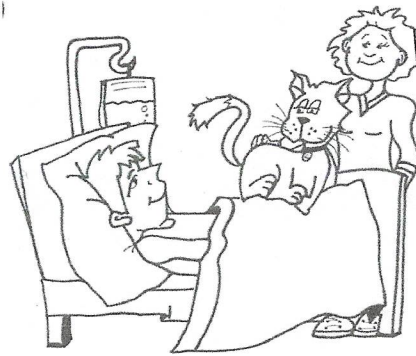


Service Animal or Therapy Animal-- Is There a Difference?

Leader Guide



Developed by Barbara Voltin
for

fce
Oregon Association For
Family & Community Education

Service Animal or Therapy Animal--Is There a Difference?

Objectives of Lesson: To discover the differences between a service animal and a therapy animal.

To learn why and how the human-animal bond has become such an important part of helping the disabled become more independent in their daily lives.

To learn some of the organizations that train animals to serve the disabled.

Materials Needed: Copies of Member's Handouts
Copies of Quiz for each member
Copies of evaluation form to be completed by each participant. The teacher is to summarize and send report to VP of Programs.

Optional Materials: Books about Service animals and/or therapy animals
Newsletters from various organizations.
Newspaper/magazine articles about service or therapy animals in the community.

This lesson will focus on service animals but will point out the differences between a service animal and a therapy animal.

Therapy Animals

Do you own a dog, cat, rabbit, guinea pig, bird or even a horse for a pet? Do you think your pet would be a good candidate to become a therapy animal? Maybe or maybe not. To qualify, an animal must be evaluated and registered with a national organization such as the Delta Society or Therapy Dogs International (TDI). Most organizations provide training and set up volunteer opportunities for the animal and the animal's handler. For example, to become a part of the Delta Society's Pet Partners Team you are required to attend 12 hours of classroom training. This is done without the animal. The class prepares you to be independently tested by a Delta licensed animal evaluator. A therapy animal itself is specially trained to offer comfort, companionship, and affection to anyone who needs a friendly presence. The animal must be gentle and not react to loud noises, jerky movements or weird sounds or smells. The therapy animal is only half of a team. Usually the owner of the animal is the other half, but sometimes an animal has a handler that takes it to activities. The Land of PureGold Foundation is an organization that can arrange dog therapy opportunities for people who do not have their own dog.

Activities that involve therapy animals are usually classified as AAA (animal assisted activities) or AAT (animal assisted therapy). These activities are varied and may include courtrooms, hospitals, nursing homes, schools, mental facilities, and disaster areas.

NOTE: Even with a certificate a "therapy dog" is not a legally recognized title. Some facilities may allow and even encourage visits, but therapy animals do not have any official legal rights.

In the 1700's the Society of Friends opened a facility in York, Scotland called The Retreat. The Retreat was built to provide humane treatment for the mentally ill. The idea was to expand on the research being done on the human-animal bond. The patients took care of farm animals on the estate in hopes that these activities would help in the rehabilitation process. Many of the patients did so well they were able to return to their homes.

Throughout the centuries, numerous studies have shown that having a friendly animal present can reduce anxiety and lessen sympathetic nervous systems arousal, which in turn lowers heart rate and reduces blood pressure. Benefits also include a decrease of depression, increases of speech and memory functions and heightened mental clarity.

Dolphins

Besides animals that may be pets, dolphins are also being trained to use in therapy. Dolphins have always seemed to have a friendly relationship with man. They have been known to save people from drowning. They have followed ships and pushed fish into the fishermen's nets. In his research in the 1970's, Dr. David Nathanson found that Dolphins can help people with physical and mental handicaps when these people are able to touch or swim with them. After many years of working with dolphins, Dr. Nathanson opened a center in Key Largo, Florida called Dolphin Human Therapy. Many people have come to the center for help with overcoming their physical and mental disabilities. Since 1989, people from 54 countries have participated in the program. The majority of them are children.

Service Animals

Service animals receive special training to aid people who have physical or mental disabilities. They follow commands and complete simple and sometimes not so simple tasks for their human partner. The training of all service animals takes many months of hard work. Some of the tasks they perform can take years for the animals to learn.

After being certified, service animals (also known as companion animals) are protected by law. With passing of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), service animals have extensive protection and are allowed everywhere their partner goes and can not be treated as a "pet" by business owners. This law supersedes local ordinances which may say animals are not allowed in facilities like restaurants, for instance. Not allowing a service animal in a business or workplace may be the grounds for a serious lawsuit. Service animals usually have some form of identifying jacket, patch or harness. Their partner may carry an ID card for their animal to insure they are allowed in public facilities without being hassled.

Capuchin Monkeys

In 1979, the first service monkey was trained and placed. Helping Hands: Monkey Helpers for the Disabled, a national 501 (c) 3 organization is based in Boston, Mass. They are a member of Independent Charities of America. They place specially trained Capuchin monkeys with individuals living with severe mobility impairments. Helping Hands relies on private contributions.

