





Canine Assistants

An organizational overview

Our Mission

Canine Assistants is a non-profit organization dedicated to the education of people and dogs such that they may enhance the lives of one another.

We specialize in working with children and adults who have physical disabilities, seizure disorders or other special needs.




A history of the organization



Jennifer Arnold first recognized the need for this program when she was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis at age 16. She needed to use a wheelchair for several years and came to realize how dependent she was on others.



Jennifer found it difficult to perform simple tasks such as opening doors and turning lights on and off. She'd heard of an organization in California that trained dogs to help people like her with those basic tasks. However, she was unable to obtain a service dog due to geographic limitations.



Since 1991, Jennifer has dedicated her efforts to building Canine Assistants. The organization gives people greater independence through the use of seizure response and service dogs. It operates nationwide, providing service dogs at no cost to the recipients.



Current numbers

85 to 100 dogs are placed annually.

Over 2,000 dogs are currently in service.

Canine Assistants is a national organization. Applications are accepted from all 50 states.

Around 130 dogs are in the program at all times.

Service Dog Teams are located in the United States, and 5 other countries.

Canine Assistants waiting list:

Applicants evaluated based on **need**

More than **1,000** applicants are currently on the waiting list

- Applications are **individually evaluated** based on social, emotional and physical **need**.
- The list is **prioritized based on need of applicant**, and not first come, first serve.
- Applicants with the **most need** **move up** with greatest speed.


Dog breeds used:

Golden retrievers


Golden/Labrador Mixes

Golden doodles


Benefits of retrievers:




- 1 They are eager to please
- 2 They naturally love to retrieve
- 3 They easily adapt to any environment
- 4 They work well with all ages and abilities
- 5 They are perceived well in public



What our service dogs do:



- 1 Provide unconditional companionship
- 2 Retrieve dropped objects
- 3 Open and close doors
- 4 Turn lights off and on
- 5 Provide personal freedom
- 6 Offer balance and support
- 7 Provide social outlets




What our seizure response dogs do:



- 1 Respond in the event of a seizure
- 2 Go get help when needed
- 3 Bring phone, medicine, water, pillows
- 4 Press EMS button
- 5 Reduce stress
- 6 Assist with balance
- 7 Carry medicine/information in packs


Although approximately 80% of our dogs have developed the ability to anticipate onset prior to a seizure, we cannot guarantee a dog will "alert."





What our diabetic alert dogs do:

- 1 Alert to changes in blood sugar levels
- 2 Go get help when needed
- 3 Bring phone, medicine, water
- 4 Press EMS button
- 5 Reduce stress
- 6 Can alert other family members
- 7 Carry medicine/information in packs



What happens at Recipient Camp

Week One

- 🐾 Arrival with assistance from Delta SkyMiles
- 🐾 Program Orientation
- 🐾 Lectures on the bonding process
- 🐾 Hands-on practice sessions
- 🐾 Dog matching/bonding
- 🐾 Dog's first night with recipients




What happens at Recipient Camp

Week Two

- 🐾 Teaching in public
- 🐾 Visit to local mall
- 🐾 Farm Tour
- 🐾 Home and Public Safety
- 🐾 Eat at local restaurants
- 🐾 Attend doggie Olympics
- 🐾 Graduation
- 🐾 Fly/Drive home with new best friend




Our volunteer program



Canine Assistants has **more than 300** volunteers who provide vital support by:

- Working with dogs or recipients
- Helping acclimate dogs to a home environment
- Assisting by conducting outings in public
- Providing meals for recipients during our recipient camps



Education and reading program:




Our dogs perform animal assisted therapy in schools, hospitals, assisted living facilities, and community organizations throughout the country.


K-9 Kids reading program entails taking our dogs to schools and having them "listen" to the children read. This simple act improves scores and encourages reading.



Children's Hospital Initiative:



- Medical personnel now understand the incredible benefits of dogs - from stabilizing blood pressure to reducing the pain and fear suffered by patients. Dogs are proving every day that they are among the very best medicine modern science has to offer.
- Canine Assistants has placed 34 dogs as "employees" in hospitals throughout the country and more are in the works: Atlanta, GA - Dallas, TX - Kansas City, MO - Cincinnati, OH - Fort Worth, TX - Ann Arbor, MI - Greenville, SC - Houston, TX - Hershey, PA





Sponsorships

-  **Complete Care Sponsorships** cover the **medical, food and teaching costs** for the life of every dog.
-  **Recipient Camp Sponsorships** cover the cost of **travel, boarding and food** for **recipients** and their caregivers.
-  **Aftercare Sponsorships** cover **any cost** associated with a dog placed with a recipient.



Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)




Service and seizure response dogs are protected under ADA of 1990 (separate state laws may apply).

The law grants service dogs access to places that their owners go, including:

- Restaurants
- Theatres
- Hotels
- Public transit
- Retail stores



The Bond-Based Choice Approach




Canine Assistants employs **Bond-Based Choice Teaching (B-BC^T)**, a teaching method based on **social learning and collaboration**.

Through bond-building exercises, recipients develop strong relationships with dogs.

Securely attached, confident dogs make good choices without needing constant human direction.

Establishing this secure bond enables dogs to **learn quickly and willingly**, and builds trust between the dog and their human partner.

The result? More reliable and confident dogs and happier owners.



Bond-Based Choice Teaching

- Why not positive reinforcement ?
 - Conditional
 - Causes stress
 - Does not let dogs make their own decisions
- Social
 - Beyond commands
 - No rewards to get an action
- Deepen the bond
 - Learning together rather than forced commands
 - Dogs are willing to do what's necessary for their recipient



How It Works:

- Like Me
 - Dog learns to mimic actions - leads to asking instead of giving commands
- Give your dog a voice
 - Teaching yes and no
- Colors
 - Teaches dogs to retrieve items in a fun way
- Letters
 - Keep your dogs mind engaged

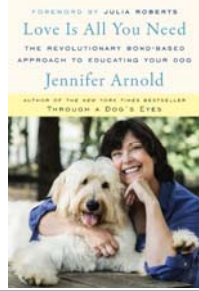


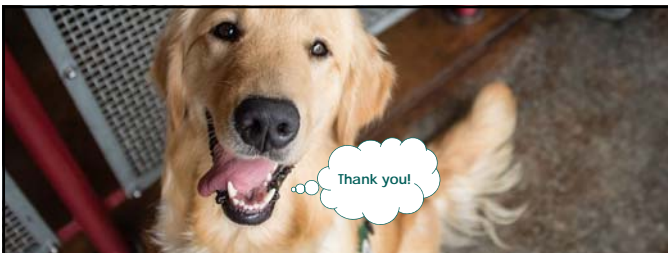
How Can I Bond With My Pet Dog?





- Look With Eyes Of Love
- Walk and Talk
- Help Him Learn Your Likes
- Always Ask Why
- Teach Don't Train
- Exercise His Mind
- Give Your Dog A Voice
- Be A Good Social Secretary
- Make Playtime A Priority



Jennifer Arnold's New Book!





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-  CanineAssistants.org



-  Phone: 770.664.7178
-  Toll Free Number: 800.771.7221
-  Email: info@canineassistants.org
-  Website: www.canineassistants.org
