

## AADI REHOMING WAITING LIST

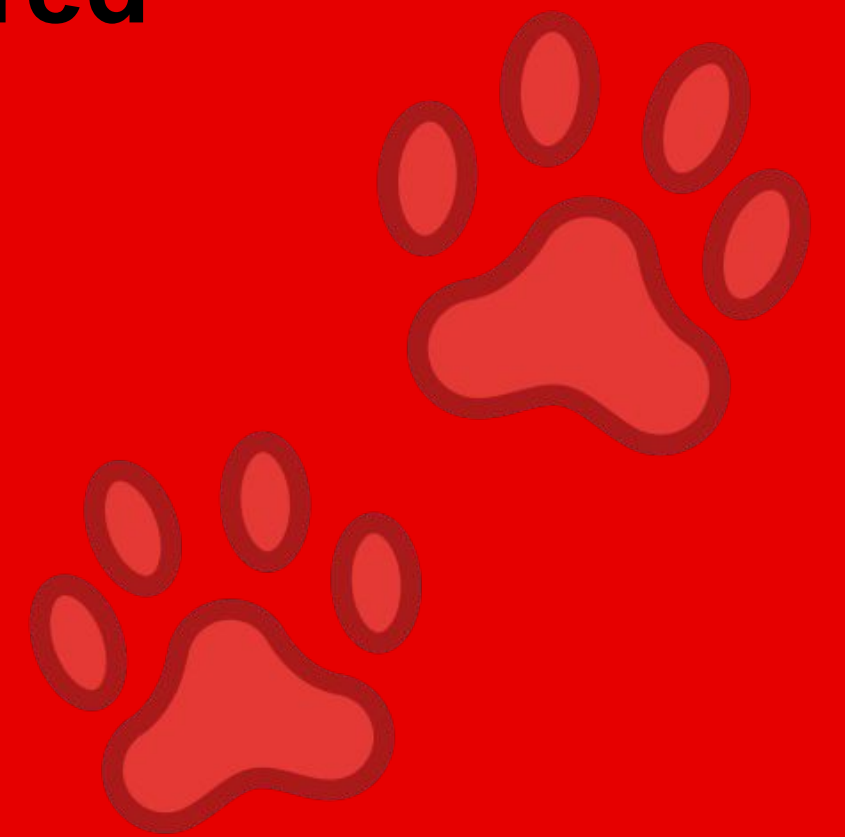
For those who are interested in applying  
for a Release Dog

# AUTISM ASSISTANCE DOGS IRELAND

Changing the world for children with autism



**It is important to understand the implications of rehoming a dog before applying for one. The following is a guide to what should be considered before completing the application form.**



# Assistance Dog

- Wears a jacket when working
- Has access to public places
- Fully trained to Assistance Dogs International standards
- Child is attached to the dog when out and about
- Dog trained to act as an anchor in the event that the child should try to elope whilst out

VS

# Release Dog

- Does not have or wear a jacket
- Does not have access to public places
- Can provide emotional support in the home
- Does receive some training but is released early from our program at 6-18mth of age

## What we ask of you:

- The dog must live indoors all the time. They are brought up to be into people and are not use to being left outside.
- The dog cannot be left at home on its own for long periods – no more than 3 hours (Someone must be at home with them)
- You must have an enclosed dog proof garden
- You must exercise the dog appropriate for its size and needs
- You will be responsible for all costs including food, vet fees, dog licence etc and provide appropriate pet insurance



# Types of Dogs Available for Rehoming

Release Dogs

Retired Dogs

Dogs with health issues

Ambassador Dogs



## Release Dogs

- Dogs may be withdrawn from training at various stages, the majority within the first few months having received little training.
- Our dogs are normally young and active that require regular exercise and human companionship.
- They will not have received their full training and therefore you should not expect the dog to be as obedient and trained as a qualified assistance dog.
- We carefully breed, with the emphasis being on temperament, working ability and conformation.
- Examples of why some of our dogs are withdrawn from training would be:  
high anxiety, body sensitivity, dog distraction, poor traveler in the car, guarding behaviour or destructiveness



## Retired Dogs and Health Conditions

Our dogs usually retire from work around 9 to 11 years of age.