They provide the service animals and their lifetime support free of charge. It costs about \$35,000 to raise, train and place a Capuchin monkey. More than 125 Capuchin monkeys have been placed, so far.

The Capuchin monkey is probably best known from the 1800's when it was used by organ grinders to perform tricks and collect money in a little tin cup. Now, Capuchin monkeys are trained for service work because they are smart, curious and have thumbs which greatly enhances their ability to help people with everyday activities.

Capuchin monkeys weigh 3-8 pounds when they become an adult so they are small enough to sit on someone's shoulders. They can live to be 40 years old and their service career can last 20-30 years. (A guide dog's career usually lasts only 8-9 years) Their training starts at a special school when they are teenagers. A few of the things they can learn to do--turn on and off lights, turn pages of a book, close doors, put a CD or DVD in a player, unscrew the cap off a water bottle and insert a straw, wipe sweat off someone's forehead, pick up dropped objects off the floor, help do computer work, and scratch an itch.

Miniature Horses

Can you imagine a horse being used to guide a blind person across busy streets or through shopping malls? Horses in the wild have been known to guide other horses who have become blind so it seems like a natural thing for them to take to guide work for humans.

In 1999, The Guide Horse Foundation was started so guide horses could be used as service animals. Miniature horses are being specially trained like dog guides to work with people who are blind to keep them safe. They are strong so their partners can lean on them for help in standing up and because they are small and gentle, they are easy to control. Miniature horses have a wide range of vision. They can see almost all the way behind them so they are well suited for guiding their partners in busy public places. Miniature horses also live longer than dogs, some up to 50 years. A miniature is small enough to travel with its partner in a car or van.

In 2001, Dan Shaw, a blind farmer from Maine teamed up with the world's first trained guide horse, Cuddles. Dan takes Cuddles into restaurants with him and she stands quietly by the table while he eats. She also is house trained and goes to the door, crosses her legs and nays when she has to go out. All guide animals are taught "intelligent disobedience" and Cuddles kept Dan safe when she disobeyed him and pushed him out of the way to keep him from being hit by a bicycle. One draw back to using a horse is the surfaces they may be walking on can be very slippery. To overcome this, a form of sneaker has been developed to fit over their hooves.

Dogs

From the time when wolves first crept close to man's fire to get warm until now, dogs have played an integral part in helping man survive. Ancient cave drawings have been found showing a blind man being led by a dog. Because dogs are more prevalent in the community there is

some confusion as to why some dogs are allowed in certain areas and not in others. The first and most important reason is a service dog is specially trained to be good natured and obedient in a variety of situations while at the same time protecting its partner.

January, 1927 is the first record of animals being trained for service to humans in Germany. German shepherds were used to help blinded WWI veterans. Only female German shepherds were used at first because it was thought that the males would be too aggressive.

In 1928, a blind, twenty-year-old American, Morris Frank, from Tennessee contacted Dorothy Harrison Eustis after his dad read him the article she had written for the *Saturday Evening Post* describing how the German dogs were trained to guide the blind. Dorothy lived in Switzerland and trained police dogs and dogs for rescue work. Morris promised if he could receive a dog trained to help him be on his own he would come back to the United States and tell and show other blind people how having a guide dog would give them independence. Morris traveled to Switzerland to receive his dog. When he first met his dog he was surprised and somewhat humiliated to find out her name was "Kiss." He couldn't imagine calling out "Come, Kiss!" when he was out in public. He decided immediately to change her name to Buddy. It wasn't always easy for Morris to learn how to follow and trust Buddy's guidance. But he stuck with it. When he returned home to Nashville, Morris kept his promise and traveled around the country with Buddy recruiting students and telling the public how capable a disabled person would be with a well-trained dog for a guide.

In 1929, Dorothy started The Seeing Eye school in Nashville, Tennessee. This was the first school in the United States to train dogs to guide the blind. They used German shepherds, Labrador retrievers, Golden retrievers and Boxers. Donations started pouring in and The Seeing Eye school did so well, they moved to a larger facility in Morristown, New Jersey in 1931. The demand became greater and more dog guide schools opened.

In 1938, Leader Dogs for the Blind, sponsored by Lions International was started in Rochester, Michigan. Today there are fourteen schools in the United States training guide dogs including Pilot Dogs in Columbus, Ohio and Guiding Eyes for the Blind in Yorktown Heights, New York.

In 1942, Guide Dogs for the Blind was founded by Lois Merrihew and Don Donaldson. They believed that dogs could help wounded servicemen from World War II who were returning home without their sight. The school first was operated out of a rented home in Los Gatos, California. Blondie, a German shepherd, rescued from a dog pound in Pasadena, California was one of the first dogs they trained. She was partnered with Stg. Leonard Foulk, the first serviceman to graduate from the school.

By 1947, the school had grown and so it was moved to its present location on an 11 acre campus in San Rafael, California. By October of 1995, they had expanded again and held their first graduation on the new campus in Boring, Oregon, 25 miles east of Portland, Oregon. As one of the oldest and largest organizations in the country, Guide Dogs for the Blind has graduated more than 10,000 teams since they began in 1942.

