

# Service dog for Berkley

Our daughter Berkley was diagnosed with epilepsy, focal cortical dysplasia, increased brain pressure, & another genetic abnormality called a meningocele in November of 2020 at the age of 3 years old & it totally turned our world upside down. After seeing some abnormalities on her CT scan St. Rita's sent us to Nationwide Children's for further testing. We originally brought her in because we thought she had a stomach bug or a concussion from falling off her ATV a couple days prior. The four days we spent there was full of uncertainty, tests, bloodwork, an EEG, medication and a lot of talking to doctors to figure out what to do next.

Unlike the typical seizure you think of where people have convulsions, Berkley has focal seizures which means she just stares off and doesn't respond to her name. Sometimes she vomits, urinates on herself, gets headaches, dizzy, and almost always becomes tired & falls asleep.

At that time the doctors also recommended speech because she wasn't talking much so we immediately started speech therapy, physical therapy, & put her in equestrian therapy once we came home. Then in November of 2021 Berkley was diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder level 2 and a global developmental delay. After that she started occupational therapy to help with her behavior & her gross motor skills and also a special therapy especially for autistic kids called ABA.

She did not have any seizures that we saw from the time of her diagnosis until almost two years later. Unfortunately in September of 2022 she had 5 of them in a 24 hour period, in October she had a seizure at school that lasted two minutes long & her medication had to be increased. We believe between October - March she had at least once a month. Recently they've become uncontrolled where she's having at least one a day. The neurologist ended up putting her on a second anti-seizure medication and we are being referred to an epileptologist for a surgical consult.

We are hoping to get her a multipurpose service dog to help her with her autism and be able to alert us when she's having a seizure. The dog would be able to track her if she got lost, be tethered to her when we're out in public so she doesn't run away from us, help her in social situations, as well as provide comfort during all of her medical appointments. We really appreciate your help!

Please consider donating items to raffle off for our purse bingo that will be held September 30th at 7pm or buy a table & enjoy the evening with friends. You can reserve a table of 10 or buy them individually for \$30 apiece. Will include a small meal, drink and snack.

Contact Kirstie Trentman at 419-235-3088.  
Thank you!

