SERVICE DOGS FOR AMERICA (SDA)
PRELIMINARY APPLICATION

920 Short Street
Jud, ND 58454

APPLICANT INFORMATION	
Date:	Title: ☐ Mr. ☐ Mrs. ☐ Ms. ☐ Miss

First Name:	Middle Initial:	Last Name:

Name of parent or guardian if applicant is a minor:

Age of applicant:	Sex: ☐ male ☐ female	Date of birth:

Address:

City:	State:	Zip:

Home Phone:	Cell Phone:

Email:

Work Phone:	Occupation:
Are you a US Veteran? ☐ Yes ☐ No	Branch of Military Service:
Date of discharge:	Nature of discharge:

DESCRIBE PERSONAL OR FACILITY NEEDS

Please describe your disability or facility needs, including information about its onset and prognosis. Specifically, what are your limitations?

What type of service dog would meet your needs?

Mobility Assist Dog ☐	*Emergency Medical Response Dog* - Seizure Response ☐
Facility Dog ☐	*Emergency Medical Response* Dog - Diabetic Alert ☐
	Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Dog ☐

Revised 4-2014

Please explain why you want a service dog?

What needs or services do feel a service dog will provide for you?

Caring for a service dog		
	Monthly Cost	Yearly Cost
How much do you think it costs for care for a service dog?		
Can you afford to pay these costs? ☐ Yes ☐ No		
Ability to attend to daily training, attention and care		
A service dog needs daily training, attention, love and care.	Yes	No
Do you have time to spend with the dog?		
Are you able to exercise the dog?		
Are you able to take the dog to the veterinarian?		
Are you able to groom the dog?		
Are you able to clean up after the dog goes to the bathroom?		
Will your service dog accompany you to work?		
Will your service dog accompany you on vacations?		
How many hours a day will your service dog be alone? _____ hours/day		

All applicants will be considered regardless of race, sex, religion, creed, sexual orientation and ethnic origin.

PLEASE MAIL, EMAIL OR FAX THE COMPLETED PRE-APPLICATION FORM TO:
Service Dogs for America ◊ 920 Short Street ◊ Jud, ND 58454
Phone: 701-685-2242 ◊ Fax: 877-783-6953
Email: info@servicedogsforamerica.org ◊ Website: www.servicedogsforamerica.org

ELIBILITY REQUIREMENTS & DISCLAIMERS

Before continuing with the preliminary application process, please understand that Service Dogs for America (SDA) is only able to serve individuals who fulfill the following requirements:

- Applicant must be 8 years of age or older and of the developmental capacity to handle a service dog independently.
- Applicant must **fully** complete the SDA Service Dog application package, including a financial worksheet and all necessary releases and signatures as outlined in "Procedure of Application for a Service or Mobility Assist, Seizure or Diabetic Response, PTSD and/or Facility Dog" – **OR** – "Procedure of Application for a Successor Dog."
- Applicant must participate in at least one interview with an SDA representative.
- Applicant must demonstrate proficiency in handling a service dog at home and in a variety of public environment while managing the dog's safety, behavior and working skills.
- The applicant may require assistance from another person in order to maintain the health and grooming needs of a service dog.
- Applicant must demonstrate a genuine need for the services of an Assistance dog.
- Applicant must give proof of the financial resources required to meet the feeding and veterinary care of the dog.

Also, please note that completion of the full Application/Interview process **does not** guarantee that an applicant will be placed on the active waiting list; it **MUST** go before SDA's review team to be tentatively approved.

SDA reserves the right to deny an applicant acceptance based on:

- Applicant's unrealistic expectations of an Assistance dog's capabilities.
- Approved successor dog clients have priority over first time applicants.
- Current numbers of applicants already on waiting list.
- Current resources available to SDA to manage waiting list in a timely fashion.
- Current number and types of dogs available for training and placement.
- A candidate fails to handle an assistance dog according to SDA requirements.
- A candidate fails the command/task demonstration and public access test.
- A candidate handles his or her dog in an abusive or negligent manner.
- SDA has grounds to believe the dog will not be able to meet the candidate's needs.
- The placement would jeopardize the dogs' health, safety or well-being.

All applicants will be considered regardless of race, sex, religion, creed, sexual orientation and ethnic origin.

