

Courtroom dogs

Legal proceedings are tough, especially if you are a child who has been abused, or a woman who has been sexually or physically violated.

Police enquiries, however tactfully done, bring back the trauma which the person has undergone. And a court hearing, with all the questions in public, is surely a nightmare.

We cannot take away entirely the stress, because the process is necessary.

But we can help, or rather, a dog can help.

Just by its presence when these processes are happening, the dog calms and supports the person.

This is not just wishful thinking!

There are more than 100 courtroom dogs doing just this in America.

Canada and Belgium have started, and the first courtroom dog in France has been chosen.

What happens?

The dog is in the care of a policeman or woman, or of a court official, someone who is empowered to be present in court.

Then the dog is simply there when the victim is being questioned or is in court.

The victim can then stroke the dog for comfort, or even say the answers to the dog, especially in the case of children.

The victim is less stressed and more composed, and is able to answer the questions more easily : this is also better for the police, who can deal more effectively with their questioning.

How does it work?

We don't really know.

It is the empathy between dog and person, which we see so often with handicapped people, with autistic children, in maisons de retraite and maisons de soin.

It is a magic which we have come to accept, a communication at some instinctive level.

How is it all arranged?

This has been very well documented in xxxxxxxxxxxxxx

If you have read this far, you really should take the time to read this publication.

So why am I saying all this?

We at ASA asbl have talked to some of the people involved, and are completely convinced of the benefits which these courtroom dogs can bring.

We should be very happy to finance the acquisition of the dog, and introduce you to the people at Handi'Chiens who are involved.

We really just want to see Luxembourg enjoying the same benefits as America, Belgium, France,...

Interested?

Just give us a ring, and we shall be happy to talk to you.