



# OHS HUMANE EDUCATION NEWSLETTER

JANUARY  
Animal Holidays

- Adopt a Rescued Bird Month
- Jan 20 Penguin Awareness Day
- Jan 21 Squirrel Appreciation Day
- Jan 29 Seeing-Eye Guide Dog Anniversary

Promoting Education in Animal Welfare

JANUARY 2025

## SERVICE DOGS

**SERVICE ANIMALS ARE:**  
(from the American Disability Acts website : [ADA Service Animals](#))

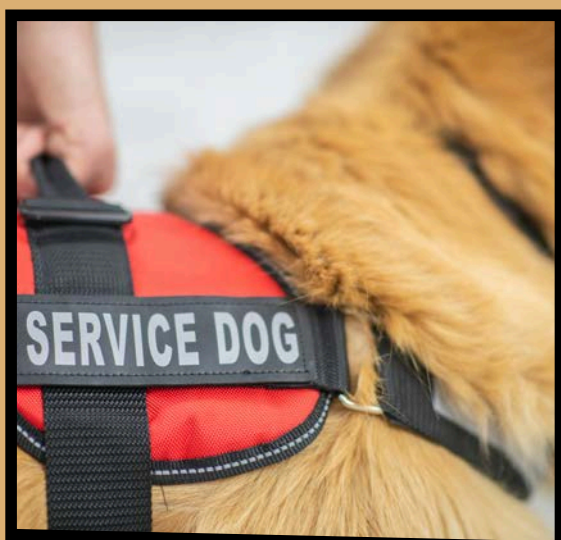
- Dogs
- Any breed and any size of dog, but most commonly Golden Retrievers and Labrador Retrievers.
- Trained to perform a task directly related to a person's disability

**SERVICE ANIMALS ARE NOT:**

- Required to be certified or go through a professional training program
- Required to wear a vest or other ID that indicates they're a service dog
- Emotional support or comfort dogs, because providing emotional support or comfort is not a task related to a person's disability.
- If the dog's mere presence provides comfort, it is not a service animal under the ADA. But if the dog is trained to perform a task related to a person's disability, it is a service animal under the ADA. For example, if the dog has been trained to sense that an anxiety attack is about to happen and take a specific action to help avoid the attack or lessen its impact, the dog is a service animal.

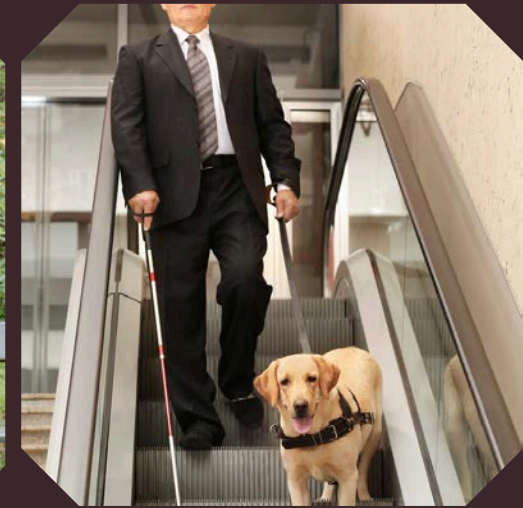
[Youth and Young Adult Programs at Guide Dogs for the Blind](#)

[Guide Dogs for Children and Young People in the UK](#)



## A CLOSER LOOK

### SEEING-EYE GUIDE DOG ANNIVERSARY - JAN 29



Compared to service animals in general, seeing-eye dogs go through extensive training to be able to safely assist people with low vision (visually impaired) or no vision (blind). Dogs were chosen as seeing-eye animals before and after World War II, with the goal of helping injured soldiers. A dog named Buddy was the first dog to be trained as a seeing-eye dog in the US after his person wrote to the author of an article, Dorothy Harrison Eustis, an American dog breeder residing in Switzerland, about dogs being taught to be ears and eyes for German World War I veterans. Buddy's person, Frank, went to Switzerland to train Buddy and in 1928, Frank arrived in New York City, where he and Buddy became very popular. Buddy was fantastic at making sure Frank was able to walk through the congested streets of traffic and people. When Frank arrived home safely, he wrote a success message to Eustis to express his happiness.

The See-Eye school was started in 1929, with Frank and Eustis as co-founders. After that other schools were started and the first guide dog training school on the West Coast was created by Lois Merrihew and Don Donaldson. Lois and Don offered their expertise to the American Women's Voluntary Services and Guide Dogs for the Blind (GDB) was born in 1942. Lois and Don began training dogs and instructing students from a rented home in Los Gatos, California. A German Shepherd named Blondie, who had been rescued from a Pasadena dog shelter, was one of the first dogs trained.

Guide Dogs for the Blind's first class consisted of two students and two Shepherd dogs. The third class in October 1943 included the school's first World War II veteran, a soldier blinded when his binoculars were hit by sniper fire at the Battle of Attu. He graduated with Lois and Don's original training dog, Blondie.

In 1947, GDB moved to the present location of our California campus in San Rafael, California (about 20 miles north of San Francisco). In order to meet the increasing demand for our services, we opened a second campus in Boring, Oregon (about 25 miles east of Portland), in the Fall of 1995. The first class of guide dog clients at the Oregon campus graduated in October of that year.

[GUIDE DOGS FOR THE BLIND VIRTUAL CAMPUS TOUR](#)

Guide Dogs for the Blind, with two locations, one in San Rafael, California and one in Boring, Oregon offers programs and services to empower people who are blind or visually impaired in the U.S. and Canada. They train and offer highly trained guide dogs to qualified individuals, we also teach guide dog readiness skills in our Orientation and Mobility Immersion Program; match both children and adults with K9 Buddy dogs as companions and pets, and provide a variety of programs for youth. GDB not only improves mobility for our clients, we further inclusion. All of our services are provided free of charge, including personalized training and extensive ongoing support, plus financial assistance for veterinary care, if needed.

## AWARENESS FUN FOR ELEMENTARY STUDENTS

### BLINDNESS: PRETEND YOU ARE A SEEING-EYE DOG.

- One student can obscure their vision by using sunglasses with vaseline smeared on the lenses or blindfolded.
- Another student can they be assigned a starting place and destination for the visually impaired student to maneuver to reach safely. This can be done inside or outside placing a few obstacles in the path.
- The lead or seeing-eye student can lead the visually impaired student through the path/maze.
- After the experience, discuss how it felt, what helped or what did not. What suggestions do they have and what thoughts do they have about a person being blind or visually impaired?

### PASSING BY

by Lois Merrihew (written in 1939)  
I saw a man and a dog pass by  
And the dog was his master's seeing eye.  
The sight, to my eye was a joyous feast  
And I pondered the worth of the noble beast.  
What better reason has one to live  
Than have a service that he can give?  
To be of help on life's rough road  
And help another to carry his load?  
I envied the dog with the seeing eye  
As he led his master so proudly by,  
Ever alert to his master's care  
And proud of the cross he had to bear.  
No thought of greed, no selfish whim,  
No motive mean to hamper him.  
Proud of the privilege to serve and be  
The eyes for his master who cannot see.  
Giving his life with a joyous heart  
Willing and eager to do his part.  
No wonder I was thrilled as they passed me by  
That man and his dog with the seeing eye.