

Informing Decisions

If you need an assistant/service dog but don't know where to start, the following suggested checklist may be useful when interviewing potential service providers (organizations or trainers). If a service provider refuses to answer your questions and will not provide written confirmation of what was verbally stated, it would be wise to continue your search. Ultimately, the decision is yours. The enclosed talking points are merely suggestions. Best wishes!

**A suggested Checklist to Weigh My Options*

Are service dogs provided at no charge, or do you charge your clients a fee?	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Are you and/or your organization insured?	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Are you working with an interdisciplinary team to meet the needs of your clients?	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Can I keep my service dog when it retires?	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Do you have experience working with individuals with special needs?	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Do you have an application process? If so, do you have a privacy policy?	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Do you have any breed restrictions?	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Do you provide follow-up, aftercare, advocacy, and other resources for your graduates?	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Does your organization screen staff and volunteers?	<input type="checkbox"/>	
How do you determine who is qualified for your program?	<input type="checkbox"/>	
How long has your organization existed?	<input type="checkbox"/>	
How long have you been in business? Is your business registered?	<input type="checkbox"/>	
How many service dog teams do you graduate annually?	<input type="checkbox"/>	
How often do you reassess your graduates?	<input type="checkbox"/>	

*A suggested Checklist to Weigh My Options

If I meet the application requirements and graduate, do you have or know of a peer's support group that I could get involved with?	<input type="checkbox"/>	
If you work independently, do you have a current police check or a vulnerable sector check?	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Is there a waiting list?	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Is your organization a registered charity or non-profit organization?	<input type="checkbox"/>	
What are your qualifications, or the qualifications of your service dog trainers?	<input type="checkbox"/>	
What are your clients' responsibilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	
What happens to the dogs that are not suited to be service dogs?	<input type="checkbox"/>	
What are the organization's responsibilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Who are you accountable to?	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Who maintains ownership of the dog?	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Will I have to raise funds and tell my story for my application to be accepted?	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Will I have to sign a contract?	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Blank rows have been provided in case you would like to add more questions.



**The Canadian Foundation
for Animal Assisted Support Services**

We Envision: One Health for People, Pets, & Partners™

Health, within this context, embodies the integration, nurturing, and fostering of the physical, mental, emotional, and social well-being of people of all ages, as well as the welfare of pets and partners (Human Services Assistance Animals) within Canada's promising Animal-Assisted Human Services (AAHS) Industry Sector's ecosystem.

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