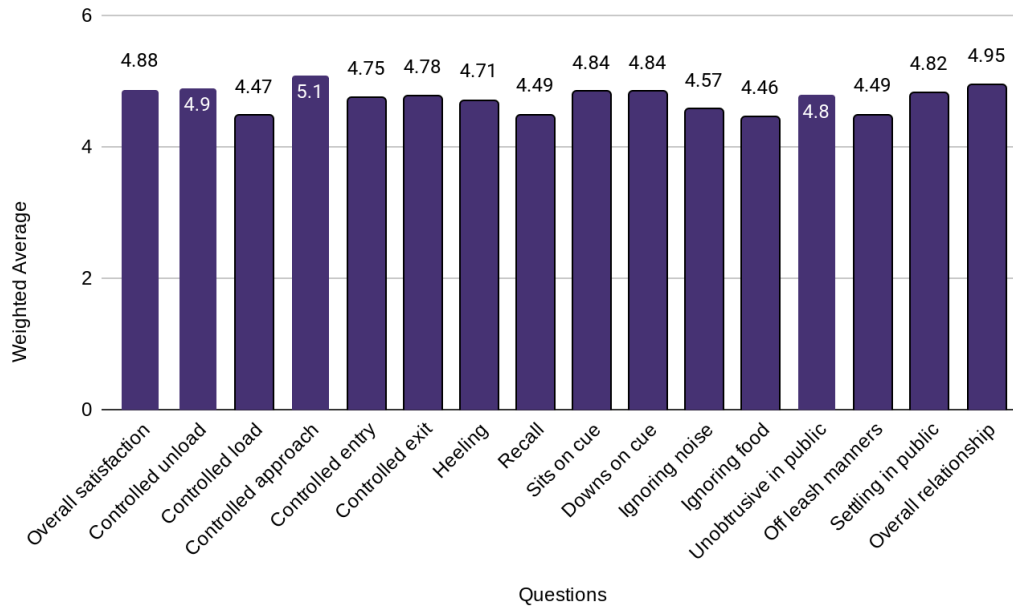




NSD Autism Statistics 2023

Certified Service Dogs provide important, multi-faceted physical and mental health support to Autistic Children and their Families. Studies have shown the presence of a properly socialized, trained and matched service dog can decrease the levels of the stress hormone, cortisol, by almost 50%.



(Above: 2023 Client Satisfaction Survey - Dog Performance Average Rating 94.8% on a scale of 1-5)

Studies have shown:

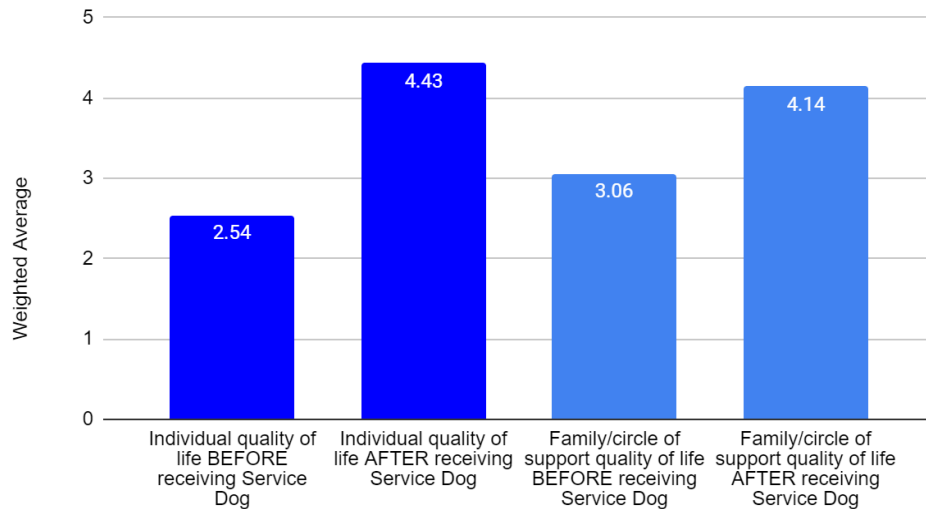
- The presence of a properly socialized, trained and matched service dog can decrease the levels of the stress hormone, cortisol, by almost 50%.
- When dogs were introduced to therapy sessions with autistic children a sharp increase in social interaction and at the same time a vast decrease in isolation were realized. All the children showed fewer autistic behaviours and more socially appropriate ones (Redefer & Goodman, 1989)
- Pairing Autistic Children with assistance dogs can encourage the children to be more affectionate by working as transitional objects where bonds formed between Autistic Children and the dog can be transferred to humans (Adams & Burrows, 2003; Campus News: News Release, 2003)
- Bonds that form between Autistic children and Service Dogs can lead to decreased stress and improved social interaction.

What NSD Clients have told us about their service dogs impact:

- Being tethered to the dog kept their child safe and reduced behavioural outbursts triggered by sensory overload
- Help create positive sleep routines that have a profound impact on the mental health of children and their parents

- The dog provided a tactile distraction by performing trained tasks, “nudge and visit”, to redirect the child to more positive behaviours such as petting and playing with the dog; reducing behavioural outbursts
- Provide safety and security allowing families to get out of the house and participate in new experiences on a more regular basis.
- Invokes more positive interaction with the general public
- Fosters empathy and understanding for their child and within their peer groups

Satisfaction with Quality of Life



Amount of times client goes on public outings before and after receiving service dog

