



Foundation Programme

APPLICATION FORM (PREVIEW)



Autism Specialist
Award Advanced
2023



Assistance
Dogs UK
Member



Assistance Dogs
INTERNATIONAL
ACCREDITED MEMBER

A home-based training journey, fully supported by our expert team.

Thank you for your interest in our new **Foundation Programme**.

This pathway allows families to raise their future autism assistance dog at home, **supported every step of the way** by our training and welfare team.

👉 Please note: This programme is **not for training dogs or puppies you already own**.

Autism Dogs Charity **will carefully source and deliver a puppy to your home** within 6 weeks of enrolment, ensuring the best chance of a successful partnership.

Client contribution: £14,990 (Deposit £4,000 on enrolment, Balance £10,990 on puppy delivery).

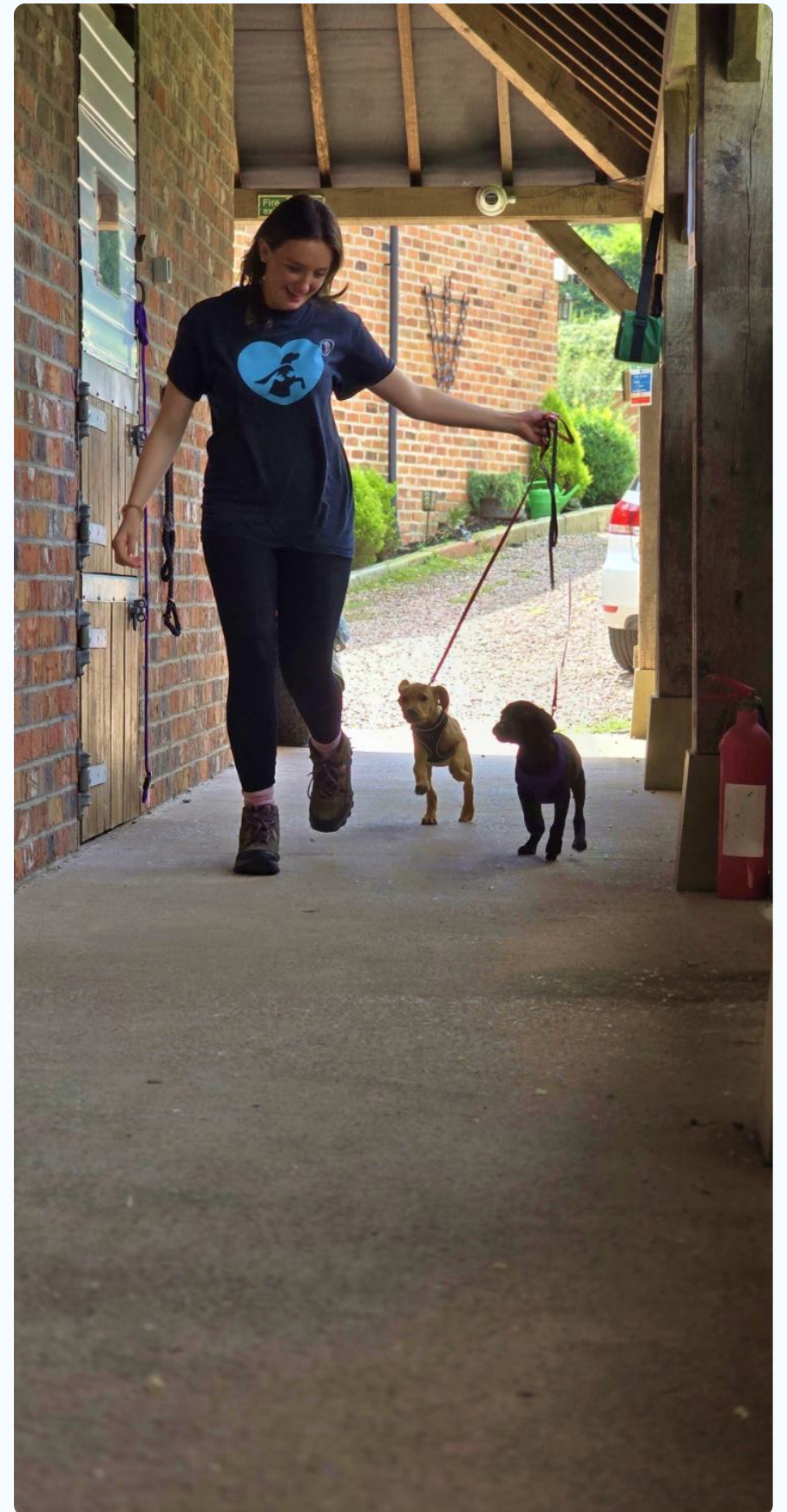
Spaces on the programme are limited and will be offered to families who are **able to attend monthly in-person training sessions** at our venues in the North of England (Cheshire and Manchester area), the South (London and Berkshire), and West Central Scotland (Edinburgh and Glasgow).



Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for the program, applicants must meet all of the following:

- **Diagnosis:** The applicant must have an official diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).
- **Age:** Applicants must be at least 4 years old.
- **Location:** Applicants must permanently reside in mainland England, Scotland, or Wales and be available to attend monthly in-person training sessions at our venues.
- **Health:** The applicant must not have unmanaged epilepsy.
- **Support Network:** The welfare of the dog must be managed by an adult or third party in addition to the handler. Applications where the handler lives alone or lacks a clear network of suitable support cannot be approved.
- **Commitment:** The handler and their family must be able to attend in-person training sessions and be dedicated to maintaining the dog's training and care.
- **Application Accuracy:** All information provided in the application must be truthful and accurate.
- **Allergies:** No members of the applicant's household may have severe allergies to dogs.
- **Existing pets:** Applications will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis if other pet dogs are already in the residence, to ensure compatibility.



Note: Autism Dogs Charity reserves the right to assess whether the Programme will be beneficial for the applicant and if resources are available to accept the application.

Programme Costs

As a charity, Autism Dogs Charity is committed to offering life-changing assistance dogs through a **subsidised costs** model.

The actual cost of the Assistance Dog Programme far exceeds the contribution required from clients. Thanks to fundraising efforts and generous donors, we are able to cover all administrative and operational costs, leaving clients to contribute only a portion of the true expense.

Client Contribution

The total contribution required is £14,990, which is heavily subsidised. This ensures that the programme remains accessible while covering key elements such as dog training, therapeutic support, and aftercare services.

Payment Structure

To make the contribution manageable, payments are structured as follows:

- Deposit: £4,000 – This initial payment is required only upon acceptance into the programme. It secures your place and initiates the profiling and preparation process, marking the first step in your journey with Autism Dogs Charity.
- Second Instalment: £10,990 on delivery of the puppy. This instalment reflects the extensive investment in dog training, family training, and support services provided up to this stage.

Why is there a cost?

Although we are a charity, providing assistance dogs involves a considerable financial commitment. Each dog is carefully selected, trained, and supported to meet the unique needs of its handler. Additionally, our Programme includes:

- Professional training for both the dog and family.
- Psychotherapy and therapeutic support.
- Comprehensive aftercare services to ensure long-term success.

Financial accessibility and future opportunities

We are a well-established, accredited charity. If the financial contribution isn't manageable at this time, we recommend holding off on your application. You're welcome to revisit in future, as we continue working to lower costs through ongoing fundraising.

Led by Lived Experience

Autism Dogs Charity is proudly run by autistic people, for autistic people, ensuring that lived experience is at the heart of every programme we deliver.

- A full member **of Assistance Dogs UK (ADUK)** and **Assistance Dogs International (ADI)** recognised for meeting global benchmarks in training, welfare, and client support.
- **NAS Accredited** - meeting the high standards set by the National Autistic Society.
- **Over 100 assistance dogs placed** through our residential and foundation programmes, tailored to meet the unique needs of each client.
- **Multi-disciplinary support model**, combining professional dog training with psychotherapeutic and aftercare services.
- **Trusted partnerships** with schools, healthcare professionals, and local authorities to ensure joined-up care and long-term success for every partnership.
- **Inclusive community spaces**, including our growing WhatsApp groups and family networks, that offer peer support, shared learning, and ongoing encouragement.

Our approach reflects both professional expertise and personal understanding, creating a service that is empathetic, effective, and truly centred around the needs of autistic individuals and their families.



Application Form (Preview)

Client Information

This section is for providing details about the individual who will be receiving the Autism Assistance Dog.

Full name

Date of birth

Month, day, year

Gender identity

☐ Male

☐ Female

☐ Other: _____

Preferred pronouns

☐ he/him

☐ she/her

☐ Other: _____

First Line of address (building and street)

Town or city

County

Postcode

Telephone number

Email address

Parents/primary carers (if applicable)

Other household members

Other relatives

Client's diagnosis

Provide details about the client's diagnosis, including relevant medical history and how the condition affects daily life. This helps us match the best Autism Assistance Dog to the client's needs.

