



AUTISM SERVICE DOGS OF AMERICA
a child who connects with a dog connects with the world

Dear Applicant,

Please print, fill out and sign the documents in the attached application and return your completed application to our office at 5232 N Interstate Ave., Portland, OR 97217.

THE COMPLETED APPLICATION MUST INCLUDE ALL OF THE FOLLOWING:

1. A small, recent photo of your (applicant) child.
2. Documentation of a diagnosis of Autistic Disorder and a prescription for a service animal from your medical provider.
3. Statements of child's condition, difficulties, and needs from extended family members, one of the child's current service providers, associates and friends of the family.
4. 15 minute DVD showing your home environment, family members and the child interacting with a dog.
5. All questionnaires, charts and signed acknowledgements.
6. \$30 application fee.

We ask that you please re-visit our website www.autismservicedogsofamerica.org and review how our program works so when we speak on the phone you have an understanding of your participation in training, fund raising, and placement.

On the application please highlight the best number to reach you and times. If approved we will contact you within 3-4 weeks for a final phone interview.

If you have questions please contact me through e-mail at:

kati@autismservicedogsofamerica.org

Sincerely,

Kati Rule-Witko
Executive Director and Placement Specialist
phone: (971) 285-4547
Fax: (503) 360-1299

Application

STEP ONE: Please fill out all forms, questionnaires and charts.

ASDA recognizes that demand for autism service dogs is high and availability is limited. Unfortunately due to the demand, ASDA must qualify applicants. ASDA advises families to apply as early as possible.

Please print legibly

Primary caregiver name: _____ Relationship to the child _____

Secondary caregiver name _____ Relationship to the child _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Email: _____

Does secondary caregiver live with primary caregiver? ___yes___ no

Secondary caregiver residence if other than above:

Address: _____ Phone: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Email: _____

Applicant child's name: _____ DOB _____ gender _____

Child's school: _____ grade _____ N/A _____

Have you owned a pet in the last 10 yrs? ___yes___ no ___type___ #years owned _____

More than one pet in the last 10 yrs? Please list: _____

Do you currently have pets in the home? ___yes___ no ___type___ number _____

If you currently own a dog, what is the breed _____ and age _____

If you owned a dog but no longer do, please explain the reason you no longer own a dog:

Do you live in a ___house___ apartment___ condo___ town house_____ other

What is the approximate square footage of your residence? _____ sq ft

How many bedrooms? ___and the number of rooms for play or recreation? _____

Do you have a yard? ___yes___ no Approximate sq ft _____ sq ft

Is your yard securely fenced? ___yes___ no Height of the fence _____ ft

How many individuals live full time at your residence? _____

Name, age, and relationship to primary caregiver:

Name: _____ age ___ relationship _____

Name: _____ age ___ relationship _____

Name: _____ age ___ relationship _____

Name: _____ age _____ relationship _____

Name: _____ age _____ relationship _____

Others who may stay overnight for visits:

Name: _____ age _____ relationship _____

Name: _____ age _____ relationship _____

Does the child have visitations with relatives without primary caregiver(s) present?

___yes___no

If yes, explain *who?* _____

how often? _____ *how long?* _____

Does the (applicant) child attend school? ___yes___no If no, why not? _____

Does the (applicant) child have a one-on-one teacher? ___yes___no, or other _____

If your child *will* attend school, what calendar year will the child attend school? Year 201_____

If your child attends school what month does school start and end for your child?

Do they attend summer school? _____

The name of the school the child currently attends: _____

Address: _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: (_____) _____ Extension _____

Is your child or *will* your child be mainstreamed at school, attend special education classes, or some other program? Please explain: _____

Are you aware of any service dogs working in the school your child attends or will attend?