Guide Dogs for the Blind has established their own breeding colony to insure that the characteristics they are looking for are maintained. Their puppies, yellow and black Labrador retrievers, and Golden retrievers are bred in San Rafael, California. The campus in Boring, Oregon is where some of the puppies that have been socialized by puppy raisers for 14-18 months are brought for their formal training. This specialized guide work can take another four to six months or more and is done by professionals, who usually have about three years of training themselves, before they are fully qualified to help the dogs and their partners learn to move through busy streets and stores.

Most of the countries in Western Europe, as well as, Japan, Australia, Israel, South Africa, Russia and England all have dog guide schools. Each of the schools acquire their dogs in different ways. Some schools buy their dogs; some have dogs donated by breeders or individuals. In the 1970's, The Seeing Eye and some of the other schools started their own breeding programs. They bred for intelligence, stamina, and temperament. Boxers, German shepherds, Golden retrievers, and Labrador retrievers were the most common breeds they used.

New commands and standards began to evolve. American dogs were trained to stop at a flight of stairs and not sit down as the dogs in Germany were taught. The different countries use different colored jackets and some service animals may use different harnesses for when they are working or playing.

An example of how dog guides are trained to know how to behave in different situations is told in the true story of Roselle, a graduate of Guide Dogs for the Blind and her blind partner, Michael Hingson, when she guided him down 78 floors in the World Trade Center to safety on 9/11. **NOTE: Read article on Guide Dogs for the Blind about Roselle.**

Not only are dogs trained to guide the blind, some dog are trained to help the hearing impaired. In 1975, Agnes McGrath, a police and rescue dog trainer, started a pilot program with six dogs. With the support of the Minnesota SPCA, she trained them to assist deaf people. She was so successful, a training program was started in Denver, Colorado. By 1979, Paws With a Cause had begun training both hearing and guide dogs in Byron Center, Michigan. In the 1980's similar programs were started all across the country.

Dogs For the Deaf in Oregon obtain the majority of the dogs they train from the Humane Society. The dogs used for the hearing impaired are usually more active, smaller breeds than those used for guiding the seeing impaired. Dogs that are healthy, friendly, confident and have high energy are the ones chosen. The dogs have to love to run, jump and play. Usually, toys are used as a reward for alerting their partner to specific sounds. To get their partner's attention they are trained to run to the source of the sound and back to their partner. The dogs are trained to respond to everyday sounds, such as a ringing telephone, a door bell or knock at the door, a microwave or oven timer, and a fire or smoke alarm, Some dogs have more specialized training which may be to respond to a crying baby or to someone calling their partner's name.

Service dogs have many areas where they are trained to help humans besides being guides for the visually impaired or alerting to sounds for the hearing impaired. One area is to help people who experience seizures to find a safe place to sit or lay down before the seizure starts and they

fall. After their partner is safe the dog will either go to find someone to help or they may be trained to alert bark until someone comes to help. Dogs are being trained to detect cancer and to alert before someone goes into a diabetic coma.

NOTE: Discuss the newspaper article “Service Dogs” about dogs being used for Iraq and Afghanistan veterans with PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder)

Other Trained Dogs

There are areas where dogs are used to help humans besides being therapy or service dogs. One area is in the search and rescue of people. Dogs can be trained to find people who are alive but may be trapped in collapsed buildings, such as in earthquake disasters or buried under snow in an avalanche. They are used in police work to track lost children or escaped criminals. There are dogs called cadaver dogs, trained to find dead people such as in boating accidents where the person has drowned and the body has been trapped under water long enough to be decomposing. Also, dogs can be trained to find bodies buried underground because the smell migrates upward through the earth. The dog is to sit or lay over the spot until the handler gets there. Sometimes bones are found above ground and the dog is trained to **not** pick up the bones which would be a natural thing for a dog to do.

An area most people know about are the drug-sniffing dogs used in airports, at ports of entry for cargo ships, in warehouses, and at border crossings where they search cars and trucks for drugs and humans.

Summary

Therapy animals are trained differently than service animals. They have to be gentle and friendly to anyone who may want to touch or hug them. Therapy animals can include dogs, cats, birds, rabbits, guinea pigs, dolphins, and horses and donkeys. The law does not allow them to accompany their owner into restaurants or other public facilities. A therapy animal’s focus is on the people they meet. Touching, petting and talking to the therapy animal is encouraged. Places where therapy animals are used include classrooms, courtrooms, hospitals, nursing homes, mental facilities, and disaster areas.

One of the main reasons people use a service animal is to help them live a more independent life. Service animals are protected by law so they can go anywhere their human partner goes even in a restaurant or the workplace. It takes many months and thousands of dollars to train an animal to be of special help to a disabled person. Service animals include various breeds of dogs, miniature horses, and capuchin monkeys. When a service animal is working do not touch it without permission or do anything to distract it from its job.

Service Animal or Therapy Animal--Is There a Difference?

