



THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT A DEAF DOG

5-10% of dogs are either born deaf or become deaf in their lifetime.
Deafness is often congenital meaning derived from one or both parents.
Some breeds have higher propensity to either be born deaf or lose their hearing as part of the aging process.

MOST COMMON DOG BREEDS EFFECTED BY DEAFNESS:

Australian Shepherd, Australian Cattle Dog, Boston Terrier, Boxer, Catahoula, Dachshund, Cocker Spaniel, Collie, Dalmatian, French Bulldog, German Shepherd, Great Dane, Jack Russell, Miniature Poodle, Staffordshire Terrier

HEARING LOSS SIGNS & SYMPTOMS:

Senior hearing loss, (acquired deafness) can occur in one or both ears
Hearing loss can occur naturally or be from anesthesia, antibiotics, chronic ear infections (it just takes one ear infection) physical trauma to head, wax buildup or pawing at an ear.

Signs and subtle behavior changes when a dog is going deaf:

Clingier
Doesn't wake up
No longer plays fetch
Stopped listening and appears to be more stubborn
Regular head shaking or favor one side on an angle to hear or respond

MOST COMMON ISSUES WITH BLIND DOGS:

Snappy or aggressive when startled
Can be unpredictable, jumpy, and nervous
Vocalize extremely loud and are tonally rough
Appear tough, posture then retreat
Frequently stare intensely
Play rough and have difficulty learning normal restraint

COMMON CHARACTERISTICS OF BLIND DOGS:

Pigmentation deficiency - Lacking pigment in skin, eyes, nose presenting as white or pink
Suffer from trauma, stress, and anxiety disorders
Love to always snuggle and be extremely close
Thrive with routines
Benefit from behavioral expectations
Benefit from being able to mimic other dogs who model appropriate behavior
Look to you and/or your hands for information



IN HOME TESTING - DETERMINE UNILATERAL/BILATERAL DEAFNESS

1. Feel vibrations and high registers of sound
2. Deep sleep... vibration of footsteps
3. Whistle to determine if your dog's ears locate sound or if your dog perk up to see you.

BEAR TEST- a veterinarian places electrodes near your dogs' ear and shoulders to monitor brain activity and earphone. Clicking noises at variable levels played and electrodes measure the brain process. It helps to know if your dog is still capable of feeling vibration... partially deaf or which ear is experiencing hearing loss.

USING & RELYING ON THE SENSES - Deaf dogs learn to rely on senses and become highly attuned to their surroundings. Sight and smell are amplified, and they can perceive feelings nonverbally. Their peripheral vision is engaged, and they can see infrared light. Keen sense of smell, hyper alert to sensations of temperatures, behavior changes with barometric pressure, whiskers temperature, light, shadows, reflections, vibration, and pressure. They can even develop their ability to sense other dogs barking, sense nervous pheromones, smell scents being omitted from another's breath or a scent passing through an open door.

DESTRUCTIVE & ANNOYING BEHAVIORS:

Barking from excitement, frustration, anxiety & shadow barking
Bite, startle or jump when woken
Chewing
House Soiling
Obsessive compulsive tendencies
Pulls on leash
Trancing or Ghost Walking - bounce, rock, or swaying (not destructive but looks like a seizure)

YOUR DOG MAY BENEFIT FROM:

Vibration training	Crate Training
Velcro adaptation	Point Training
Physical touch training	Finding what motivates your dog
Tracking & scent games	Appropriately waking & getting your dog's attention
Exercise and mental stimulation	

YOUR DOG MAY BENEFIT FROM LEARNING:

Limits	Impulse Control
Appropriate play	Hand signals
Ways to effectively communicate	

BASIC CUES THAT WILL BENEFIT YOUR DOG:

SIT	DROP IT
STAY	GET IT
TOUCH	LEAVE IT
FOCUS	COME



TRAINING WITHOUT VERBAL CUES:

This is easier than training dogs that can hear because you stop talking and become extremely clear on nonverbal cues. Know that you can still talk to your dog because when you are talking you are exhibiting friendly body language, facial expressions, and postures that the dog can understand.

SIGN LANGUAGE & HOW TO COMMUNICATE FOR YOUR DOG

WAVING- slight changes in light make a dog pay attention

WAVE- Saying good bye

TAPPING- wind air pressure

THUMBS UP - catch your pup behaving

THUMB UP HAND FLICK - Marker signals that a treat is coming

A CONSISTENT PREDICTABLE ROUTINE:

Which of your actions has your dog memorized?

Furniture arranged for pup's sight.

Leave a light on

When it is time for you to leave the house

Walk, potty & food schedule

SUGGESTED PURCHASES:

- White gloves for visibility
- Martingale collar
- Flashlight
- Pheromones - Adaptill calm
- Quality dog tag that reads DEAF DOG with contact info on other side. (a 2nd tag or cat bell)
- Deaf Dog Harness or vest
- Vibration collar
- Comfort sweater
- Assisi Loop 2.0 - Targeted electromagnetic field (tPEMF)
- The Complete Guide to Owning a Deaf Dog by Amanda Brahlek 2021

