

John Berner
Presentation on Service Dogs- Notes

If a dog is only trained to retrieve items around the house and does not know how to alert a deaf person of sounds, it is not considered a service dog, because the task of retrieving is not directly related to the disability.

Trainer and acquisition fees may range from no cost to thousands of dollars. Each service dog trainer or training program sets their own fees. Some people choose to look for sponsorship for their service dog from local organizations such as businesses, churches, and civic groups.

Dogs are color-blind and can't read traffic lights. The dog's owner learns to judge the movement of traffic by its sounds. At the appropriate time, he or she will command the dog, "forward." The dog will not carry out the command until it is safe to do so. This is called "intelligent disobedience."

The future for all blind men can be the same, however blinded. No longer dependent on a member of the family, a friend or a paid attendant, the blind can once more take up their normal lives as nearly as possible where they left them off, and each can begin or go back to a wage-earning occupation, secure in the knowledge that he can get to and from his work safely and without cost; that crowds and traffic have no longer any terrors for him and that his evenings can be spent among friends without responsibility or burden to them; and last, but far from least, that long, healthful walks are now possible to exercise off the unhealthy fat of inactivity and so keep the body strong and fit. Gentlemen, again without reservation, I give you the shepherd dog.