Timeline

- 1919 After World War I the German government begins to train dogs as guides for blinded veterans.
- 1928 Morris Frank trains with his first dog guide, Buddy, in Switzerland.
- 1929 Morris Frank and Dorothy Harrison Eustis start a dog guide training program in Nashville, Tennessee.
- 1931 The Nashville school reopens as The Seeing Eye in Morristown, New Jersey.
- 1935 All U.S. railroads agree to let dog guides ride in passenger cars with their owners instead of in a crate in the baggage car..
- 1938 Leader Dogs for the Blind is established in Rochester, Michigan.
- 1942 Guide Dogs for the Blind was started in San Rafael, California to provide free training and services for the visually impaired veterans of WWII.
- 1975 Agnes McGrath trains six dogs to work with deaf people. She is sponsored by the Minnesota SPCA.
- 1979 Paws with a Cause begins training hearing and service dogs.
- 1990 The Americans with Disabilities Act ensures public access to people using service animals in the United States.
- 1993 The International Association of Assistance Dog Partners is founded at a meeting in St. Louis, Missouri.
- 1995 A second campus was opened by Guide Dogs for the Blind in Boring, OR
- 2001 Dan Shaw, a blind farmer from Maine, teams with the world's first trained guide horse.

Service Animal or Therapy Animal--Is There a Difference?

Quiz

T or F After WW1, the German government began to train dogs as guides for blinded veterans.

T or F According to the law, dogs, horses and monkeys are considered service animals and are allowed to go into restaurants and subways.

T or F It costs about \$35,000 to train and place a Capuchin monkey with a disabled person.

T or F Miniature horses can live up to 50 years.

T or F Slow learners, allowed to swim with a dolphin when they got a new word correct, learned up to ten times faster than before.

T or F Dogs for the deaf are trained to alert for sounds inside and outside the home.

Put a check by the tasks that service animals can be trained to do for their partners.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> help them get dressed | <input type="checkbox"/> load and unload the washing machine |
| <input type="checkbox"/> take food from the shelf at the grocery store, put in cart | <input type="checkbox"/> pay for items at the store and get change |
| <input type="checkbox"/> pull a blanket over them in an emergency or if they fall | <input type="checkbox"/> put the card in the slot to get money from a bank machine |
| <input type="checkbox"/> push the emergency button on the telephone for help | <input type="checkbox"/> open a bottle of water and insert a straw |
| <input type="checkbox"/> stop at road crossings until it's safe to cross | <input type="checkbox"/> put discs in the CD player |
| <input type="checkbox"/> use their body to push them out of the path of bicycles or cars | <input type="checkbox"/> find an empty seat at a concert |
| <input type="checkbox"/> flip on or off light switches | <input type="checkbox"/> find escalators and elevators to use instead of stairs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> open a refrigerator door | <input type="checkbox"/> disobey a command to avoid danger for the partner |
| <input type="checkbox"/> help do computer work | <input type="checkbox"/> turn the pages of a book |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> scratch their partners where they have an itch |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> let them know the microwave timer went off |

Answers:
All questions are true and all tasks should be checked!

Service Animal or Therapy Animal--Is There a Difference?

Resources

Books

- ~~Barnes, Julia; Dogs at Work; Gareth Stevens Publishing (2006)
- ~~Hansen, Rosanna; Caring Animals; Children's Press (2003)
- ~~Hansen, Rosanna; Panda, A Guide Horse for Ann; Boyds Mills Press (2005)
- ~~Kent, Deborah; Animal Helpers for the Disabled; Franklin Watts, a Division of Scholastics, Inc. (2003)
- ~~Lawrenceson, Diana; Guide Dogs From Puppies to Partners; Allen and Unwin, Australia (2001)
- ~~Moore, Eva; Buddy, The First Seeing Eye Dog; Scholastic (1996)
- ~~Murray, Julie; Service Animals, A Buddy Book; ABDO Publishing Co. (2009)
- ~~Murray, Julie; Therapy Animals; ABDO Publishing Co. (2009)
- ~~Patent, Dorothy Hinshaw; The Right Dog for the Right Job; Walker Publishing Co. Inc. (2004)

Websites

~~www.petplanet.co.uk

News section with articles on Endal, the Super Dog and his partner Allen Patton.

~~www.caninepartners.co.uk

Information about Canine Partners for Independence and their work with assistance dogs.

~~www.guidehorse.com

Information on the Guide Horse Foundation. Tells about Cuddles, the Guide Horse. A miniature horse.

~~www.helpinghandsmonkeys.org

Information on monkeys and their assistance work with disabled people.

~~www.dogsforthe deaf.org

This organization provides hearing dogs. Its online site gives information about training and canine health.

~~www.guidedogs.com

This California-based organization trains dog guides for people throughout the United States. They have their own breeding colony and show the puppies at play also on YouTube.

~~www.caninecompanions.org

This organization trains hearing and service dogs.

Guide Dogs for the Blind

Kay and Ted Stern live in Santa Barbara, and go about their day to day tasks just like everyone else on their block. One of their tasks, though, is special. They are one of the many people across the country who train puppies to grow up to be guide dogs for the blind. Most of these animals also then go about their day to day tasks like every other guide dog in the country, guiding their owners through a world they cannot see.

