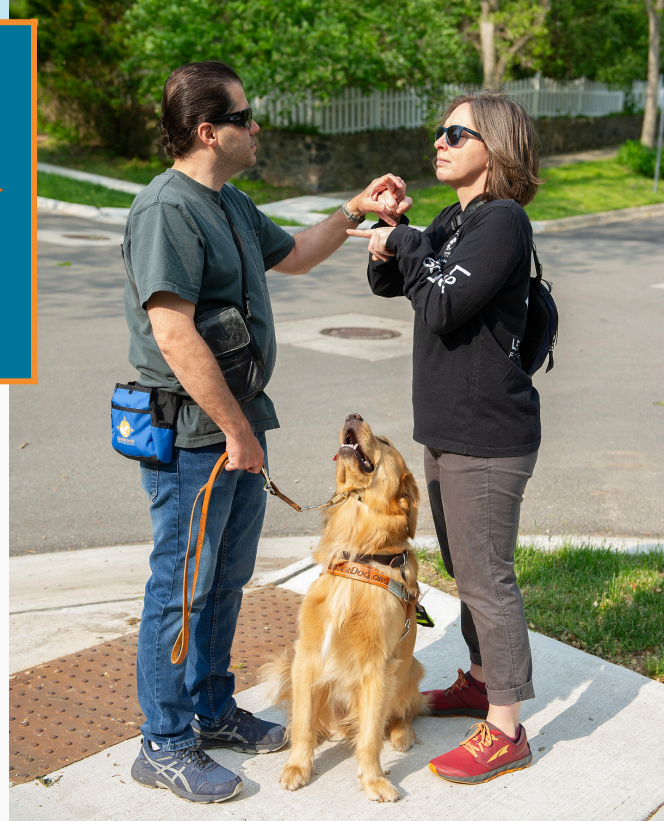


LEADING THE WAY

Leader Dogs for the Blind - Lions Newsletter



Sarah D., GDMI, COMS explains to Client Steven how to navigate an intersection using tactile ASL.

Training to Every Client's Needs

Learn about our DeafBlind Program and Adaptive Services

At Leader Dogs for the Blind, our top priority is ensuring each client receives customized training that allows them to develop exceptional skills to travel independently with a white cane or a guide dog. Though all our guide dog mobility instructors (GDMI) and certified orientation and mobility specialists (COMS) are skilled at adapting the training process to accommodate a wide range of personalities and individual needs, the GDMI on our adaptive services team also individualize client and dog training for additional client needs or disabilities that may be physical or intellectual. Some examples of ways we are able to adapt training are:

- Train a dog to work on the right side for someone who has experienced a stroke, has a prosthetic hand or has lost a limb.
- Identify and train a sturdy dog for someone with an uneven gait due to cerebral palsy that can offer a little counterbalance and be easier to control.
- Provide one-on-one instruction at a gradual pace for someone who has experienced a traumatic brain injury.

People who are both deaf and blind can find navigating the world to be challenging. After working closely with DeafBlind clients, we began offering guide dog training in 1992 using American Sign Language (ASL) as the main method of communication. A guide dog working with a person who is DeafBlind must be extremely mature. Their training stresses partner awareness because they receive all commands from their handler via hand signals. Much attention is placed on traffic awareness and proper street crossings since these can be extreme safety issues for people who are DeafBlind.



DID YOU KNOW IN 1992, LEADER DOGS FOR THE BLIND BECAME THE FIRST ORGANIZATION TO PROVIDE GUIDE DOGS SPECIFICALLY TRAINED FOR CLIENTS WHO ARE BOTH DEAF AND BLIND.



LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR DEAFBLIND PROGRAM & ADAPTIVE SERVICES TODAY!