



Pawsitivity
Service Dogs
Coloring Book



Do you love dogs and want to help them (for free?)

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where you can leave a review, and thus you will be helping to "rescue dogs to rescue people"!

We founded the 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization Pawsitivity Service Dogs in 2012 to rescue unwanted dogs and train them as service dogs for children with autism or people with other physical or psychological disabilities. Over the last few years we've had the pleasure of working with many amazing people and dogs, and we thought that a coloring book would be a fun way to showcase some of what these teams have done.

In this book, you'll see images of the dogs being trained, working with their handlers, or just relaxing. Note that many of the dogs are wearing nose collars, also known as Gentle Leaders, which are not muzzles, but instead help the handler give gentle feedback to the dog.

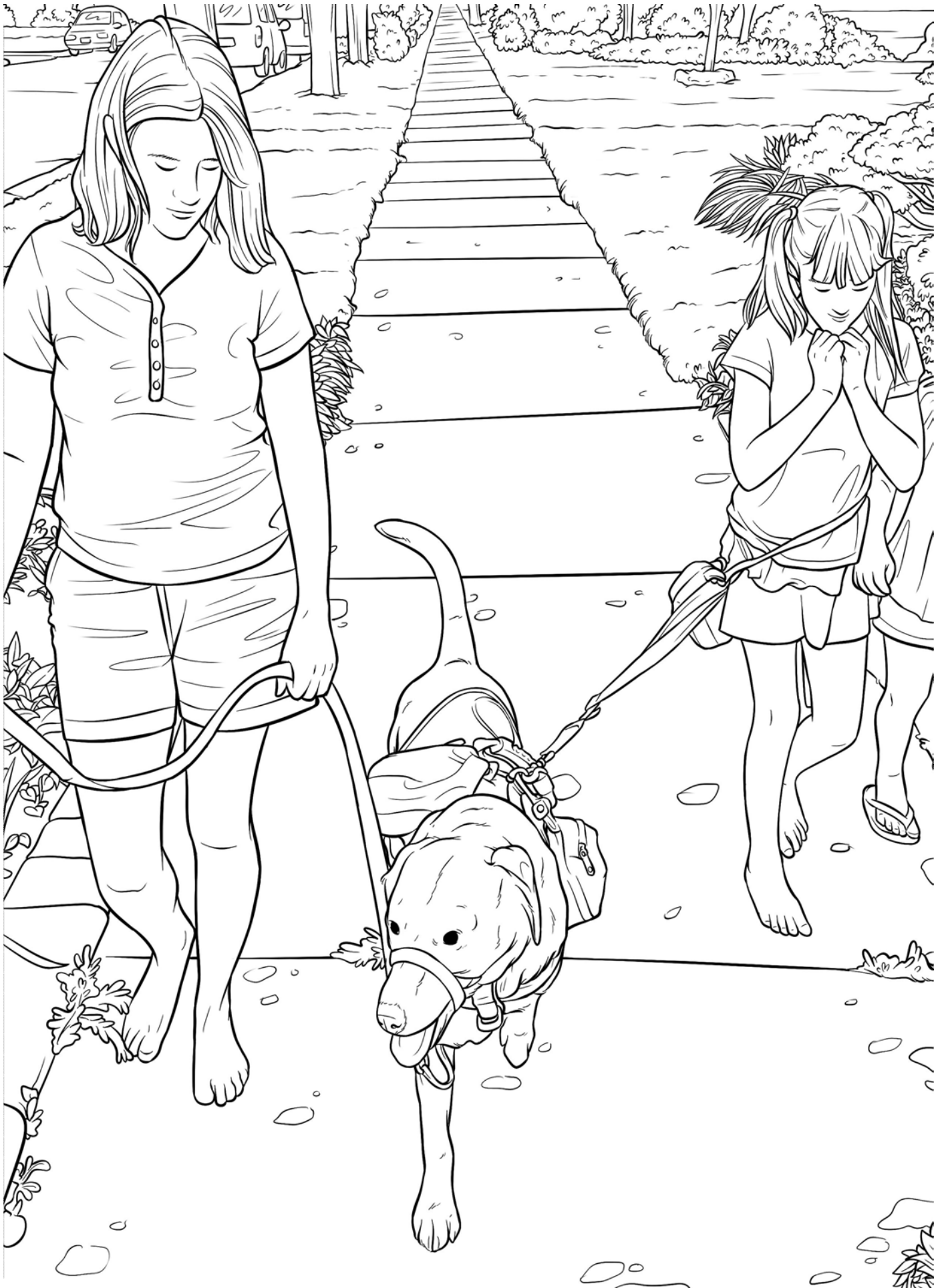
We hope you enjoy this glimpse into the world of service dogs. Thank you so much for buying this book, and have fun coloring!