But on 9/11, one of their dogs rose to a greater challenge. When they turned on their television that morning, they watched in horror at the pictures coming from the other side of the country. It was even more personal for them, because they knew that the first puppy they had trained, a yellow Labrador named Roselle, was in one of the World Trade Center towers. Her owner, Michael Hingson, was on the 78th floor.

Roselle rose to the occasion that day, and spent the next 50 minutes carefully guiding Hingson down a stairwell that became progressively more crowded with each floor and where the temperature was climbing every minute. Roselle had only been his guide dog for about nine months, but she carefully and diligently led her owner down the stairs and out of the building before it collapsed. Three days later the Sterns received the phone call they were hoping for: Hingson and Roselle had survived.

Most of the guide dogs in the country will never experience what Roselle did, but they are very much unsung heroes in our midst. One of the oldest guide dog organizations in the country is the Bay Area-based Guide Dogs for the Blind. The group was founded by Lois Merrihew and Don Donaldson, who volunteered their efforts along with many others. They recognized the need to help wounded servicemen who returned from World War II without their sight. They believed in the potential of dogs to serve as guides for the blind.

The school was incorporated in May of 1942 and began instruction of students in a rented home in Los Gatos, California, south of San Jose. A German Shepherd named Blondie was one of the first dogs trained. Blondie had been rescued from a Pasadena dog pound. She was later paired with Sgt. Leonard Foulis, the first serviceman to graduate from the new school.

In 1947, the school moved to their present 11-acre location in San Rafael, California, 20 miles north of San Francisco. In October of 1995, they held the first graduation at their new campus in Boring, Oregon, 25 miles east of Portland. They have graduated more than 10,000 teams since their beginnings in 1942.

Both campuses house students in exceptional dormitory facilities which include dining rooms, exercise rooms, libraries, computer rooms and social areas. Both are located near major metropolitan centers, providing graduated training from quiet rural areas to congested city streets and public transit. The dogs and puppies are cared for in meticulous kennels and state-of-the-art veterinary clinics. German Shepherds, Labrador Retrievers, Golden Retrievers as well as Labrador Retriever/Golden Retriever crosses are the breeds used. Professional staff and veterinarians nurture, groom, train and prepare the dogs for their futures as guides. Over 2,000 dogs have gone on to join their human partners. ☺

For more information, please visit their website at www.guidedogs.com



"Service Dogs"



New York Times News Service

Puppies Behind Bars dogs learn to fetch, turn lights on and even dial 911. Now, the government is wondering if they can help soldiers recover from PTSD, too.

Battle-scarred vets find peace at leash's end

By Janie Lorber

New York Times News Service

WASHINGTON — Just weeks after Chris Goehner, 25, an Iraq war veteran, got a dog, he was able to cut in half the dose of anxiety and sleep medications he took for post-traumatic stress disorder. The night terrors and suicidal thoughts that kept him awake for days on end ceased.

Aaron Ellis, 29, another Iraq veteran with PTSD, scrapped his medications entirely soon after getting a dog — and set foot in a grocery store for the first time in three years.

The dogs to whom they credit their improved health are not just pets. Rather, they are psychiatric service dogs specially trained to help traumatized veterans leave the battlefield behind as they reintegrate into society.

Because of stories like these, the federal government, not usually at the forefront of alternative medical treatments, is spending several million dollars to study whether scientific research supports anecdotal reports that the dogs might speed recovery from the psychological wounds of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

In dozens of interviews, veterans and their therapists reported drastic reductions in PTSD symptoms and in reliance on medications after receiving a service dog.

Veterans rely on their dogs to gauge the safety of their surroundings, allowing them to venture into public places without constantly scanning for snipers, hidden bombs and other dangers lurking in the minds of those with the disorder.

87 ways to help

In August, Jacob Hyde got his service dog, Mya, from Puppies Behind Bars, a program based in New York that uses prisoners to raise and train dogs for lives of service. The organization has placed 23 dogs with veterans with PTSD in the last two years, training them to obey 87 commands.

"If I didn't have legs, I would have to crawl around," said Hyde, 25. "If I didn't have Mya, I wouldn't be able to leave the house."

If Hyde says "block," the dog will stand perpendicularly in front of him to keep other people at a distance. If he asks Mya to "get his back," the dog will sit facing backward by his side.

The dogs are trained to jolt a soldier from a flashback, dial 911 on a phone and even sense a panic attack before it starts. And, perhaps most important, the veterans' sense of responsibility, optimism and self-awareness is renewed by caring for the dogs.

The dogs help soldiers understand "what's happening as it's happening, what to do about it and then doing it," said Joan Esnayra, a geneticist whose research team has received \$300,000 from the Defense Department to study the issue. "You can use your dog kind of like a mirror to reflect back your emotional tenor."