___yes___no If yes, what is the nature of the dog's service? _____

Does primary caregiver work outside the home? ___Do you vacation as a family?___yes___no

What does your family do for recreation? _____

Does your special needs child attend? ___yes___no Participate? ___yes___no

Can you afford an average of \$150 per month (yearly shots, hygiene, food, etc) to support a service dog? ___yes___no

Where will the service dog sleep? _____

Where will the service dog rest? _____

Where would you exercise the service dog? _____
_____ **when?** _____ **how?** _____

What are the major challenges you experience as a primary caregiver of a special needs child?

The challenges other family members experience? _____

How will a service dog change your life and that of other family members?

Briefly, in what way do you think a service dog might enhance the life of your special needs child?

(Primary caregiver) Briefly, what are your expectations? _____

(Secondary caregiver) What are your expectations? _____

What concerns/reservations do you have with respect to owning a service dog? _____

Is there anything we have not asked that you feel is important for us to know about you, your special needs child, or your family? ___yes___no

For screening purposes please read and complete each of the following questions.

Answer each question with an X that best describes your child.

Keep in mind we are not asking about normal age appropriate behavior.

Does your child—

1. Run away from caregivers? ___never ___sometimes ___frequently
2. Demonstrate hyperactive behaviors? ___never ___sometimes ___frequently
3. Demonstrate impulsivity? ___never ___sometimes ___frequently
4. Demonstrate aggressive behavior toward others? ___never ___sometimes ___frequently
5. Experience temper tantrums? ___never ___sometimes ___frequently
6. Experience a very short attention span? ___never ___sometimes ___frequently
7. Experience oversensitivity to sound? ___never ___sometimes ___frequently
8. Experience oversensitivity to being touched? ___never ___frequently
9. Experience an exaggerated reaction to light, odors or other stimuli? ___never ___sometimes ___frequently
10. Demonstrate extreme or abnormal moods? ___never ___sometimes ___frequently
(giggling or weeping for no apparent reason) ___never ___sometimes ___frequently
11. Demonstrate a lack of fear to real dangers (age appropriate) ___never ___sometimes ___frequently
12. Demonstrate self-injurious behavior? ___never ___sometimes ___frequently
13. Experience difficulty in forming peer relationships? ___never ___sometimes ___frequently
14. Experience seizures? ___never ___sometimes ___frequently
15. Demonstrate delay in language development? ___yes ___no
16. Lack the ability for creative, imaginative play? ___yes ___no
17. Lack the ability to initiate or sustain conversation (age appropriate)? ___yes ___no
18. Demonstrate impairment in eye-to-eye contact, facial expression, body postures and gestures? ___yes ___no
19. Demonstrate repetitive use of language or idiosyncratic language? ___yes ___no
20. Fail to share enjoyment, interests or achievements with others? ___yes ___no
21. Demonstrate a lack of social or emotional reciprocity? ___yes ___no
22. Demonstrate frustration/irritability with minimal changes in routine ___No ___Mild ___Moderate ___Severe
24. Take medication? ___yes ___no

Before you continue with the final application it's important that you understand the time and investment required. Having an ASDA service dog will require a commitment by both parents to provide more than food and shelter. If you enter the ASDA program you will be given required reading to complete prior to your training in Oregon; you will discuss what you have learned, and you will have days of on-site and in-home training. You will be expected to follow ASDA instructions regarding the dog's transition into your home. The first 3 months after placement is a time of major adjustment for the dog, you, your child and the rest of the family, and as such, ASDA wants to be certain that the family is fully prepared for the personal investment and hard work required. It's fun and exciting too, but there is much to be done initially in preparation and during the first few months after tether placement.

Although an ASDA dog is specially trained to perform specific tasks, he/she is still a dog. We require comprehensive reading of books and materials we recommend. Regardless of how many dogs you have owned in the past, ASDA requires that each family follow ASDA requirements, suggestions, training and guidelines before ASDA makes a permanent placement. This means that for a period of time the primary caregiver's work load is increased not reduced i.e., reading, training, practice, modifications in routine and adjustments to a new canine family member. The secondary caregiver will also have reading, and will participate in the second phase of training. The secondary caregiver will need to lend support to his/her spouse or partner. Integrating and transitioning a service dog into your home will require a team effort. Both parents have to welcome a service dog. If one parent doesn't like dogs, the placement won't be successful.