Please state all of your/the client's diagnoses (please include suspected diagnoses that are not yet confirmed)

Can you provide a report or note from the doctor confirming your/the client's diagnosis of autism?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Other: _____

What are the key symptoms you/the client experience?

What are the reasons you feel you/the client needs an Assistance Dog?

Are the client's caregivers aware of this application? The client's caregivers must be aware of the application before we can consider it.

- ☐ Yes ☐ Not applicable
- ☐ No ☐ Other: _____

Other relevant information about your/the client's condition and keeping a dog?

Your experience with dogs

Describe your experience with dogs, including previous ownership, handling, or training. This helps us understand your familiarity with canine care.

Have you ever owned a dog/s and what breed of dog was it?

How long did you own the dog/s? (if applicable)

Have you ever had any negative issues or incidents with dogs?

Have you ever owned any other animals and what were they?

Who will ensure the welfare and safety of the Assistance Dog?

Where your puppy would live

Describe the living environment where the puppy will reside, including both indoor and outdoor spaces. This helps us ensure the dog’s well-being and suitability of your home.

What type of home do you have?

Does it have a garden?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Other: _____

Does it have a bath or shower room?

How many floors?

Is there a park nearby?

Other facilities?

Who lives and visits your home?

Provide information about the people who live in or frequently visit your home. This helps us understand the social environment for the Assistance Dog.

How many people are present during the day, and who are they? Please include any regular visitors and/or carers

How many people are present during the night, and who are they? Please include any regular visitors and/or carers

Number of people that live in the home?

Occupations of household members, and their working patterns

Do any household members hold a criminal record?

Any relevant health conditions of anyone living in the client's home. Please include any and all mental health conditions or psychiatric conditions of household members

Any allergies of anyone living in the client’s home

Who will look after your dog in the event of an emergency?

Do any animals currently live in the home?

Does the client/you leave the house/to go where?

Other relevant information about your home and places of interest

Does the Client resides in more than one home?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Dogs currently living in your home

Are there any dogs currently living in your home? If yes, please provide details about their breeds, ages, and temperaments. (2 dogs max)

Are there any dogs currently living in your home?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

First Dog

Breed

Age

Has the dog received any training?

Does the dog have any behavioural issues?

Do you have more than one dog?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Acknowledgement of Client (or Parent/Carer if Client is Under 18)

Client or Parent/Carer full name

The client information given is correct and truthful

☐ Confirm

All parents and/or carers are aware of and support this application

☐ Confirm

Acknowledgement of Financial Contribution

☐ I understand that the total client contribution for the programme is £14,990.

Terms and Conditions

☐ I have read and understand the term and conditions that I would need to sign if I was accepted on to the programme

Notes

Any information that you provide will be dealt with in the strictest of confidence. We use the information as a team to help us assess if we are able to help you and the best approach to each individual programme. The information you provide us will be kept on file. If you have any new or relevant information during the process please ensure that you keep us updated at the earliest time.

We will accept applications that fulfil all of the following criteria:

- The applicant has an official diagnosis of autism.
- The applicant is at least 4 years of age.
- The applicant's permanent residence is in mainland England, Scotland, or Wales.
- The applicant does not have unmanaged epilepsy.
- The applicant information given is correct and truthful.
- We feel that the Programme will be beneficial to the applicant.
- The welfare of the dog is fully managed by an adult or 3rd party in addition to the handler (we are unable to agree to a dog living with a handler living alone or without a clear network of suitable support).
- We feel that the dog's welfare and needs would be met.
- There would be someone to care for the dog during the day.
- We feel that the team has the relevant expertise for all of the applicant's conditions.
- The applicant is able to attend the in-person interview appointment on the date required.
- No members of the applicant's residence have severe dog allergies.
- We have the resources to accept the application (sometimes we receive more applications that fulfil the rest of the criteria than we have the resources to enrol at one time).

Thank you for considering the Foundation Programme

We're grateful for your interest in the Autism Assistance Dog Foundation Programme. This form is intended to help you prepare your responses in advance of submitting your online application.

What to do next:

- When you're ready, complete the online application form using your prepared answers.
- If you have any questions, our team is here to help, don't hesitate to get in touch.

By applying, you're taking the first step in a supported journey toward building a meaningful, lifelong bond with an Autism Assistance Dog.

We look forward to learning more about you and your family.

Autism Dogs Charity

Led by autistic people, for autistic people.

