

The mission of the **Deaf Dog Education Action Fund** is to provide education and funding for the purpose of improving and/or saving the lives of deaf dogs around the world.

To accomplish this, we are committed to do the following:

- To provide educational and training materials to combat the myths and misinformation that surround deaf dogs.
- To provide a central organization where the owners and supporters of deaf dogs can create a unified voice to increase people's understanding about deaf dogs.
- To gather and share facts and figures about canine deafness and deaf dog behaviors. By collecting data from those with firsthand experience, we hope to document the realities of living with deaf dogs.
- To lobby kennel clubs and other sanctioning bodies to accept deaf dogs into obedience, agility, and other skill competitions under the same conditions as other competitors.
- To provide a network between those seeking to place a deaf dog into a good home and those interested in bringing a deaf dog into their lives.
- To establish and maintain a travel fund to assist in the transportation of deaf dogs to their new homes and owners.
- To work toward ending the euthanization practices of the many breed clubs and breeders who treat deafness as a death sentence for the dogs.
- To promote spaying and neutering of all pets and encourage responsible breeding practices to reduce the pet overpopulation problem.

EVERY YEAR THOUSANDS OF DOGS ARE KILLED SIMPLY BECAUSE THEY ARE DEAF!

DDEAF is working with deaf dog owners around the world to stop this injustice.

Contact us about becoming a member or to get other information and

[help save a life!](#)

To join the Deaf Dogs Mailing List:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/deafdogs>

Or visit the **DDEAF** Web Site at:

www.deafdogs.org

Our e-mail address is:

ddeaf@deafdogs.org

Regular mail can be sent to:

**Deaf Dog Education Action Fund
PO Box 2840, Oneco, FL 34264-2840
U.S.A.**

Share Your Life With A
DEAF DOG
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TRAINING YOUR DEAF DOG



**SOME TIPS & TRICKS
FROM THE EVERYDAY
PEOPLE WHO HAVE
DISCOVERED THAT IT
REALLY ISN'T AS HARD
AS YOU MIGHT THINK!**

Many people have said that deaf dogs are impossible to train, that only the best trainers are up to the task, and that those few who do succeed are just lucky exceptions to the rules.

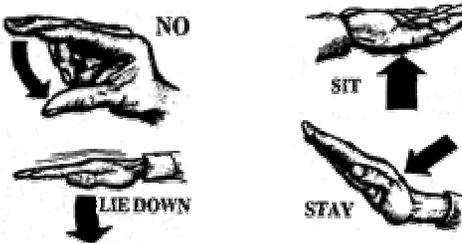
The members of DDEAF (Deaf Dog Education Action Fund), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization formed to *“speak on behalf of and to assist in the betterment of life for deaf dogs everywhere,”* and the thousands of people who have taken advantage of our email list would take exception to that. We are, for the most part, just regular people with regular dogs that really don't listen to us.



Getting started...

First of all, let's talk about the things that you don't need when you start training a deaf dog. You don't need a vibrating collar or any other special tools. You don't need to go looking for a special trainer. You don't need a lot of extra time or patience and you don't even need to worry about learning a new language. We use hand signs, facial expressions and other body cues to communicate with each other without ever thinking about it.

Unless your dog has recently and suddenly lost its hearing, or if it is a new rescue that has just found its way into your life, you should not have to worry about surprising or startling it. A healthy, well-loved, confident dog generally does not have any adverse reaction to life's little unknowns. If startling is a concern for you, do it often and make it fun to be surprised!



From Susan Cope Becker's "Living With A Deaf Dog"

You do need a way to get and hold your deaf dog's attention. Use a food treat or a favorite toy. Remember to keep your training sessions shorter for the younger dogs. Frequency, not duration, will be the key to your successful training times. Make sure that you and the dog are both having a great time and you can't go wrong.

To get your dog's attention you might have to be a little more creative. By stomping the floor or banging a wall to create a vibration, or by flashing lights on and off, you can often get the desired effect. When you're outside, a big wave, throwing a ball or another toy in the air or toward the dog, or walking around are all good ways to attract attention. Movements big enough for the dog to see will be the key.

- There are no right signs and no wrong signs. Basic obedience signals give you a place to start but regional sign languages allow you to keep expanding your vocabulary.
 - Try to keep to one-handed signs so you have a free hand for the leash or treats or anything else.
 - Make them simple motions that are easy for you to remember. You need to be consistent if you expect the dog to be.
 - Make sure that the signs are different enough from each other to avoid confusion. While a dog can know several different signs for a single behavior, each sign should only get one proper response.
 - Teach a new sign slowly and exaggerate the movement until the dog understands. Remember, too, that the greater the distance between you and the dog, the bigger the signing motion needs to be.
- And there you have it.** So let's all get out there and start training!

