International Hearing Dog, Inc (IHDI)

GET TO KNOW OUR WORK!

Candidate Program for Assistance Dogs International

OUR MISSION

Is to empower individuals who are d/Deaf and hard of hearing by purposefully training specially selected dogs to alert to sounds, carefully matching these dogs with handlers who are d/Deaf and hard of hearing and supporting the paired teams throughout the lifetime of the match.



OUR DOGS



Hearing dogs are young and can be any breed and any size, but 15 - 65 lbs is preferred. The most successful candidates are confident, curious, problem solvers that are eager to work and love to take initiative.

OUR TRAINING

The use of positive reinforcement techniques allows our dogs to have fun while being trained to alert to sounds (phone rings, doorbells, and smoke alarms) and to maintain their specialized skills throughout their lifetime.



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OUR CLIENTS

Hearing loss affects every area of nearly 48 million Americans' lives from, education to employment. A hearing dog that alerts to important sounds allows these individuals to gain independence and a sense of security.

TRAINING OTHER EARS TO HEAR SINCE 1978!



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HEARING DOG SELECTION CRITERIA!

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SELECTION CRITERIA

 Dogs approximately 10 months to 2 years in age so that the dog is mature enough to be trained and placed within 7-10 months and provide years of service as a working hearing dog.

Dogs weighing between 15 to 65 lb.

 Confident, curious dogs who like to investigate new things and are not fearful of new sounds is paramount.

Treat motivated and people-oriented.

- Dogs that have a history (if known) of getting along well with:
 - other dogs
 - adults and children
 - cats and don't have a high prey drive for small animals, squirrels, or birds
- Any breed can do hearing work. IHDI always considers the individual dog, but poodles, terriers, spaniels, labs, and mixes thereof are generally known to be good candidates.



Overall, dogs that enjoy spending time with people, love learning new things, are curious about the world around them, and have the confidence to learn to be comfortable in public (i.e., seeing sliding doors, shopping carts, riding on trains, hearing unexpected noises) are ideal candidates for IHDI's hearing dog program.

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