



## Questions to ask about canine assistance

Are you an adult or parent of a child with TSC who has epilepsy or other physical disabilities or special needs who is considering getting a seizure response or service dog? Use this list of questions to help you choose a canine assistance program<sup>1</sup> that best fits your needs.

1. "My child is only 4 years old." What is the youngest age you will train a dog for, and will you train a dog for someone with an intellectual disability?
2. What skills can you train the dog to do?
  - a. Example: Seizure training, autism (tethering, tracking), anxiety concerns, behavior disruption, diabetes, hearing impaired, etc.
3. What's involved with the application process and fee?
4. Is there a cost associated to get a dog, if so, how much?
5. What breeds of dogs do you train?
  - a. Are you able to accommodate for persons with allergies to certain breeds of dogs?
6. How long is the waiting list to get a dog?
7. How many dogs do you train a year?
8. Do you offer a guarantee for dog training and what happens if my dog doesn't work out?
9. If my application is accepted, what training is involved for me to ensure a successful pairing with my dog?
  - a. Do I have to travel to your facility?
  - b. How long does my training last?
  - c. Is lodging and food covered?
  - d. What supplies do I need to bring with me?
  - e. Do you offer follow-up training if needed?
10. Do you provide any future veterinary care or referral to a local veterinarian who provides free or reduced cost services for my dog?
11. How old will the dog be when I receive him/her, and how long will the dog remain in active service?
12. Will we be able to adopt the dog after he/she's retired?

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<sup>1</sup> The TSC Alliance does not endorse any canine assistant program. Search "service dogs" or "assistance dogs" on the internet for a list of programs.