It is common for retired Assistance Dogs to remain with their families, but sometimes this is not possible. We would then look for a suitable home where the dog can enjoy their well earned retirement .

Some of our Dogs may be released from the programme over **health issues**.

Health conditions are not necessarily severe and the implications would be explained fully at the time of the rehoming.

Some health withdrawals would be over skin, eye or joint conditions



## Ambassador Dogs

- Some Dogs that are withdrawn from training may be suitable as an ambassador dog. The dog would have to be comfortable and happy to be around a crowd of people but would still need some level of training especially with distractions.
- Our ambassador dog and volunteer partnerships play a vital role in helping us raise awareness of our work in their local communities.
- You will need to be comfortable handling your ambassador dog in busy environments, be a good talker and confident standing in front of audiences of different ages and sizes. This role is not solely about fundraising but raising awareness on the importance of our dogs.
- If you are interested and want more details about an Ambassador dog please contact [nadine@aadi.ie](mailto:nadine@aadi.ie) and fill out the application form.





## What Happens Next?

- After completing the application form as accurately as possible, please return it to the address on the form or by email.
- On receipt of the completed form your application will be considered and you will be informed whether or not your application is accepted.
- Successful applicants are then placed on the waiting list. A staff member will request an appointment to carry out an informal home visit in order to meet the applicant and look at the home environment.
- When a suitable dog is available, the applicant is invited to come to meet the dog and receive basic handling and care instructions.
- *The waiting list does not operate on a first come, first served basis; we take great care to match the dogs as closely as possible to the new owners*



- You are under no obligation to accept any dog offered and the dog must be offered back to Autism Assistance Dogs Ireland if you are unable to keep it.
- Our waiting list is often very long and it may be possible that you will acquire a dog from another source during this time. If this is the case please inform us in writing so that we can amend our records accordingly.
- If after one year you have not been supplied with one of our dogs, please inform us in writing whether you wish to remain on the waiting list.
- If we do not hear from you we will assume that you no longer wish to be considered for one of our dogs and will remove you from the list



## Matched with your dog

- Once a dog is offered and successfully matched with you and your family the Rehoming officer will then either bring the dog to your home or if you have already had a house visit you will then come to the centre in Little Island to pick up your new dog.
- Before leaving with the dog the new owner will be asked to sign Autism Assistance Dogs Ireland's Release Agreement and pay the full amount for the dog.
- Fees for the dogs vary from €500 for a healthy, fully vaccinated, neutered, microchipped young adult to €200 for an elderly retired or ill health dog and €200 for an Ambassador dog.
- All these are suggested Donations that will be discussed on an individual basis at the time of offering the dog.



# Realistic Expectations

The first 4-5 weeks require a lot of hard work and patience. You will need to adapt your routine to accommodate the dogs needs.

No longer is it safe to leave the roast rest on the kitchen counter.

You will have to dog proof your whole house.

You will be;

- Picking up poo daily
- Walking in the rain
- Extracting dog hair from your dinner and clothes.

## **General:**

We do not provide non shedding dogs so our dogs are not suitable to be placed with anyone who has a dog allergy. All family members should be happy and confident to be around a large dog - if anyone in the home has a fear of dogs this will need to be worked on before applying.



**Assistance Dogs**  
INTERNATIONAL  
ACCREDITED MEMBER

# AUTISM ASSISTANCE DOGS IRELAND



10-15

Enquiries each week from parents desperate to get their child on our waiting list.



2yrs

And €25,000 to train an autism assistance dog.



90%

Of our funding comes from **donations** and **fundraising events**



€0

We do not charge for our Autism Assistance Dogs