



**PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL**

**🐕 APPLICATION FOR ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP 🐕**

Thank you for your interest in applying to join the Search and Rescue Dog Association Ireland North.

We are a voluntary organization providing qualified dogs which are specifically trained to search for persons missing in mountainous terrain, lowland/urban areas, collapsed structures and water.

***Before you start to complete this Form, we would like you to consider the following information:-***

**GENERAL**

- 1 SARDA IN requires a considerable commitment from it's members and while we endeavour to cover the cost of safety and rescue equipment, the provision of personal gear, (rucksack, boots, foul weather clothing), and personal expenses incurred as a member of the Association may have to be borne by the individual. There is, therefore, a cost both in personal and financial terms of being a member.
- 2 While some of the necessary training costs for members is covered by SARDA IN, other training may require each member to finance themselves.
- 3 As a dog handler, 'dog's 'body' or operational support, you will be expected to maintain a certain level of fitness that allows you to take an active part in training and operate comfortably without being a liability to either yourself or other members of the Association.
- 4 As a member you are expected to provide your own transport to and from training and if applicable, to call-outs.
- 5 SARDA IN being a Charity, is required to conduct fundraising activities which are scheduled from year to year. All members are expected to attend.

## ROLES

SARDA IN is part of NISAR, (Northern Ireland Search and Rescue), and as such, we have a duty of care to all our members and to those we may become responsible for in the course of our work. We report to the Department of Justice N I and are tasked by the P S N I. Therefore, every prospective new member must ensure that they have the following qualifications as appropriate:-

**'Dog's body'**: This is a vital role within the Association because without volunteers willing to play the part of the missing person and 'hide' in the mountains, boulder field, ditch or even up a tree, it would be impossible to train a search dog. Therefore, in order to assist in this role you must have:-

- (a) A high level of fitness and good health with some experience of hill or mountain walking as this role requires an individual to spend numerous hours alone on the hill in all conditions on training days.
- (b) A working knowledge of radio communications. (Some training will be given).
- (c) Have personal wet weather clothing and suitable walking boots.

**Dog Handler**: This is the criteria for all prospective trainee dog handlers to be achieved before they can be considered ready for training a dog:-

- (a) Pre-requisite fitness test.
- (b) A minimum of acting as a 'dog's body' in SARDA IN for 12 continuous months.
- (c) Have achieved their Mountain Skills Certificate with a recognised Outdoor Centre.
- (d) Have completed and passed REC Level 3 of current date.
- (e) Have completed a minimum of 75% attendance at SARDA IN training during the year.

As a 24/7 emergency service, there is a high possibility that qualified dog handlers will be asked to attend call-outs late at night, weekends, during work hours and often on Bank holidays. Inevitably these call-outs will be in wet, windy and cold conditions requiring you to spend the whole night out on a mountain or in a remote area.

There is an additional requirement for all members to attend a minimum level of scheduled training events which are designed to develop the specialist skills needed as a dog handler and to ensure the safety of yourself and others you will be working with. Any member failing to attend at least 75% of scheduled training will be subject to a review of their continued membership.

**Operational support**: Requirements are the same as for a dog handler. Applicants will be required to assist on call-outs and work side by side with one or more dog handlers with responsibility for communications and navigation etc.

**Fundraising**: While all members are expected to attend PR and fundraising events, we also require non-operational members to attend and assist at these events. Like all other roles within the Association, a level of commitment is required and all members should be able to attend as often as possible.

Personal Details (Please PRINT)			
Name [in full]:			DOB:
Address:			
Telephone:	Home:	Work:	Mobile:
E-mail:			
Job/Trade/Profession:			

Membership			
What area/s would you be interested in if you were accepted as a member? Please tick relevant box			
Dog handler	Operational support	Dog's 'Body'	Fundraising
One of the main stipulations as a dog handler or operational support member of SARDA IN is that you are generally available for call-outs. Are there any specific times of the day or days of the week that you would not expect to be available for call-outs?			
What other skills could you bring to SARDA IN?			
Have you any navigation/mountain skills qualifications, [if any]?			
Have you any climbing or specialist rope work experience/qualifications?			
Have you any medical or first aid qualifications, [if any]?			
Are you a member of any other SAR organization(s)? Please give all details.			
How long have you been a member of the above organization/s?			

<p>If you are a member of another SAR group, are they aware of your Application to join SARDA IN? [We may contact that organization/s to confirm their support of your Application and your suitability].</p>	
<p>Position/s held in the above organization/s?</p>	
<p>Please list any other information you feel may help your Application. [Use the reverse of this page if necessary].</p>	
<p>Why do you want to join SARDA IN? [Use the reverse of this page if necessary].</p>	

**Criminal Convictions**

Have you ever been convicted at Court or cautioned by the PSNI for any offence including a motoring offence? [Please tick relevant box].

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
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If yes, please state below the dates and nature of the offence/s:

You are advised that under the provision of The Rehabilitation of Offenders' Act 1974, [Exceptions] Order 1975 as amended by the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 [Exceptions] [Amendment Order] 1986, you should declare all convictions including 'spent' convictions. Failure to declare all details fully will, upon discovery, lead to the termination of your membership of SARDA IN.

## Medical Conditions

Please state any long term or significant medical condition/s?

NB Declaration of any medical condition/s will not necessarily deter you from membership of SARDA IN.

## Declaration

I AGREE that all details I have provided in this Application Form are true and correct.

I UNDERSTAND that if I give wrong information or leave out important information which later comes to light, I may be dismissed from the Association.

I ACCEPT that no disclosure of my personal information will be given to other bodies without my prior permission.

SIGNED: \_\_\_\_\_

DATED: \_\_\_\_\_

Please feel free to submit additional pages with further information, [if necessary].

Applications must be completed and returned before

and forwarded to:-

Clair O'Connor 44 Eliza Close, Newcastle Co Down BT33 ORN, or

E-mail: [cocnocsoc@googlemail.com](mailto:cocnocsoc@googlemail.com)



If this Application is successful, you will be invited for an interview, which, if you pass, will enable you to attend a day in the hills with other applicants to test your basic fitness and levels of ability to be part of a team together with your knowledge of navigation and personal safety in remote areas.

This Application Form complies with The General Data Protection Regulation [EU] 2016/679 [GDPR].