The dog is also often the first visible manifestation of a former soldier's disability. Because people are curious about the animal, the veteran gets an opportunity to talk about his condition and

his war experiences, discussions that can contribute to recovery. More broadly, the dogs help increase public awareness of PTSD, which the Veterans Affairs Department said affects about one quarter of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans with whom it has worked.

Under a bill written by Sen. Al Franken, D-Minn., veterans with PTSD will get service dogs as part of a pilot program run by the Department of Veterans Affairs. Training a psychiatric service dog and pairing it with a client costs more than \$20,000. The government already helps provide dogs to soldiers who lost their sight or were severely wounded in combat, but had never considered placing dogs for emotional damage.

When to start?

But there is debate within the emergent field about the appropriate time to pair a veteran with a dog. Sara Meisinger, chief of occupational therapy at the warrior transition unit at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, said a service dog should be used only in the final stage of treatment, after a soldier has accomplished as much as possible with traditional therapy. Many experts say the veterans should be living on their own for at least a year be-

fore they receive a dog.

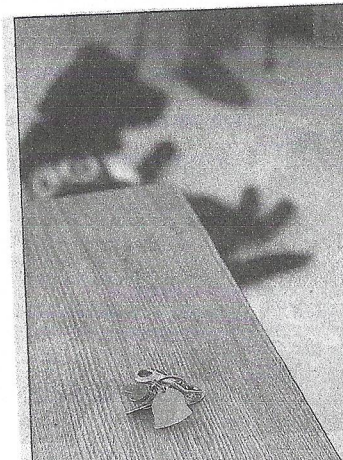
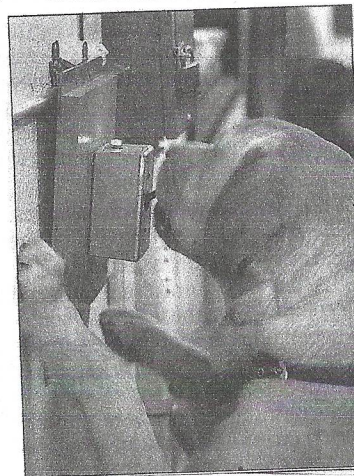
But when Gloria Gilbert Stoga, who runs Puppies Behind Bars, received an application from Maj. James Becker, she decided, with support from his doctors, to take a chance on a veteran who had just left inpatient care.

Becker, 45, suffered two severe brain injuries in separate explosions, earning two Purple Hearts in his three tours in Iraq and Afghanistan. When he came home last winter, his 24-year-old daughter, also an Iraq veteran, was being treated for leukemia.

In Becker's mind, home started to resemble Afghanistan's Helmand province. His PTSD symptoms worsened, and a suicide attempt in July landed him in San Diego Naval Medical Center for seven months. A few weeks after leaving the San Diego hospital, Becker flew to New York to collect his dog, Annie, and participate in a two-week training session with Puppies Behind Bars. Still, he said he spent a lot of time alone in his room "because it's easier to deal with four walls than it is to come out and deal with crowds."

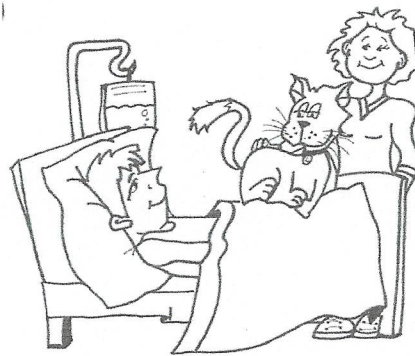
But within days, Annie was beginning to pull him out of his shell. "She helps me meet people," he said, describing how people are attracted to the dog.

He added, "I like to think it's going to get better."



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Member's Handout



Developed by Barbara Voltin
for

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Oregon Association For
Family & Community Education
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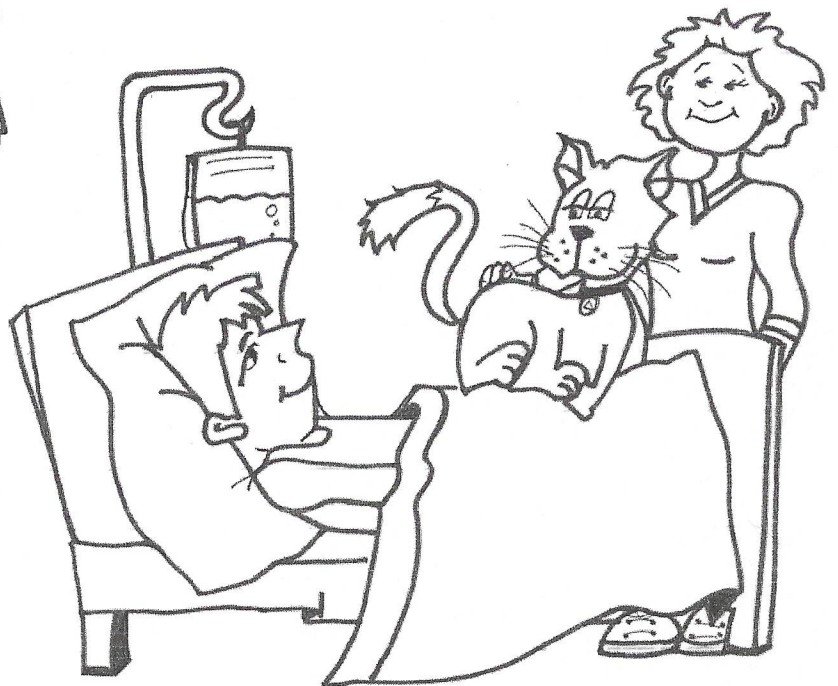
Therapy Animals

Have you ever needed a hug? Well, that's what we do. With our owners by our side, we are family pets who visit other people to help them feel better.



