



**Amazing
Animals**

Working Dogs

Summarizing Data



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Wagging and Working

What comes to mind when you think of dogs? You might imagine their playful barks, slobbery kisses, and boundless energy for games of fetch. However, certain dogs are more than just furry, lovable friends. They are specially trained, hardworking animals with important jobs—more than just getting the newspaper from the driveway!

Assistance dogs help people do things that they cannot easily do on their own. They can perform many different tasks, depending on what people need. Assistance dogs guide people who cannot see well. They bark when they hear noises to alert people who cannot hear well. Assistance dogs also help people open doors and turn off lights.

Working dogs perform different types of jobs. They may work with volunteers or members of the military. They sometimes work at airports or at hospitals. These dogs are often in intense situations, and they keep people safe.

Although these **canines** may look like normal pets, they have been trained to help people in their times of need. They keep people active, healthy, happy, and safe, and they do it all while wagging their tails.





Assistance Dogs

Turning the pages of a book, picking up shoes from the floor, or crossing the street may be simple tasks you do every day. But for people with **impairments** or **disabilities**, these tasks can be difficult or even impossible. Assistance dogs help these people.

Some people are visually impaired. They may be blind or have trouble seeing. Guide dogs help these people get around safely by **guiding** them as they walk.

Hearing-impaired people may have trouble hearing sounds. Or they may hear no sound at all. Hearing dogs listen for sounds. Then, they lead their **handlers** to the sources.

There are wide-ranging disabilities other than visual and hearing impairments. Some people may have health issues that need monitoring, while other people may not be able to walk. Service dogs assist these people.

All assistance dogs—guide, hearing, and service—play important roles in their handlers' lives. Remember not to pet assistance dogs if you see them in public. Petting them distracts them from their work. Assistance dogs need to focus on helping their handlers with daily tasks so their handlers can gain a new sense of freedom and safety.



This Labrador retriever is geared up to work as a service dog.



A guide dog helps its handler on an escalator.



This Labrador retriever is training to be a hearing dog.



A service dog helps its handler with his wallet.

Guide Dogs

For visually impaired people, moving around—even in their own homes—can be difficult. Guide dogs help them navigate their way through houses, streets, restaurants, buildings, and more. These dogs wear harnesses with handles that their handlers hold onto. The handlers choose where they want to go, and guide dogs make sure they stay safe along the way. Guide dogs are trained to stop when they see curbs, steps, tree branches, or anything else that may injure their handlers.



A guide dog helps its handler buy tickets for the subway.

Most guide dogs are large dogs, such as Labrador retrievers, golden retrievers, and German shepherds. Volunteers raise guide dog puppies for over a year, and then the dogs go to special schools. At school, they learn how to guide people. They also learn “intelligent disobedience.” That means guide dogs will intentionally disobey their handlers to keep them from danger. For example, if a handler tells a guide dog to cross a street, but there is a car coming, the guide dog stays in place until it is safe. Once a guide dog can pass all its tests, the dog graduates and is matched with a handler.



This German shepherd works as a guide dog.

LET'S EXPLORE MATH

Guide dogs are trained for 4–6 months by professional trainers. Imagine that a professional organization tracks the number of months of training its dogs have completed so far. How can you use the bar graph to determine how many guide dogs it is training?



Guide Dog Training

