

Working Dogs



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Dogs make great pets. You can run with them. You can play ball with them. You can teach them tricks. One of their most important jobs is to make you happy.

Some dogs, though, have real jobs. Their work is to help people do things they can't do on their own. One type of working dog is the Seeing Eye dog. Seeing Eye dogs are specially trained to help people

who are blind. The dogs help people lead independent lives by keeping them safe on the streets.

Seeing Eye dogs begin their training when they are puppies. They live with a volunteer family for about a year. In that time, the family gives the puppy lots of love and teaches it basic commands. The family also takes the puppy to many different places to help it feel comfortable with new people and in new places.

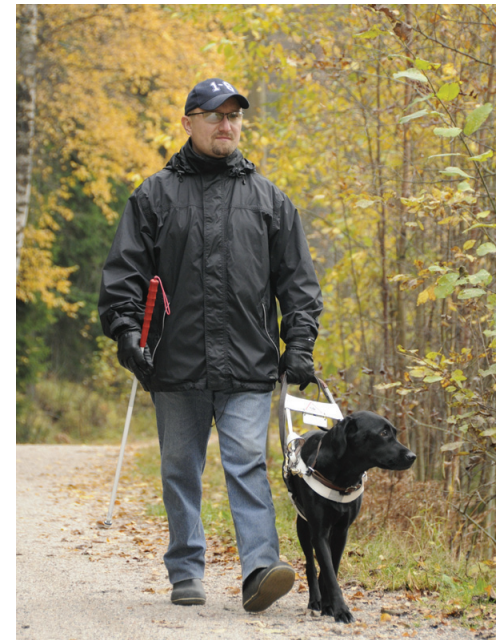
After they are about a year old, Seeing Eye dogs begin their training. They learn how to walk in a harness and how to safely lead a person. They learn to stop at

curbs, stay away from things that might trip a person, and keep the person from bumping into others.

Seeing Eye dogs also learn not to obey a command that might lead a person into danger. For example, if a person tries to walk in front of a car, the dog will stop or put his or her body in front of the person.

When a Seeing Eye dog is wearing a harness, it is working, so you shouldn't try to pet, feed, or talk to it. The dog needs to focus on keeping the person safe. If you would like to pet the dog, ask the person if it's okay.

These dogs help people who are blind live and travel about on their own. They help people hold jobs, shop, and visit others. They help people lead independent lives. Seeing Eye dogs do a very important job.



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Name _____

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Most people know that Seeing Eye dogs can help blind people, but they don't know exactly how. Write what you would tell a friend about how Seeing Eye dogs help blind people. You can look back at the article before you start writing but do not look at the article while you are writing. Here are some words you might use.



harness	lead	stop	curb	safe	bumping
obey	command	body	travel	job	independent

Comprehension Response Activities FYI for Kids — Level 1



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