Therapy animals can be dogs, cats, rabbits, guinea pigs, and even horses.

Sometimes we visit adults who are feeling lonely and sometimes we visit children in the hospital.



We like to be petted by the people we visit.

By petting and talking to us, people feel less lonely and become more relaxed which helps them feel better.



Learn more on www.deltasociety.org.

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Service Animals

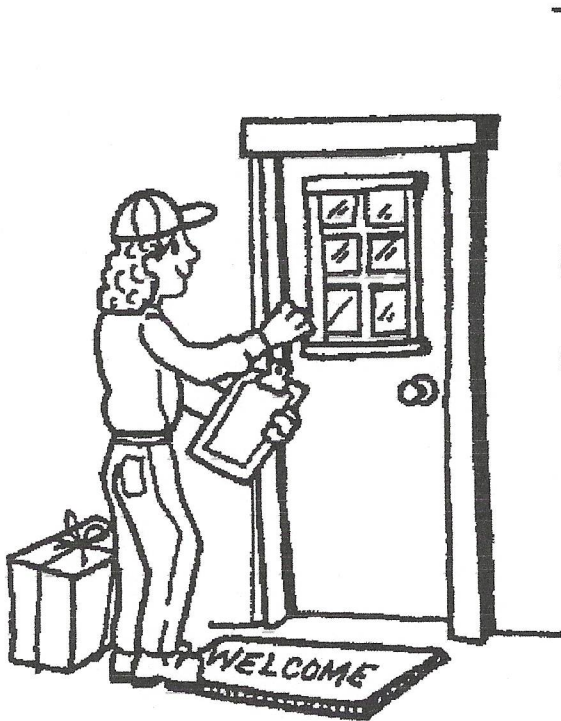
We are trained to help our owner who has a disability. We are allowed to go everywhere with our person – even into stores, restaurants, and the movies!



We pick things up...



We guide people...



We alert people to sounds...



...and we do many other jobs for our person who can't do things easily by himself.



Because I'm working, *never* try to pet me unless you ask my person first.



DELTA SOCIETY[®]

The Human-Animal Health Connection[®]

Learn more on www.deltasociety.org.

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Therapy Animals

Do you own a dog, cat, rabbit, guinea pig, bird or even a horse for a pet? Do you think your pet would be a good candidate to become a therapy animal? Maybe or maybe not. To qualify, an animal must be evaluated and registered with a national organization such as the Delta Society or Therapy Dogs International (TDI). Most organizations provide training and set up volunteer opportunities for the animal and the animal's handler. For example, to become a part of the Delta Society's Pet Partners Team you are required to attend 12 hours of classroom training. This is done without the animal. The class prepares you to be independently tested by a Delta licensed animal evaluator. A therapy animal itself is specially trained to offer comfort, companionship, and affection to anyone who needs a friendly presence. The animal must be gentle and not react to loud noises, jerky movements or weird sounds or smells. The therapy animal is only half of a team. Usually the owner of the animal is the other half, but sometimes an animal has a handler that takes it to activities. The Land of PureGold Foundation is an organization that can arrange dog therapy opportunities for people who do not have their own dog.

Activities that involve therapy animals are usually classified as AAA (animal assisted activities) or AAT (animal assisted therapy). These activities are varied and may include courtrooms, hospitals, nursing homes, schools, mental facilities, and disaster areas.

Throughout the centuries, numerous studies have shown that having a friendly animal present can reduce anxiety and lessen sympathetic nervous systems arousal, which in turn lowers heart rate and reduces blood pressure. Benefits also include a decrease of depression, increases of speech and memory functions and heightened mental clarity.

NOTE: Even with a certificate a "therapy dog" is not a legally recognized title. Some facilities may allow and even encourage visits, but therapy animals do not have any official legal rights.

Service Animals

Service animals receive special training to aid people who have physical or mental disabilities. They follow commands and complete simple and sometimes not so simple tasks for their human partner. The training of all service animals takes many months of hard work. Some of the tasks they perform can take years for the animals to learn.

After being certified, service animals (also known as companion animals) are protected by law. With passing of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), service animals have extensive protection and are allowed everywhere their partner goes and can not be treated as a "pet" by business owners. This law supersedes local ordinances which may say animals are not allowed in facilities like restaurants, for instance. Not allowing a service animal in a business or workplace may be the grounds for a serious lawsuit. Service animals usually have some form of identifying jacket, patch or harness. Their partner may carry an ID card for their animal to insure they are allowed in public facilities without being hassled.

