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Howl You Doing?



Not Just Any Dog -- A *Mobility Service Dog*

BY CHRISTI CHRISTIANSEN

Besides helping owners train their dogs, at Service Paws we believe in educating our community. In this article, I want to share with you some important information about a mobility service dog.

Mobility Service Dogs are larger breed dogs that help people that may have mobility issues such as a person with one leg, a person in a wheelchair, or a person with muscles or bone issues where they can't walk appropriately on their own. A mobility dog will help the Handler navigate in a world that is made for people with two legs. These dogs can pull wheelchairs or even push wheelchairs. They are able to do forward momentum (the Handler holds onto a handle and the dog pulls them forward in a steady gate that's comfortable for the Handler and it helps them move forward without falling down). A mobility dog can do is help the person get up off of the floor or out of a chair. Because these tasks can be so demanding on the dog and its physical abilities, we advise you start Mobility training the dog at least 2 years old and be checked by a vet to make sure that their growth plates are closed and that they are not suffering from any hip dysplasia or other problems that would make it difficult for them to do these kinds of physical activities. Another thing to keep in mind is how big the dog needs to be. That depends on how big the person that they're working with is. My advice is the dog should be about

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CHRISTI CHRISTIANSEN
& DANI GIRL

50% of your weight and about 30 to 40% of your height. People who are heavier are going to have to have a heavier dog and a taller dog to do the mobility work they need. You don't want to hurt your service dog you want to work safely with them as a team, so you want to make sure that you've got the appropriate size and breed of dog. Looking for a large service dog does cause problems. As you're looking for a large dog you want to make sure you're not selecting a breed that has a tendency to be aggressive or has the DNA that may cause them to become aggressive or protective later on. A service dog should not be a protection dog they shouldn't be growling and barking at people that get too close to you, so you're going to have to look for a large dog that has the potential to stay calm and quiet and collected in difficult situations. If you want to learn more about Mobility Service Dogs catch the continuation of this article in our August newsletter).

Calling ALL Volunteers - July Events

BY MITCHELL CHRISTIANSEN

We have July events coming up. Remember to log hours each week to gain incentives and awesome privileges. If you have completed service hours, make sure you log those hours right away. Here are the events for July:

July 8: Fundraiser Booth at Utah State Fair - International Farmer's Market

July 15: Group Activity - Location to be determined

Reminder: People ooh and ahh at fireworks, but unexpected, intermittent loud noises tend to have the opposite effect on dogs. That's why more pets go missing on **July 4th** than on any other day of the year. Make a plan before the Fourth to ensure your pooch stays safe. At the very least, keep your dog indoors during the display. If your pet is crate-trained, the crate is an ideal safe space. Otherwise, confine him to one room. Close doors and windows, and create background buzz with a TV, stereo, or white-noise machine. And if someone can stay home, that helps, too; after all, man is a dog's best friend.

Good-Bye To Our Fur Babies

Loss is something we all experience at some time or another in our lives. No matter what it is, loss hurts. Losing our fur babies hurts like the dickens. We offer condolences in our family on those whose fur babies have passed away. Most people treat their pets like friends and family but we think you treated yours even better. Losing a pet can be tough, and it reminds us how short and precious life can be. It's not easy when you have to go on after losing a pet who was such a good friend. We know it's a cruel irony that the one member of the family who would be most comforting during a time of loss is the one you have to grieve. Some pets are really good pets, but then there are those who are flat-out amazing. I am sorry you lost an amazing pet. We offer our condolences to the following:

Aaron: Jason
Christi: Dani
Katie: Ragnar and Red

Megan: Wicket
Sean: Hank
Sonja: Maverick

