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RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE
NATIONAL DISTRICT ATTORNEYS ASSOCIATION

The National District Attorneys Association (NDAA) supports the use of “Courthouse” or “Comfort” Dogs to aid in the investigation of crimes involving young or vulnerable victims and in situations where these animals would aid in the preparation for, or during trial or hearing testimony.

Further, the NDAA endorses the following guidelines as best practices in the use of these animals:

1. The dog should be a highly trained graduate of an Assistance Dogs International (ADI) service dog organization or the equivalent thereof. The dog should be tested for safe behavior around young children before being placed to work in this field.
2. The dog’s handler should be someone with professional training, education and experience such as a forensic interviewer, deputy prosecuting attorney, victim advocate, law enforcement officer or other individuals that a prosecutor’s office deems appropriate.
3. The dog’s handler should receive training, testing and ongoing support in the handling of the dog from an ADI service dog organization.
4. The dog and handler should have the appropriate temperament and disposition to make good courthouse dog team as this work requires a great deal of social interaction with people from all walks of life and in stressful situations.
5. The dog should carry a liability insurance policy with limits of not less than \$1,000,000.

These guidelines are not meant to impact existing successful programs.

Adopted on this 19th day of November, 2011 by the National District Attorneys Association’s Board of Directors in Nashville, TN..