



I Can't Hear You!

Deaf Dogs Awareness

IHS Training Program

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The Joy of Living with a Deaf Dog!

I can't HEAR You...

*I don't come when you call my name.
I sleep through the alarm but never meal time.
I'm not afraid of the vacuum cleaner.
If I am asleep or not looking at you, I may jump if you touch me.
I may play rougher than other dogs.
I seldom take my eyes off you and follow you from room to room.
I like to lie in the doorway or with part of my body touching you.
I literally notice every spider on the wall.*

<http://www.spiritofdeafdogs.org/>

True Benefits of owning a deaf dog!

*Thunderstorms just pass by,
They don't react to the doorbell,
and...
4th of July is not an issue!*

Humor and Myths

Top Ten Signs You Have a Deaf Dog – (no pun intended)

10. People in the dog park grow jealous: THEIR dogs start watching YOU rather than listening to THEM
9. Loving jesters with your dog consists of wildly exaggerated and comical facial expressions, body movements and hand motions
8. You find yourself doing your "good dog" hand signal to coworkers, fellow volunteers, spouse, children, and all the dogs and cars you encounter
7. ALL the dogs in your house follow hand signals and they don't think you are serious until you give them one
6. Stomping on the floor doesn't mean you're angry
5. Your dog watches your hands intently...wondering if it is a new cue and what the heck he is supposed to do
4. Your dog turns her head if he doesn't like what you are asking (signaling)
3. You're NOT paranoid; your dogs ARE watching you
2. Your house is the one with the flashing porch light
AND....
1. You wave to you dog to come; then, you "wave louder" when he doesn't come right away!

Deaf Dog Myths

1. "Let Sleeping Dogs Lie." Deaf dogs are inherently dangerous. They will bite if startled or abruptly disturbed. They become more aggressive over time.
2. Deaf dogs should never live with children. They will startle and bite. They can't be trained. They are not good protectors.
3. Deaf dogs are more likely to be hit by a car and killed. They are likely to bolt and be lost.
4. "Deaf and dumb." Deaf dogs are impossible to train. If you can't hear, you can't learn.
5. Owners of deaf dogs recommend against their adoption. They tell horror tales of loss and frustration.
6. Deaf puppies should be euthanized since they are worthless. They can never live complete lives.
7. "Old dogs can't learn new tricks." Old deaf dogs can't learn any "tricks."
8. Deaf dogs are attacked by other dogs who sense their handicap.

CLASS HIGHLIGHTS

- 🐾 **It is especially important that deaf dogs have extra identification**
 - Use several ID tags – rabies tags, standard ID info tag, "I am deaf" tag, city license, etc. If one gets lost there is still another tag with information on it.
 - Extra tags act as a bell so you can hear them when they are out of sight.
- 🐾 **Having the right environment**
 - Fully fenced yard – all dogs should be kept in a fully fenced yard when outside, but it is especially important for deaf dogs so they can be off leash when outside. It is not recommended to allow a deaf dog to wander freely off leash in an open area – there can be too many hazards they may not be aware of.
 - On leash at all times – deaf dogs should always be on a leash if not in a fully enclosed area. If they wander off, you will not be able to "tell" them to come back unless they are looking at you. When camping, keep them on a long leash at all times (30-foot leash for example).
- 🐾 **Common traits of deaf dogs:**
 - Mostly white or "albino" look – white hair with pink skin, nose and around eyes
 - One or two light blue eyes
 - Both parents are Merle Australian Shepherds – there is a gene that makes the offspring deaf when both parents are merle Australian Shepherds – interesting but not very much information on this.
 - If a dog has only one blue eye, he/she *can be deaf in just the ear on that side*
- 🐾 **Be patient and take the time to train your deaf dog**
 - Training is especially important for people with deaf dogs – both the owner and dog need to learn how to communicate with each other.
 - Socializing the dog to different environments will help, too.
 - One-handed signals are best because you should always have your dog on a leash and need to be able to sign one-handed.

See next page for easy hand signals to teach your dog!

Even dogs that can hear will benefit from knowing sign language – you can talk to them in busy areas and if they ever become deaf, they have a head start on training!

Using hand signals

To train a deaf dog, it is basically done by giving a hand signal, use food to lure into position and mark the behavior with the treat and reward with lots of praise (Good Boy/Good Girl signal). This is the same as how hearing dogs are trained except we are not giving a verbal command. Even if you don't formally train your foster dog, consistently using the same hand signals the dog will learn the cues. For instance, rubbing your tummy before feeding him, he will soon learn that rubbing the tummy means food and he will most likely lick his chops and get excited. Keep track of the signals your foster dog knows and pass them onto his new adopters.

Basic hand signals

The following descriptions and graphics show the signals commonly used when training deaf dogs.

Sit!

Raise palm of hand to the chest



Okay! (release)

Pat inside of thigh



Down

Palm of hand towards you pointing to ground



IDAPI dogs also learn the signal of an arm raised into the air as a sign for Down.

Stay

Palm of hand out in front as if saying stop



Come

Use one or two hands for this. With arms extended bring hands towards your chest repeating the gesture several times



Hello

Waving and smiling to him says hello

No

Use a grumpy face or use the ASL sign for No or a combination of both. Waving of pointed finger can be used as well.



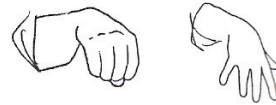
Good boy/girl

Thumbs up, one or two hands as well as clapping



Drop-it

Start with closed fingers facing down then open quickly



Go-Away

Both hands facing down, bent at wrists, palms towards your body, move hands away from body as if shooing something away

Leave-it

One hand facing down bent at wrist, palm toward body, and make a quick motion from the left to the right.

Kennel

Use both hands placed in a tee-pee or church steeple fashion

Hungry

Rub your tummy in a circling fashion. He will lick his chops!