” vouchers for 4 focus group sessions to evaluate the proposed research direction
- Transcription of 8 focus group sessions
- Research assistant time



Do you want to know more or be involved?

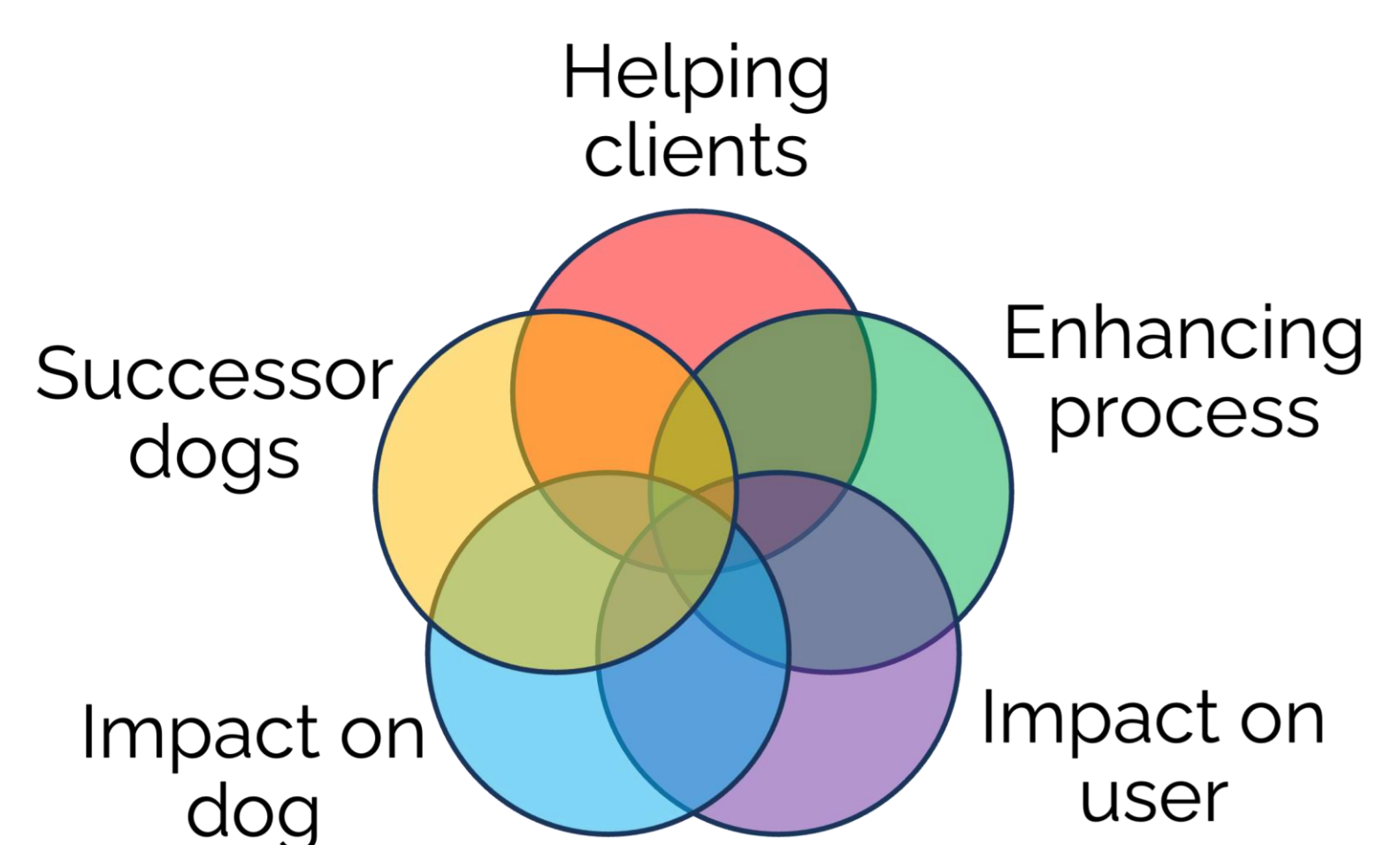
Stakeholders involved:

- Individual assistance dog users who obtained their dog either from an assistance dog provider, or through self-training their dog.
- Assistance dog providing organisations (including those who support owners with self-training)

Patient and Public Involvement and Engagement elements:

- i) Group discussion sessions with assistance dog users and providers to learn about important issues
- ii) Discussion group sessions to evaluate project findings

Research outcomes:



We identified 5 focus areas for further research:

1. Helping organisations with helping clients
2. Supporting organisations with enhancing the retirement process
3. Understanding the impact on the human partner
4. Understanding the impact on dog welfare
5. Conflicts around successor dogs

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