

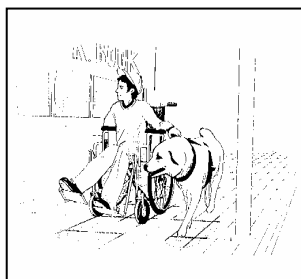
HEARING DOGS are trained to reliably alert people who are deaf or hard-of-hearing to all of the significant sounds in their environment, such as:



- Telephone
- Smoke detector
- Alarm clock
- Teakettle
- Someone calling the person's name
- Items that have fallen (money, keys, pens, etc.)
- Baby's cry
- Door knock / door bell

SERVICE DOGS are trained to aid individuals who are mobility impaired to achieve their desire to be independent by performing tasks that are physically demanding and frustrating. They assist their physically challenged partners by performing duties such as:

- Retrieving out-of-reach objects
- Opening doors
- Counter-balancing a person who is walking
- Assisting in chair-to-chair or floor-to-chair transfers (especially useful in bathrooms)
- Assisting with dressing or undressing
- Helping a person who has fallen to stand



Can a Fidos For Freedom, Inc. Hearing Dog or Service Dog help you?

Here's how Hearing Dogs and Service Dogs have helped some of our clients:

- *"When Tiffany is with me, I don't have to worry about what noises are going on around me, especially at work. I know that she will alert me to the fire alarm bell or the timer on the stove. I don't have to rely on other people to keep me safe, Tiffany does that!"*
- Hearing Dog Client, Karen G
- *"Linus brings me joy, freedom, and laughter every day in every way. His skill at retrieving the items I continually drop is only surpassed by his patience in bringing them to me over and over until I am able to grasp them and hold on. Having him by my side gives me the independence and courage to pursue new ventures. It is truly my privilege to be partnered with Linus."*
- Service Dog Client, Doris M.
- *"Hope has brought so much joy into my life and independence as well; never worrying if I will miss the alarm clock or the oven timer. We are a very close bonded team and I'm so proud of her and I look forward to sharing many years together. Thank you Fidos for this wonderful gift, my gift of Hope!"*
- Hearing Dog Client, Darlene L.
- *"Sparky makes every single day spectacular! With his pep, intelligence, and encouraging smile, he lightens my load and allows me to function independently at home or in the workplace. The constant wagging of his tail as he helps me up from the floor, complete transfers, retrieve objects, and counterbalance shows me that we were truly meant to be "Partners." He inspires me to be a strong leader and teach others to reach for their goals as he helps me to achieve mine."*
- Service Dog Client, Dori T.

Hearing Dog & Service Dog Applicant Information



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Laurel, Maryland 20726
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(410) 880-4178 (V)
(301) 570-7570 (TTY)
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E-mail: office@fidosforfreedom.org

Fidos For Freedom, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and is a voting member of Assistance Dogs International (ADI). All donations are greatly appreciated and are tax deductible.



Combined Federal Campaign:
National Capitol Area CFC # 7076
Central Maryland Area CFC # 3774
Maryland Charity Campaign # 2605
United Way - Write-in

Fidos For Freedom, Inc. (Fidos) is a non-profit organization of dedicated volunteers who strive to increase the independence, self-esteem and quality of life of people in our community by training high-quality, dependable Hearing Dogs and Service Dogs and placing them with qualified clients who reside in the Baltimore-Washington metropolitan community. Puppies and young dogs admitted to the Fidos assistance dog training program are critically screened and carefully selected. Typically they are purebreds that have been donated by breeders from across the United States; some are young rescue or shelter dogs.

Applicants must meet the following requirements

- Live within a 75-mile radius of our training facility located in Laurel, Maryland
- Be at least 18 years of age
- Be able to physically, financially, and emotionally meet the needs of one of these special dogs
- Provide the dog with ample opportunity to perform the skills it has been trained to perform.

Application Process

- Contact Fidos to request an application (see contact points on the front panel)
- Submit the Medical Evaluation form to the applicant's doctor for completion and have it returned to Fidos
- Obtain a copy of the applicant's current medical records
- Return the completed application and the application fee to Fidos
- If approved, the applicant must come to the training facility to interview with the Applicant and Client Review Committee.

Successful completion of the application process is just the beginning ...

During the first phase of training, clients train for a minimum of 60 hours with various dogs in training over the course of many months on Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings. Clients learn how to safely and effectively work with, and take care of an assistance dog during structured training sessions, which provide our Training Staff with the opportunity to observe them working with various dogs. Throughout their training, clients are encouraged not to fall in love with any particular dog in the program because the dog the Training Staff ultimately selects to be their partner may not be the dog the client has thought they should be partnered with. Fidos strives to make the best possible match between the special dogs they train and the clients they serve. Clients are required to attend at least three training sessions per month in order to establish a relationship with each dog in training during this phase of training, which can take six months or more to complete.

Clients must be willing to travel to our facility to train at least once a week on a regular basis and provide their own transportation to and from training sessions.

Once a dog in training has been determined by our Training staff as best suited to meet a client's needs, the client and a dog will be officially "Matched" as a Fidos' team. The client will train one-on-one with the dog and its trainer for an additional minimum of 60 hours. When the trainer decides the team is ready, the new team will complete a minimum of three "sleepovers" in the client's home without the trainer. Immediately afterwards, the team will enter the 30-day bonding period, which is when the dog goes home to live with the client. At this time, the client is required to pay Fidos an administration fee.

Upon successful completion of the 30-day bonding period, the team will enter into the one year probationary period of training. Fidos retains ownership of the dog while it lives with the client and accompanies the client to work, school, etc. The team is required to continue to train at the training center during this phase of training at least twice a month on Wednesdays and Saturdays. When the team completes the one-year probationary period, Fidos will transfer ownership of the dog to the client. At this time, the client will assume responsibility for costs for food and vet care for the assistance dog.

Fidos' teams are eligible to graduate from the training program only if they have completed their one-year probationary period by the date of the next annual Fidos' graduation and volunteer appreciation banquet in the spring.

We really care ... our support doesn't end when we place a dog with you!

As long as a client is partnered with a Fidos dog, our trainers, volunteers and other clients will be there to help the team succeed. This is done by:

- Twice a week Training Sessions
- Telephone Consultation
- Annual Certification

