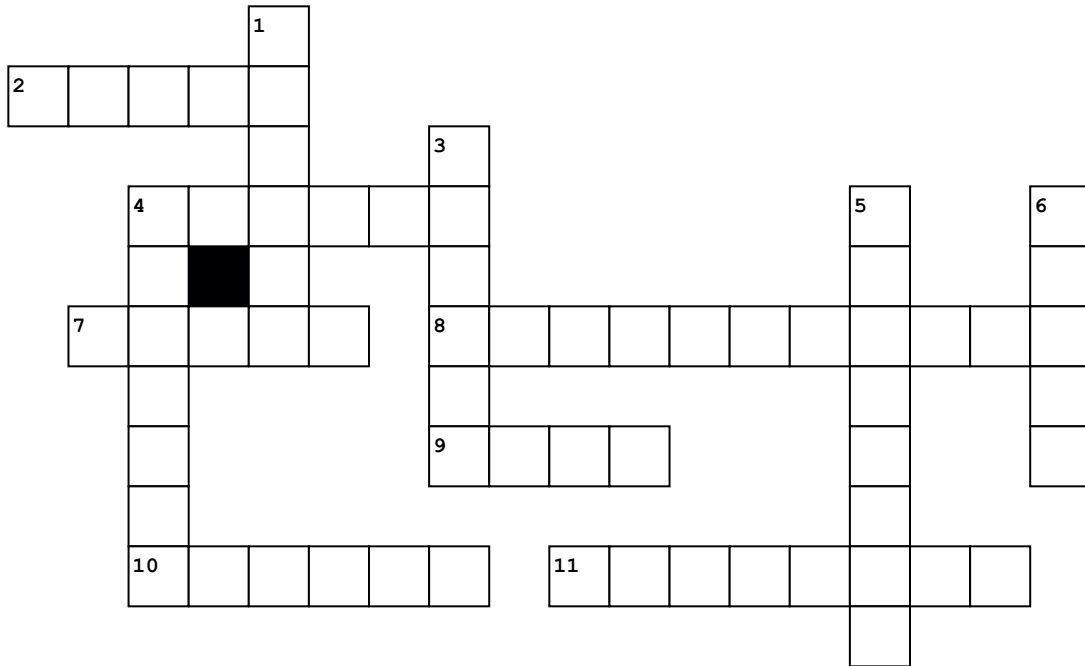


Dogs for the Deaf and Blind



Across

2. Color of cane carried by a blind handler
4. American _____ Association trained hearing dogs
7. Morris _____ - first Seeing Eye Dog Recipient
8. Home of Dorothy Eustis, Seeing Eye Founder
9. New _____ - state where First Seeing Eye Dog debuted
10. First Hearing Assistance Dog
11. _____ Evening Post ran article "The Seeing Eye"

Down

1. _____ Shepherds Dorothy Eustis trained for police
3. New _____-state where Seeing Eye Dogs are from
4. Common equipment used for a Seeing Eye Dog
5. State where first Hearing Dog was trained
6. First Seeing Eye Dog



Assistance Dogs for the Blind and Deaf Information

*** Please note that blocks of information marked with an asterick contain vocabulary words found in the accompanied cross-word puzzles. Educators, please use the information provided to create lessons appropriate for the abilities of your students. Additional websites and book recommendations may be found on the National Service Animals Monument Education Program pages. It is the hope of NSAM to foster a growing interest in animals that have served, and continue to serve us, in a wide variety of roles, as well as increase an understanding of the remarkable human-animal bond.*

*Perhaps the most familiar assistance dog is the guide dog for the blind, or Seeing Eye Dog. The distinction between the two is that only dogs trained at The Seeing Eye® Institute in Morristown, New Jersey are considered “Seeing Eye Dogs.” Otherwise the general term of Guide Dog for the Blind or Visually Impaired is applied.

*“The Seeing Eye” organization was founded by Dorothy Harrison Eustis, an American dog trainer living in Switzerland, who had specialized in training German Shepherd dogs for police work. When Dorothy saw German Shepherds being trained to assist World War I veterans who had been blinded in battle, she became committed to training dogs for this type of service. In 1927, Dorothy Eustis wrote an article titled “The Seeing Eye” for the Saturday Evening Post, detailing the training program and the success it had with helping blind veterans regain their confidence and independence. The article would prompt a young blind man in New York, Morris Frank, to write to Mrs. Eustis asking if she would train a dog for him. She agreed.

* Morris Frank traveled to Vevey, Switzerland to train with “Buddy” who would become the first Seeing Eye Dog to enter the United States. On June 11, 1928, Morris Frank and Buddy sailed into New York harbor, and would impress onlookers and reporters as they navigated the very busy West Street in New York City. In his lifetime, Mr. Frank would have 12 Seeing Eye Dogs, all of them named “Buddy.”

*In January of 2020, the “Seeing Eye Dog” becomes the official state dog of New Jersey.

*Often a large breed, such as a German Shepherd, Labrador Retriever, or Golden Retriever will be chosen for Seeing Eye or Guide Dog training due to their intelligence, size, and disposition. These specialized service dogs are trained to assist a blind or sight impaired partner as they navigate everyday obstacles like avoiding furniture in a living room or using a crosswalk at an intersection, or less common situations like boarding an airplane or navigating a construction zone. Along with being alert to hazards, and navigating the way for their handlers, Seeing Eye Dogs are valued for “Intelligent Disobedience” where a dog will refuse a handler’s command due to a potential hazard. An example would be a handler commanding the dog to move off a curb to cross a street, but the dog refusing to do so because of an approaching bicyclist or electric vehicle that the handler wasn’t aware of.



*In public, a blind or visually impaired person will carry a white cane to identify their condition. A trained assistance dog, either a Seeing Eye Dog or Guide Dog for the Blind, will wear a harness with an extended handle, and may have a vest or leash indicating that they are a service dog.

For an excellent video about The Seeing Eye program, “Harnessing Freedom” is available to view on YouTube.

*The first trained American Hearing dog was a German Shepherd named Skippy, who belonged to Linda Pritchard in Colorado. Skippy would alert Linda to sounds such as her doorbell, tea kettle whistle, or telephone, by putting his paw on her, then leading her to the noise. This type of contact to connection communication continues with Hearing Dog training today.

Hearing dogs are trained to identify and alert their partners to a wide range of sounds, including the oven timer, alarm clock, smoke detector, crying baby, doorbell, telephone, and another person coughing.

Service dogs that assist deaf and hard of hearing persons are generally smaller to middle sized dogs of many different breeds or mixed breeds. Their willingness to learn and steady temperament are important traits for becoming a Hearing Dog candidate.

*In 1977, the American Humane Association established the first Hearing Dog Training Program. Now there are several organizations that train dogs and their handlers for this type of service partnership.

