



Application for a Therapy Dog

Mobility Assistance Dogs Trust

Application Type *

Therapy Dog

INTRODUCTION TO THERAPY DOGS

Thank you for your enquiry about a Therapy Dog with Mobility Assistance Dog Trust.

Mobility Assistance Dogs Trust (Mobility Dogs) is a charitable trust established in 2003. Our Mission is to enhance the lives of people living with long-term disabilities, increasing independence, confidence, self-esteem and participation in New Zealand communities.

We achieve this through the following programmes and initiatives; Mobility Dogs, Companion Dogs, and Therapy Dogs programmes and training.

THE THERAPY DOG PROGRAMME

A Therapy dog is partnered with a working professional handler who will be trained by Mobility Dog staff members to become skilled at maintaining a calm manner and good social behaviour with their dogs in a variety of environments. For example Dental Clinics, Rehabilitation facilities, Courts, and Residential Care to name a few.

Mobility Dogs has some requirements that must be met before an application can be accepted for review:

- There must be a proven need of a Therapy Dog to assist in a therapeutic role interacting with different types of people (inclusive of those people living with physical and developmental disabilities).
- Applicants must demonstrate written proof of support and commitment from management.
- A safe environment, ongoing care, and all future expenses associated with the dog's welfare must be met by the handler.
- Mobility Dogs will require from time to time feedback on how the placement is progressing.
- Mobility Dogs requires copies and notes of all veterinarian visits.
- Annual vaccinations and regular flea treatment and worming must be organised by the handler.
- Any change of therapist must be discussed with Mobility Dogs in the first instance.
- The cost of a Therapy Dog is \$5,000.
- Travel costs for placement and training will apply.

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE CLIENT, THE DOG, AND MOBILITY DOGS

A Therapy Dog is raised and trained in the same way as a Mobility Dog until it is identified as potentially suitable for working out in the community in a therapy role. Additional training and socialisation will be given if required prior to placement.

Mobility Dogs retains ownership of the dog for the duration of its working life. Should it be mutually agreed, the client will be offered the dog to adopt on retirement.

Mobility Dogs will provide training and follow-up support on an on-going basis and ensure the partnership is functioning as it should within a therapeutic environment. This will involve assessing and evaluating the dog in a range of situations.

In order to assess the validity of the Therapy Dog working with clients, Mobility Dogs will require from time to time a written report which will be used for research purposes in evaluating these placements.

Therapy Dogs do not have public access rights which means their jacket can only be worn when the dog is working. The jacket will be provided by Mobility Dogs.

It is agreed that there will be open dialogue between Mobility Dogs and the therapist to resolve any issues which may arise and to offer ongoing support.

THE APPLICATION PROCESS

The process for receiving a Therapy Dog is divided into three separate stages as outlined below. As each

stage is completed and reviewed by the Mobility Dogs team, you may be asked to continue to the second, and finally to the third stage, or you will be advised that your application is not proceeding to the next stage. Applications for Therapy dogs will be accepted regardless of race, sex, religious preference or sexual orientation.

We understand that this can be a lengthy process for you, however we aim to ensure that a Therapy Dog is appropriate for your specific situation.

TIMEFRAMES

Due to demand for the Therapy Dogs and potential wait-lists we are unable to provide set timeframes for the completion of the application process.

We undertake to:

- Keep applicants informed throughout the application process.
- To meet timeframes detailed in the Application Stages below.
- Respond to any enquiries promptly.
- Provide details of expected timeframes/next steps to each applicant as applicable.

APPLICATION STAGES

STAGE 1:

- Application submission - please complete the form giving as much information as possible.
- You will be contacted by the client coordinator once your form has been reviewed.
- Applications are usually reviewed monthly. The review team may want to ask you further questions about your application in which case they will get in touch directly.
- Or, if you have any queries about the application form please contact the client coordinator directly.
- We will aim to contact you again within one month of reviewing your application.

STAGE 2:

- A home and facility visit will be conducted by one or two members of the Mobility Dogs team.
- We aim to get back in touch with you again in a timely manner to advise whether you have been accepted into our Therapy Dog programme and a formal letter will be sent out at this time.

STAGE 3:

- Once a suitable dog has been identified we will be in touch.
- A date will be made to introduce the dog to you. This consists of a trainer bringing the dog to you and showing you the dogs skills and working through the Therapy Client Manual.
- The placement will consist of a minimum of 20 hours of trainer involvement.

Contact Details:

Client Coordinator

Carla van Voorst

carlavanvoorst@mobilitydogs.co.nz

027 700 2248

Personal Information

Preferred Title

Mr

Mrs

Miss

Ms

Other

Name *

First Name

Last Name

Email *

example@example.com

Date of Birth *

Day Month Year

Address *

Street Address

Street Address Line 2

City

State / Province

Postal / Zip Code

Mobile Number *

Area Code

Phone Number

Alternative Phone Number *

Area Code

Phone Number

Placement Details

Placement Type

Therapy Dog

What type of placement will this be? *

Mental Health Facility

Court Dog

- Dental Practice
- Residential Care
- Music/Art Therapy
- Hospital/Hospice
- Physiotherapy/Occupational Therapy
- Paediatric Services
- Rehabilitation Services
- Other

Company *

Please detail how you envisage using a Therapy Dog in a therapeutic role. *

Do you have the support and commitment of facility management to have a Therapy Dog working on their premises. *

- Yes
- No

If No, please explain the reason.

Employer *

First Name Last Name

Company Address *

Street Address

Street Address Line 2

City **Employer Phone Number** * State / Province

Area Code

Phone Number

Home Environment

Postal / Zip Code

When the Therapy Dog is not working you will have the day to day care for them at your own home, for this reason we need to ensure that your property meets Mobility Dog's requirements.

List names, ages and relationship to you of others in your household. *

If you are in a rental property we need to sight a landlord letter of approval to house one of our dogs. We can provide a support letter if required.

Do you own your own home? *

Yes

No

Other

Please indicate where you live: *

House

Apartment

Townhouse

Other

Is the property fully fenced? *

Yes

No

If No: If your application is successful you will be required to have a fully fenced property. Fence

should be a minimum of 1.5m high.

I confirm I understand the fencing requirements.

Your Experience With Dogs

Please list any dogs you have owned in the past including the dogs name, breed, and how long you had the dog: *

Please list any pets currently living with you in your household. *

Pre-Application Agreement

In order for your application to be valid please read and confirm your understanding of the below by checking the boxes, and filling in your name and today's date. *

I understand all the information in the Therapy Dog application form, including that there are a number of components and criteria that have to be met before my application can progress further.

I understand that the initial application, or progression to a home visit does not guarantee acceptance onto the Therapy Dogs waiting list, or that I will receive a dog.

I understand that I must supply written proof of support and commitment of Facility Management.

I understand that should it be mutually agreed, I will have the opportunity to adopt the dog on retirement.

I understand that my property must be fully fenced with a grassed outside area, with adequate shelter and shade from the sun before placement commences.

I understand that I must feed the dog a Vet approved diet.

I understand that a Therapy Dog does not have public access rights, and that the jacket must only be worn in a clinical or therapeutic environment.

I understand that I must include a letter of approval from my landlord if I live in a rental property.

Please fill in your name and today's date to confirm you have read and understood the above. *

Last Name

First Name

Date *

Day Month Year

Tags

Todo

In Progress

Done