

Dogs That Help

by Lois Grippio

Who doesn't love their dog? Dogs wait for us to come home. They sleep next to our beds. They bark when they hear strange footsteps. They're always around.

Being a friend is not the only thing a dog can do. For some people, a dog is an important helper. A dog can guide a person who can't see. It can nudge someone who can't hear. A dog can also bring things to a person who can't walk.



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READ & RESPOND

Central Idea

Reread the last paragraph on this page. What do you think this text will be about?

Training

How does a puppy become a helper dog? It must go to school! These schools are special places. Dog trainers work at the schools. They teach dogs how to take care of people with special needs.

A helper dog has a lot to learn. It has to learn the difference between a red light and a green light. It has to learn how to act on a bus and with other animals. It must learn to obey its owner.



A helper dog at work



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Text Structure

Why must a dog go to school before it can become a helper dog?

Getting Started

A helper dog must learn to do special jobs. What jobs must a dog learn? It depends on its owner's needs. Trainers make sure a dog can do the jobs that the person needs.

At last, a trained dog and its new owner meet. They learn how to live as partners. The dog helps its owner. The owner cares for the dog.



A helper dog and its owner are partners.



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Text Structure

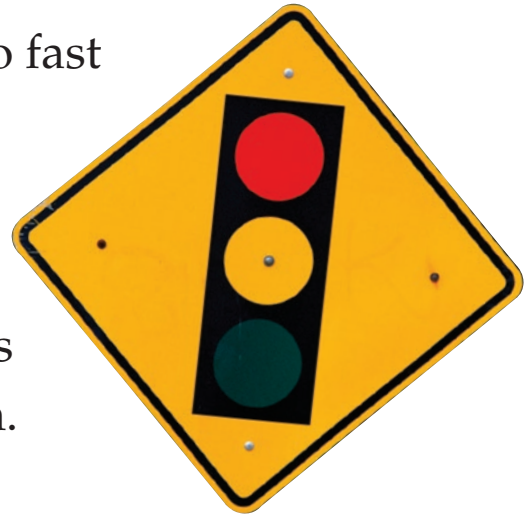
What things must happen before a helper dog and an owner can meet?

Seeing-Eye Dogs

Seeing-eye dogs are one kind of helper dog. Their job is to see for a person who cannot.

A seeing-eye dog helps its owner at home and outdoors. The dog leads its owner from place to place. It does not walk too fast or too slow. It protects its owner.

Seeing-eye dogs are smart. They stop when they see a red light. They lead their owner across a street when the light turns green.



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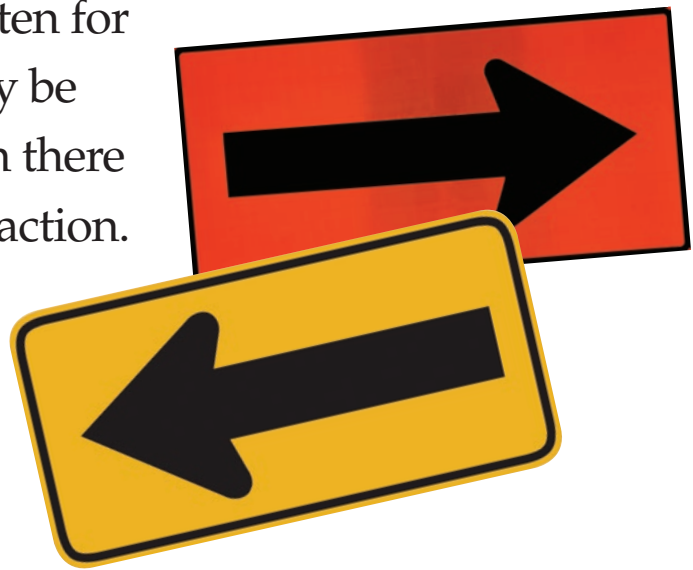
Central Idea

How do seeing-eye dogs help their owners?

Hearing for an Owner

Sounds give information. Many give a warning. Babies cry. Horns honk. Alarms ring. Some people do not have the ability to hear. They won't know if there is trouble.

Some dogs are trained to hear for their owners. They are taught to listen for different sounds. The dog may be sleeping or lying down. When there is a noise, the dog jumps into action. It runs to its owner. It alerts him or her to the sound.



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Text Structure

How is a seeing-eye dog similar to a hearing dog? How are they different?

Heroes

Some people are unable to walk. They can use a wheelchair. However, there are still some things they may need help with.

Dogs can be trained to help these people. The dogs are taught to pick things up. They learn to turn lights on and off. They are even trained to push a wheelchair.

Helper dogs are heroes and loyal friends. They serve people with special needs. What do they ask for in return? Nothing more than a meal and a pat on the back!



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Central Idea

What is the central idea of the text?

Caring for a Dog

Dogs take care of people. People need to know how to take care of dogs.

- Dogs need to run. Be sure to take your dog outside at least two times each day.
- Dogs need to visit the doctor, just like people. They need special shots to help them stay healthy.
- Keep your dog clean. Brush its coat. Give your dog a bath.
- Feed your dog healthy food. Be sure to give your dog plenty of water, too.
- Be as loving and loyal to your dog as your dog is to you!



READ & RESPOND

Text and Graphic Features

Why do you think the author wrote this information in a list?

Reread and Respond



1 Do you think the author wrote this story to persuade the reader to get a helper dog? Why or why not?

Hint

Clues you can use are on almost every page. For example, see pages 139 and 141.

2 What are two things a helper dog might do for a person who can't walk?

Hint

For clues, see page 143.

3 What are two ways that a person can take care of a dog?

Hint

For clues, see page 144.