



Hearing Dogs

One category of assistance dog offered by Canine Companions for Independence is the Hearing Dog. Hearing Dogs work with adults who are deaf or hard of hearing and are trained to alert their partners to key sounds by making physical contact with their partner.

Among the sounds that Hearing Dogs can be trained to recognize and respond to are the ring of a doorbell, the cry of a baby, a knock at the door, a kitchen timer, an alarm clock, an intruder, a smoke alarm, even someone calling a name. The Hearing Dog is also trained to indicate the source of the sound.

During Advanced Training, Hearing Dogs are taught to respond to behavioral commands and to “alert” to a core set of sounds. Their learning continues after being placed in a graduate’s home. Graduates “customize” the dog’s alerting pattern to his or her own particular environment and needs. Hearing Dogs increase feelings of security and confidence.

All of CCI’s Hearing Dogs are trained at the Northwest Regional Training Center, located at the Schulz Campus in Santa Rosa, California. Follow-up support to Hearing Dog graduates is provided by members of the program staff at each of the regional training centers.



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Northwest Regional Center
PO Box 446
Santa Rosa, CA 95402-0446
707-577-1700 V/TDD

Southwest Regional Center
PO Box 4568
Oceanside, CA 92052
760-901-4300 V
760-901-4326 TDD

North Central Regional Center
4989 State Route 37 East
Delaware, OH 43015-9682
740-548-4447 V/TDD

Northeast Regional Center
PO Box 205
Farmingdale, NY 11735-0205
631-694-6938 V/TDD

Southeast Regional Center
PO Box 680388
Orlando, FL 32868-0388
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About CCI Assistance Dogs

Canine Companions for Independence (CCI) is the oldest and largest non-profit provider of assistance dogs for people with disabilities. Established in 1975, CCI is recognized world wide for the excellence of its dogs and for the quality and longevity of the matches it makes between dogs and people.

All CCI assistance dogs are one of three types of canines: Labrador Retrievers, Golden Retrievers, or a cross of these two breeds. They are selected for their even temperament, desire to please, social nature, and adaptability. Each assistance dog completes a minimum of six months of rigorous training under a professional CCI Instructor and then undergoes a two-week Team Training with their future human partner.

Never aggressive or noisy, CCI's assistance dogs display perfect etiquette in public. There is no need, for example, to worry about "accidents" in public, as their behavior training and repertoire of commands prevent such occurrences. They take their work seriously and are recognized for their high level of training. Each has passed or exceeded the level of training required to earn public access under state and federal laws, including the Americans with Disabilities Act. A certified CCI assistance dog team is readily identified by the special vest worn by the canine and an identification card carried by its human partner.

When not on the job, a CCI assistance dog enjoys its off-duty time just as any other well mannered dog would. Once the working vest is placed on the dog, however, the dog must stay alert to the needs of its partner. For this reason, it is important that others never pet, feed, or distract the dog while it is working. Instead, people should ask permission from the dog's partner to pet it or show it attention. Oftentimes, the team will gladly oblige with a paw-shake.

CCI is supported entirely by the generosity of donors who want to help carry out its mission. As a result of this generosity, we are able to provide these highly trained canines and ongoing follow-up services free of charge to people who seek the assistance and increased independence that a Canine Companion can offer.

If you would like to learn more about Canine Companions for Independence, or know someone who may be interested in a partnership with a CCI assistance dog, please contact us at:

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