Often the expectation of the parent of a child with autism seeking a service dog is that the service dog will perform immediate miracles, and being a uniquely trained dog means the dog is fundamentally different than other dogs, a sort of "robot" dog that responds the instant you give a command; never makes a mistake; never sulks or barks, and never has an off day. Highly trained dogs are still dogs and all dogs have basic needs that must be met to be well-balanced and perform consistently. A well balanced dog is calm, friendly, and content. To a great extent a dog's mood, performance and quality of companionship depend on his/her environment, the amount of exercise, discipline and affection given by the human "pack-leader." The dog must have confidence in the leader/handler.

Please complete the attached charts carefully so that ASDA may have an idea of your routine, (applicant) child routine, and your best estimate of the service dog's routine. It's okay to guess if you're not sure, but be realistic. Print legibly and don't squeeze too much information into each box. The purpose is to give you and ASDA an idea of your routine and general lifestyle in order to assist with the tasks that will be required to care for the dog, allowing you to consider how you will integrate those activities into your family life style. It is not a test! There are no wrong answers.

The following are the books that will be **required reading: (Available new and used)

***Cesar's Way*, by Cesar Millan, Harmony Books, 2006.

***The Culture Clash*, by Jean Donaldson, James & Kenneth Publishers, 1996.

The Other End of the Leash, by Patricia B. McConnell, PH.D, Ballantine Books, 2002.

Estimated Service Dog Routine: time (designate A.M or P.M. and a range of time) for each day's listed activity

Activity	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Total hrs
Wake-up								
Breakfast								
Potty								
Walk /Exercise								
Service dog work								
Play/Exercise								
Unstructured Free-time								
Nap Time								
Eve Feeding								
Retire for the night								
TOTAL								

The hours in the last vertical column (right bottom box) should total approximately 168 hrs for the week

Applicant (child's) routine: Day and time (fill in time, activity for all periods of each day)

Activity	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Wake Breakfast							
Dress/leave							
Morning Activity							
Lunch							
Afternoon Activity							
Late Afternoon Activity							
Dinner							
Eve Activity							
Bedtime							

Primary caregiver routine: Day and time (fill in time, activity for all periods of each day)

Activity	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Wake Breakfast							
Dress/leave							
Morning Activity							
Lunch							
Afternoon Activity							
Late Afternoon Activity							
Dinner							
Eve Activity							
Bedtime							

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TERMS AND CONDITIONS
OF SERVICE DOG PLACEMENT**

Primary Caregiver: _____
(Print)

Secondary Caregiver: _____
(Print)

Recipient Child: _____
(Print)

Should our child be accepted into the ASDA program, we, the undersigned, will be required to demonstrate aptitude, competency, and a commitment to follow ASDA education, standards and training. The undersigned agree that if any of the standards of veterinary care, health, grooming, cleanliness, and housing are not met, or if the dog is repeatedly placed in danger or is receiving negligent care and/or treatment, ASDA has the absolute unequivocal right to permanently remove the dog from our possession with or without notice. The undersigned agree that in this case no compensation and/or refund of the sponsor's or recipient's contribution or associated placement costs will be returned.

We understand that contributions are not payment for a service dog, nor a guarantee our child will receive a service dog. While contributions may be given to ASDA on behalf of a particular child, we understand those funds do not constitute a purchase. After we, the primary and secondary caregiver, have successfully completed ASDA fundraising requirements, educational training and made the required preparations to receive the service dog, ASDA dog placement will proceed with the recipient child and his or her family.

If at any time during the fundraising process, during team training, the two week transitional phase or the week of tether training, an ASDA representative determines the caregiver, caregiver's partner or family is unsuitable to continue placement of a (service) dog, ASDA may exercise its right as stated above to withdraw the service dog without monetary reimbursement to any party.

