

HOW DO THE DOGS ALERT THEIR OWNER



Our dogs alert their owners to the sounds by making physical contact and then leading them to the source

ACCESS RIGHTS

Lions Hearing Dogs have complete access to all public places and transport. There are severe penalties under Anti Discrimination and Dog Acts for denying access

ABOUT LIONS

Lions Hearing Dogs is a project of the Lions Clubs of Australia and Papua New Guinea, who support the project with funds raised from the sale of Lions Christmas Cakes, Lions Mints and other special events.

Donations to support the Lions Hearing Dogs are always needed and are welcome.

All donations over \$2.00 are tax deductible.



LIONS HEARING DOGS INC.

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ENDORSED BY
DR HARRY COOPER

LIONS HEARING DOGS INCORPORATED

**PROVIDING THE EARS FOR
THE DEAF AND HEARING IMPAIRED
PEOPLE OF AUSTRALIA**



**OUR DOGS ARE PROVIDED FREE OF
CHARGE TO APPROVED APPLICANTS**

**IDENTIFICATION
HEARING DOGS ARE IDENTIFIED
BY THEIR BRIGHT ORANGE COLLAR
AND LEAD.**

**THEY GIVE OR RESTORE INDEPENDENCE
AND CONFIDENCE TO THEIR OWNERS.**

**THE OWNER CARRIES AN IDENTITY CARD
WITH A PHOTO OF THE DOG, THEIR NAME
AND OUR LOGO ON IT.**

TRAINING



SOUND TRAINING

The dogs let their owners know when

- The telephone/mobile rings
- There is a knock or the doorbell rings
- The microwave sounds
- The alarm clock sounds
- The TTY rings
- The smoke alarm is triggered
- The baby cries
- The kettle whistles
- Dogs are also trained to get another person in the residence.

Your own pet cannot be trained as a Lions Hearing Dog

In most cases our dogs are not suitable for the legally blind as they do not receive guidance training

THE APPLICATION PROCESS

All we need is a name and postal address to put the process in motion.

An application form is sent out requesting relevant information including a recent audiologist's report, a doctor's report and a personal reference.

Circumstances that could lead to rejecting an application include:

- Lions Hearing Dogs are only suitable for adults;
- Children under school age – this does not include babies;
- The lack of an appropriate fenced area as part of the dwelling where the dog can play and toilet – this is essential;
- An employed applicant must have the permission of their employer and agree to take the dog to work. A dog left home unattended during the day will stop working;
- A physical or mental impairment causing inability to care for and exercise an active working dog.

If it is appropriate to proceed, an interview with the applicant is arranged through the local Lions Club. Upon receipt of the record of the interview at the Training Centre the applicant is notified of the outcome of the assessment of the report.

At this stage a sponsor is sought. This is usually a Lions Club (the Club that carried out the interview) or a similar organisation. There have been cases, where a school has participated in the project.

The sponsor and the recipient are kept informed of progress during training.

DOGS, DOGS AND MORE DOGS

Nearly all potential Hearing Dogs come from either the RSPCA Dog Pound or the Animal Welfare Shelter. Only dogs between about 8 and 24 months are selected. Each dog selected undergoes a rigorous test taking over 20 minutes with only about 1 in 6 selected as good enough to enter the program.

Selected dogs are placed in the Centre's quarantine kennels for a few weeks before being moved in with other "trainees". Much excitement.

During their time at the Centre the dogs have regular trips to shopping complexes, ride on buses and are taken to surrounding townships to familiarise them with places they will encounter once delivered.

All dogs are assessed regularly during training and those not performing become 'lovable dropouts'. These dogs go to normal homes as domestic pets and are never sent back to the shelter.

Once the trainers are confident that a dog will "graduate", it is assigned to an applicant on the waiting list. Every attempt is made to meet an applicant's wish for the kind of dog they want.

At this stage a photo is sent to the recipient and the sponsor for their approval of the choice. If the dog is rejected then it is re-allocated to another applicant. Such a rejection can however delay the delivery of a dog if a substitute is not readily available.