PROCEDURE OF APPLICATION
FOR A SERVICE OR MOBILITY ASSIST, SEIZURE OR DIABETIC RESPONSE, PTSD, AND/OR FACILITY DOG

Pre-Application Procedure
- The first step in acquiring a Service Dog for America (SDA) Assistance Dog is for the applicant to download and print out a pre-application form from the SDA website.
- Pre-application forms are reviewed monthly, and if it meets SDA criteria, a letter will be sent with a full application for placement consideration.

Full Application & Review Procedure
- The **completed** full application package, including all necessary signatures, is then returned to SDA, along with a non-refundable $50.00 application fee.
- SDA reviews full applications twice a year. SDA will share the full application with the review team, which includes the following professionals:
  - Medical doctor
  - Licensed psychologist
  - Registered nurse
  - Veterinary doctor
  - Special needs educator
  - SDA trainer
  - SDA board member
  - SDA executive director

Interview & Wait List Procedure
- Following the review team's receipt of and review of the application, the applicant will be notified by mail that the documentation is complete and that she/he should contact SDA's client coordinator and make an appointment for a personal interview.
- SDA's client coordinator will conduct interviews either at the SDA Training Center or in the candidate's home. If deemed an appropriate candidate for an Assistance Dog, the individual will be placed on the SDA waiting list. The candidate will remain on the waiting list, until such time as a suitable dog has been chosen for him/her. SDA's client coordinator will then contact the candidate about attending an upcoming Team Training Class.

Pre-Placement Procedure
- Prior to arrival at the SDA Campus, the following documents will be mailed must be signed and returned prior to arrival:
  - SDA Candidate Bill of Rights
  - SDA Confidentiality Policy
  - SDA Voluntary Photo and Audio Release Form
  - SDA Voluntary Release to be interviewed by Assistance Dogs International Accrediting Team
  - Release of Liability Form
  - EMT – Medical Release Form
  - Seizure Action Plan (if applicable)

- SDA Service Dog Agreement
- SDA Financial Agreement

Candidate Travel, Lodging, Team Training Fees & Procedure

- Two fully-furnished handicap-accessible apartments are available for candidates on campus for Team Training and the cost of lodging is included in the $20,000 cost of the dog.
- Service Dog Team Training Course: The course, equipment fee and team manual are $500 for the Team Training course and due upon arrival to campus.
- If candidates prefer not to stay on campus, special arrangements for off-campus accommodations will need to be approved by the trainer prior to arrival.
- All candidates travelling to the Jud, ND area, will be responsible for arranging their own transportation and attendant care.
- Candidates must make arrangements to obtain their own groceries while on campus.
- Each candidate must be prepared to meet his/her own financial needs during training, including outings and unique equipment need or modifications. We recommend no less than $100 be set aside for this purpose.
- Individual needs, such as personal care attendants and other individuals in the supportive role are the responsibility of the candidate.
- Candidates with electric wheelchairs, must plan on bringing/or arranging for a manual wheelchair in the event of an electric wheelchair malfunction.

Team Training Procedure

- Course Fees: (payable upon arrival to campus)
- Service Dog Team Training Course: The course, equipment fee and team manual are $500 for the Training course.
- All candidates will be required to **successfully complete** a three-week Team Training Course, as specified by SDA.
- Candidates are required to attend all classes, lectures and field trips. Absences beyond one day may result in transfer of a candidate to another class, or required make-up training time.
- Family members, friends, and personal care attendants are encouraged accompany the candidate and may be invited from time to time to participate and observe some of the training sessions.

Placement Interruption Procedure

- SDA reserves the right to deny an applicant or terminate a placement at any time before, during the Team Training or after graduation, and grounds for termination include:
    - A candidate fails to handle an assistance dog according to SDA requirements;
    - A candidate fails the public access test;
    - A candidate handles his or her dog in an abusive or negligent manner;
    - SDA has grounds to believe the dog will not be able to meet the candidate's needs;
    - The placement would jeopardize the dogs' health, safety or well being.
- Completing the Team Training course does not guarantee you will leave SDA's campus with a service dog.

Public Access Test & Certification Procedure

- A passing score on the public access test is required in order for the candidate/dog team to be certified and for the candidate to take possession of the dog.
- 80% accuracy is required on the public access test. Absences and scores below 80% will require a make-up test.

Post Placement Procedure

- After graduation, graduates will be expected to provide on-going information regarding the dogs' work habits and public behavior. Graduates will be expected to make themselves available for aftercare calls, and are required to meet SDA's criteria for team certification renewal.