Caregiver/ Parent _____ Date: _____

Caregiver/Parent _____ Date: _____

STEP TWO:

1. Obtain documentation of a diagnosis of Autistic Disorder and a prescription for a service animal from your medical provider.
2. Provide statements of child's condition, difficulties, and needs from extended family members, one of the child's current service providers, associates or friends of the family. A maximum of 3 concise statements from three different sources describing the child's major disabilities.
3. A 15 minute DVD or standard VHS (no mini-cam cassettes) of your home environment i.e., show us around your house and your yard, introduce us to your family members and the last ten minutes we'd like to see the child interacting with, or in the presence of a dog. (The dog in the video or DVD may belong to a neighbor, friend or relative)

STEP THREE:

Sign, and mail all documents with the following agreement:

I understand and accept the responsibility, financial investment, and care required of owning a (service) dog. All family members will respect the basic needs of the dog for proper diet, shelter, veterinary care, exercise, attention, and rest. If, at any time, I, or members of my immediate family, cannot meet the requirements of proper care, I understand the service dog is to be returned to Autism Service Dogs of America. I further agree to follow ASDA instruction regarding the required reading, training, and the transition and integration process of the service dog into our home.

Signed _____ Date _____

Full name of primary child caregiver/ dog handler

Primary caregiver name: _____

Primary caregiver address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Child's Name _____ DOB: _____

Mail the printed application form & all documents along with a \$30 application fee to:

**ASDA
5232 N Interstate Ave.
Portland, OR 97217**

PLEASE INCLUDE:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> A small picture of your child (applicant) | <input type="checkbox"/> 15 minute DVD showing your child in the presence of a dog |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Documentation/prescription from your medical provider | <input type="checkbox"/> All questionnaires, charts and signed acknowledgements |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Statements of child's condition, difficulties, and needs | <input type="checkbox"/> \$30 application fee |

ASDA will review and evaluate each applicant's qualification and need, and if accepted into the ASDA program, the applicant will be contacted within 3-4 weeks for a final phone interview.

What's Next

After three to four weeks, you will be contacted by our autism specialist and trainer for a phone interview. At that time you will have to opportunity to ask any questions you have about the placement of your service dog.

Many families suffer overtaxed finances because of additional expenses associated with a child with autism, and acquiring a service dog for autism can seem out of reach.

If approved for a service dog ASDA guides the family through the fundraising process with a fundraising packet loaded with helpful information, including, tips on setting up fundraising events, a sample fundraising letter, brochures, and a list of prospective charitable foundations and organizations.

A family begins the fund raising process immediately following, ASDA approval into the program. Parents are amazed at the amount of support they receive from family, friends, neighbors, churches, local businesses, and community based organizations like the Lyons, Rotary and the Elks. Businesses associated with animals, particularly dogs, are eager to donate to such a worthy cause: There are numerous dog organizations, pet stores, dog care and grooming establishments—so many organizations that love animals and children. Funding resources are endless.

Grants are awarded regularly by charitable foundations. In addition to those ASDA provides, the names of the foundations specific to serving the disabled can be accessed through the library and the Internet.

A family can sponsor a fundraising party; bingo, bunko, or poker, a wine tasting party, an auction or spaghetti dinner. Ideas are unlimited and ASDA will help guide you along.

With a little effort and lots of support, fundraising is rewarding and fun. Families discover a supportive and enthusiastic community of individuals and organizations willing to help improve the quality of life for a child and his/her family.

ASDA Return and Refund Policy for Funds, Donations, Orders and Events:

We hope you will not require a refund for any funds, donation, event registration or sponsorship. Should you need a refund we can accommodate those requests if you notify us by email or mail within 30 days of the order being placed and the donation being made, or any other funds received. After receiving your refund request we will issue the refund within 30 business days. Refunds cannot be issued for orders, funds received and donations older than 30 days.