Service Animal or Therapy Animal--Is There a Difference?

Timeline

- 1919 After World War I the German government begins to train dogs as guides for blinded veterans.
- 1928 Morris Frank trains with his first dog guide, Buddy, in Switzerland.
- 1929 Morris Frank and Dorothy Harrison Eustis start a dog guide training program in Nashville, Tennessee.
- 1931 The Nashville school reopens as The Seeing Eye in Morristown, New Jersey.
- 1935 All U.S. railroads agree to let dog guides ride in passenger cars with their owners instead of in a crate in the baggage car..
- 1938 Leader Dogs for the Blind is established in Rochester, Michigan.
- 1942 Guide Dogs for the Blind was started in San Rafael, California to provide free training and services for the visually impaired veterans of WWII.
- 1975 Agnes McGrath trains six dogs to work with deaf people. She is sponsored by the Minnesota SPCA.
- 1979 Paws with a Cause begins training hearing and service dogs.
- 1990 The Americans with Disabilities Act ensures public access to people using service animals in the United States.
- 1993 The International Association of Assistance Dog Partners is founded at a meeting in St. Louis, Missouri.
- 1995 A second campus was opened by Guide Dogs for the Blind in Boring, OR
- 2001 Dan Shaw, a blind farmer from Maine, teams with the world's first trained guide horse.

Service Animal or Therapy Animal--Is There a Difference? Quiz

T or F After WW1, the German government began to train dogs as guides for blinded veterans.

T or F According to the law, dogs, horses and monkeys are considered service animals and are allowed to go into restaurants and subways.

T or F It costs about \$35,000 to train and place a Capuchin monkey with a disabled person.

T or F Miniature horses can live up to 50 years.

T or F Slow learners, allowed to swim with a dolphin when they got a new word correct, learned up to ten times faster than before.

T or F Dogs for the deaf are trained to alert for sounds inside and outside the home.

Put a check by the tasks that service animals can be trained to do for their partners.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> help them get dressed | <input type="checkbox"/> load and unload the washing machine |
| <input type="checkbox"/> take food from the shelf at the grocery store, put in cart | <input type="checkbox"/> pay for items at the store and get change |
| <input type="checkbox"/> pull a blanket over them in an emergency or if they fall | <input type="checkbox"/> put the card in the slot to get money from a bank machine |
| <input type="checkbox"/> push the emergency button on the telephone for help | <input type="checkbox"/> open a bottle of water and insert a straw |
| <input type="checkbox"/> stop at road crossings until it's safe to cross | <input type="checkbox"/> put discs in the CD player |
| <input type="checkbox"/> use their body to push them out of the path of bicycles or cars | <input type="checkbox"/> find an empty seat at a concert |
| <input type="checkbox"/> flip on or off light switches | <input type="checkbox"/> find escalators and elevators to use instead of stairs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> open a refrigerator door | <input type="checkbox"/> disobey a command to avoid danger for the partner |
| <input type="checkbox"/> help do computer work | <input type="checkbox"/> turn the pages of a book |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> scratch their partners where they have an itch |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> let them know the microwave timer went off |

Service Animal or Therapy Animal--Is There a Difference?

Resources

Books

- ~~Barnes, Julia; Dogs at Work; Gareth Stevens Publishing (2006)
- ~~Hansen, Rosanna; Caring Animals; Children's Press (2003)
- ~~Hansen, Rosanna; Panda, A Guide Horse for Ann; Boyds Mills Press (2005)
- ~~Kent, Deborah; Animal Helpers for the Disabled; Franklin Watts, a Division of Scholastics, Inc. (2003)
- ~~Lawrenceson, Diana; Guide Dogs From Puppies to Partners; Allen and Unwin, Australia (2001)
- ~~Moore, Eva; Buddy, The First Seeing Eye Dog; Scholastic (1996)
- ~~Murray, Julie; Service Animals, A Buddy Book; ABDO Publishing Co. (2009)
- ~~Murray, Julie; Therapy Animals; ABDO Publishing Co. (2009)
- ~~Patent, Dorothy Hinshaw; The Right Dog for the Right Job; Walker Publishing Co. Inc. (2004)

Websites

~~www.petplanet.co.uk

News section with articles on Endal, the Super Dog and his partner Allen Patton.

~~www.caninepartners.co.uk

Information about Canine Partners for Independence and their work with assistance dogs.

~~www.guidehorse.com

Information on the Guide Horse Foundation. Tells about Cuddles, the Guide Horse. A miniature horse.

~~www.helpinghandsmonkeys.org

Information on monkeys and their assistance work with disabled people.

~~www.dogsforthe deaf.org

This organization provides hearing dogs. Its online site gives information about training and canine health.

~~www.guidedogs.com

This California-based organization trains dog guides for people throughout the United States. They have their own breeding colony and show the puppies at play also on YouTube.

~~www.caninecompanions.org

This organization trains hearing and service dogs.