All applicants will be considered regardless of race, sex, religion, creed, sexual orientation and ethnic origin.

ABOUT SERVICE DOGS FOR AMERICA

Service Dogs for America (SDA) trained its first service dog in 1989 and placed it with SDA's first client in 1990. In 1992, SDA was officially designated as a 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization. SDA is an accredited service dog school member of Assistance Dogs International.

The mission of SDA is to: *"train and certify service dogs for individuals with disabilities"*

The following describes the different types of dogs trained and placed by SDA	
Mobility Assistance Dog Assists with (but not limited to) the following types of diseases or injuries: • Amputation • Arthritis • Cerebral Palsy • Multiple Sclerosis • Muscular Dystrophy • Paraplegia • Parkinson's Disease • Spina Bifida • Stroke • Tatraplegia • Traumatic brain or spinal cord injury	**Mobility Assistance Dog - Task Training** • Retrieve dropped object. • Open interior/exterior doors. • Retrieve a beverage, medication, or other item from a refrigerator. • Bring medication and/or a beverage to a person on command or when alerted to do so by a timer/alarm. • Help a person stand and brace. • Stabilize during walking. • Assist in pulling a *manual* wheelchair. • Turn lights on or off. • Pull/push/open door, drawer, or cupboard. • Operate handicap door switch. • Retrieve a phone or other specified object to person's hand or lap. • Get help by alerting another person in the environment. • Activate an electronic alert system. • Assist a person in removing/putting on clothing. • Carry medication, wallet, etc. • Dog can perform skills while client is using adaptive equipment such as a wheelchair, scooter, walker or specialized leash or harness.
Diabetic Response **Emergency Medical Response Dog (EMRD)** Assists with (but not limited to) the following diagnoses: • Type I/Brittle Diabetes • Hypoglycemia	**Diabetic Response** **(EMRD) - Task Training** • Alert individual and/or caregiver to significant changes in low blood sugar. • Remind to test blood sugar at the sound of an alarm. • Get help by alerting another person in the

	environment.
Please note, we do not train dogs to assist an individual with Type II Diabetes.	• Activate an emergency button, electronic alert system, or pull cord. • Retrieve a beverage, medication, or other item from a refrigerator. • Lie close to the client, nudging, licking, lying on the client during an event. • Carry medication, wallet, etc.
Seizure Response **Emergency Medical Response Dog (EMRD)** Assists with (but not limited to) the following types of seizure(s): • Absence • Atonic Tonic-clonic Myoclonic • Partial Simple Partial Complex • Gelastic Dacrystic Status Epilepticus Assists with the following Non-Epileptic seizures: • Pseudo • Psychogenic • Cryptogenic	**Seizure Response** **(EMRD) - Task Training** • Lie close to the client, nudging, licking, lying on the client during an event. • Get help by alerting another person in the environment. • Retrieve an object, such as a phone or medication. • Activate an emergency button, electronic alert system, or pull cord. • Carry medication, wallet, etc.
Psychiatric Service Dog Assists with: • Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) *A trained PTSD service dog is a tool and is not intended to substitute or replace a current therapeutic or medication treatment plan. The dog is trained to mitigate and distract from possible stressors related to an individual's PTSD and contribute to their physical, emotional and social well-being.*	**Psychiatric Service Dog - Task Training** • Alleviate anxiety/distress and provide psycho-emotional grounding by nudging, pawing, and leaning. • Assist a person in waking from night terrors and nightmares. • Distract a person from an event or specific maladaptive behavior by nudging, pawing, and licking. • Bring medication to a person on command or when alerted to do so by a timer/alarm. • Stand in front of or circle an individual in crowded areas in order to create personal space in a non-aggressive manner. • Lead an individual safely to a building exit when experiencing an anxiety or panic attack. • Get help by alerting another person or activate an emergency button or alert system. **They are not trained to be guard dogs or act aggressive**
Types of Cross Trained Assistance Dogs • Mobility Assist/Seizure Response • Mobility Assist/Diabetic Response • Mobility Assist/Psychiatric Assist • Mobility Assist/Seizure Response/Psychiatric Assist	**Facility Dog** Facility dogs are usually found in a nursing home. They 'visit' with the residents and families that come to the facility. They may also help the residents with mobility, getting out of their rooms by going for walks, and their overall spirit is more at ease. Service Dogs for America has placed Facility Dogs in elderly care facilities and in a juvenile detention center. *Please note, this type dog is not certified for public access*