

MIRA FOUNDATION INC.

**APPLICATION FOR A SERVICE DOG FOR A CHILD WITH AN AUTISM SPECTRUM
DISORDER (ASD) OR OTHER RELATED CONDITION**

Reserved for the MIRA Foundation's use			
Date of request	_____	Request #	_____
Completed by	_____	Date receipt	_____
Medical report included	_____	Acknowledgement of receipt	_____

First and last name of child: _____

Date of birth: _____ Gender: _____

Weight: _____ Height: _____

Parent contact information:

Parent #1:

First name _____ Last name _____

Address _____ City _____

Province _____ Postal code _____

Home telephone () _____ Work telephone () _____

Email address _____

Parent #2:

First name _____ Last name _____

Address _____ City _____

Province _____ Postal code _____

Phone number (residence) _____ Phone number (work) _____

Email address _____

Official diagnosis: _____

****Provide an official attestation of the child's diagnosis with your application****

Indicate the nature of the disorder and related difficulties, if any.

If your child receives rehabilitation services (physical therapy, occupational therapy, neuropsychology, ophthalmology, optometry, orientation and mobility, speech therapy, intensive behavioral intervention (IBI) etc...), indicate the services used and provide the name and contact information of the individual(s) providing each service.

Does your child attend a childcare centre?

Yes No

Does your child attend a home daycare?

Yes No

Does your child attend a school?

Yes No

If you answered yes, please provide the name of the daycare administrator or teacher, the name of the daycare center or school and the contact information and coordinates:

FAMILY COMPOSITION

Who does your child live with?

Does your child have any siblings? Yes No

How many? _____

How old are they? _____

Have they received a diagnosis? If yes, please indicate which one(s):

Has one or both parent(s) received a physical impairment diagnosis? Yes No

If yes, please indicate which one(s):

Has one or both parent(s) received a mental health diagnosis? Yes No

If yes, please indicate which one(s):

Does your family benefit from any social services programs for family difficulties? (CLSC, DPJ, etc.)? If yes, which one(s)? Please provide the contact information for the person in charge:

Do any of the family members who will be living with the dog have any allergies? If yes, please indicate the nature of the allergy (see p.5).

Have you previously owned a dog? Yes No

Do you currently own a dog? Yes No

If you do currently own a dog and your child is accepted into the Schola Mira program, you will have to give up your dog, as the service dog must be the sole dog in the household.

Describe the ways in which a service dog would help your child?

PLACE OF RESIDENCE

Urban area Single family house

Residential area Rental

Rural area Apartment

Other: _____

Fenced-in yard: Yes No

CONSENT

I agree to my child starting the Schola Mira evaluation process.

Parents' signatures: _____ Date: _____

_____ Date: _____

ANNEXE A

ALLERGY QUESTIONNAIRE

Does a member of your family show the following symptoms in the presence of a dog:

Nasal symptoms

- | | Yes | No |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> Congestion | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> Nasal discharge | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> Sneezing | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> Nasal itching | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Ocular symptoms

- | | Yes | No |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> Redness | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> Itching | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> Discharge | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Cutaneous symptoms

- | | Yes | No |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> Hives | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Respiratory symptoms

- | | Yes | No |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> Coughing | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> Wheezing | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> Breathing difficulties | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> Choking sensation | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> Acute evolution asthma | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

ANNEXE B

ADMISSION CRITERIA AND REFLECTION

SERVICE DOG TRAINING

Even though studies have shown that the presence of a service dog significantly reduces familial stress, improves cohesion and the child's problematic behaviours, the success of this intervention greatly depends on the parents' implication in the supervision and the continuation of the service dog's training.

At the moment of the attribution, service dogs have received a four-month training dispensed by MIRA Foundation certified trainers. However, it will be your responsibility to see to the preservation of these learned behaviours. You will learn these skills during the 7-day free training program offered by the MIRA Foundation, located in Ste-Madeleine.

It is possible that your child is too young or does not show the necessary abilities to participate in this kind of training program. Therefore, you may be called upon to take part in the training program yourself.

If your child attends one of the adolescent classes, one of the two parents must accompany him during the training week. After that week, the parent must be able to bring the dog along on his or her daily activities while the child is at school for a period of approximately six months. This is meant as an adaptation period during which the child perfects his skills and competencies related to the dog's management. This delay also allows trainers and representatives of the MIRA Foundation to prepare the school environment before the dog's complete integration.

Please note that in the case of joint custody families, both parents must attend the training class. One parent must attend the whole week and the second parent must attend the last three days.

1) Are you available for the 7-day attribution class?

It may take several months to successfully integrate the service dog to your daily lives. Therefore, the first year can be very demanding and will require efforts and time to develop your skills and to strengthen the bond between your child and the dog.

2) Do you have the necessary amount of time to allocate to the training of your service dog?

The dog cannot be left alone for several consecutive hours, otherwise some unwanted behaviours may develop that may put acquired skills at risk. It may not be possible for the dog to accompany your child to school depending on your child's skills and needs. It is therefore recommended that the dog always be in the child's or a parent's presence.

3) If you do not work from home, as the parent who has received the training, will it be possible for you to bring the dog into your workplace in order to foster the skills you have acquired as well as the dog's?

4) Do you currently have a job? If yes, please specify:

5) Do you foresee any difficulties with your colleagues or your boss?

6) Will you have to negotiate the dog's access to certain households or locations you have a habit of attending?

EXPECTATIONS TOWARD THE SERVICE DOG

It is a well-known fact that the presence of pets is beneficial to mental and physical health. However, some of these benefits, more precisely those of having a service dog are wrongfully interpreted by popular belief. For example, the dog cannot be left alone with your child as long as he does not possess complete mastery of the animal.

The integration of a service dog could significantly change your family life, but this does not happen overnight. You will possibly face some challenges and difficulties.

7) Are you willing to overcome these difficulties?

ADMISSION CRITERIA FOR THE SCHOLA MIRA PROGRAM

1. Present an official diagnosis confirming the child does indeed suffer from an Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) provided by a certified health specialist;
2. Confirm that no one in the household suffers from allergies to dogs;
3. Confirm that there are no other dogs in the household;
4. The child must demonstrate a clear interest for the dog as evaluated by a Schola Mira representative;
5. The parents accept to come to the Mira Foundation for the child's evaluation and accept to be filmed;
6. If accepted into the program, one of the parents will have to be free for one whole week at the date of attribution. In shared custody families, the second parent will have to attend the last three days of the training program;
7. During the attribution week, parents will have to attend a four (4) hour active training class focused on handling and controlling the dog and a three (3) hour behaviour observation class daily;
8. Parents will have two (2) behaviour evaluation forms to complete monthly; one concerning the child and the other concerning the dog;
9. Parents accept to receive home visits from trainers and members of the MIRA Foundation who will oversee the intervention process;
10. Parents are to notify the MIRA Foundation of any major change in the household;
11. Parents accept to participate in research activities in collaboration with universities, should they occur;
12. Parents give their word to the MIRA Foundation that the dog will not be left on its own and that they have taken the right measures to ensure it be included in their daily activities.

We have read the whole document and meet the above-mentioned criteria.

Parents' signatures: _____ Date: _____
_____ Date: _____