Tom and Julie Coleman,
Founders of Pawsitivity Service Dogs
www.PawsitivityServiceDogs.org

Some children with autism may not want to cuddle with other people, but they will happily snuggle with their dog. At first it was hard to tell if this boy (who has autism) even recognized that his service dog was in the room with him. Luckily, the boy seemed to enjoy feeding the dog by throwing food on the ground for him, so we used that habit to help the boy and dog bond. About two years after the dog started living with the boy, they had fully bonded. Now the boy loves being with and talking about his dog!



For a parent of a child with autism who tends to “bolt,” belt leashes serve a special purpose. Many children with autism don’t want to hold their parents’ hands, which is dangerous because the child can easily run out into traffic. But with a service dog, the parent can attach a regular leash to the dog’s nose collar, and the child can wear a belt leash with the clip attached to the dog’s vest. Thus, the adult controls the dog with the regular leash, while the child is tethered to the dog’s vest (and thus the child has to stay close to the dog). This leashing combination is an effective technique that keeps the child from bolting, and the setup pleases the child because they enjoy being near the dog. This way of working also gets the child into the habit of staying near their parent—in some cases, they will eventually do so without being tethered to the dog!



Service dogs are trained to go into many different public places. They have to get used to crowds, loud noises, new smells, and fitting into strange spaces. This service dog now rides the Boston subway with his man almost every day!



There are a lot of possible distractions out in the world. Training a service dog the command "Watch me" keeps them focused on their handler no matter what else is going on.



Wheelchair ramps are supposed to make things easier, but some of them are so steep, they can be challenging for people in wheelchairs to use. Service dogs can be trained to help pull their handler, ensuring that every ramp is truly accessible.



Many children with autism have meltdowns, and it can be hard for parents or teachers to soothe them. A service dog can be trained to lay his or her head or body on a child's lap. The weight and pressure of the dog is usually calming, and often the child eventually learns to "self-soothe" even without the dog.



It can be difficult for a dog to go into a restaurant because of the tempting smells, variety of sounds, and tight places in which to lie down, but it's very important for service dogs to do this well. They must be impeccably behaved and stay out of the way of servers and other restaurant guests. If possible, sitting in a corner or near a wall is ideal.



Service dogs can help a person who has limited mobility by turning lights on and off, either by using their nose or their paws.



Service dogs have to learn a lot! They need to know many commands, have proper behavior in public places, and be trained with at least one task specific to their handler. Even the smartest service dog isn't actually able to read...but it can be fun for a child to read to their dog!



The bond between a handler and their service dog can be very strong—
a true partnership!



Sometimes the most important work a service dog does is just being there to provide support, comfort, and companionship for their handler.



While we usually recommend that service dogs take the stairs or ride an elevator, we train them to be comfortable on escalators, too, which is very challenging for them!



Being in the hospital can be scary and unpleasant, so having a service dog by the handler's side can be a great source of comfort.



If there are other animals in the household, the service dog must get along well with them, too.



Going to the grocery store can be tricky for a service dog! Not only do they need to be good on the leash, they must leave all the food alone, not be afraid of shopping carts or crowds, and maneuver in some tight spaces. Remember that whenever you see a service dog in public, he or she is working very hard! It's best if you don't bother the dog or its handler.



When a service dog is taught the command "Place," they can be instructed to go to their bed or mat while their handler is eating a meal or when guests arrive. In addition, the dog can go onto any raised platform and stay there until instructed to leave. In this picture, the dog's future handler is learning to reward his dog after asking him to step onto a stairway platform.



Many children with autism (or Landau-Kleffner syndrome, which has some similar characteristics) respond well to electronic devices such as iPads. A service dog can help connect them to non-digital aspects of life, as well.



Even service dogs need to take a break sometimes! Whether they are in training or officially working with their handler, being a service dog requires them to be very focused, obedient, and well behaved, which is a lot of work. It's important for them to have time to rest and recharge.



Service dogs must get used to all sorts of surfaces —
even playground equipment!



Service dogs can be taught to open and shut doors for a handler who is in a wheelchair or has mobility issues.



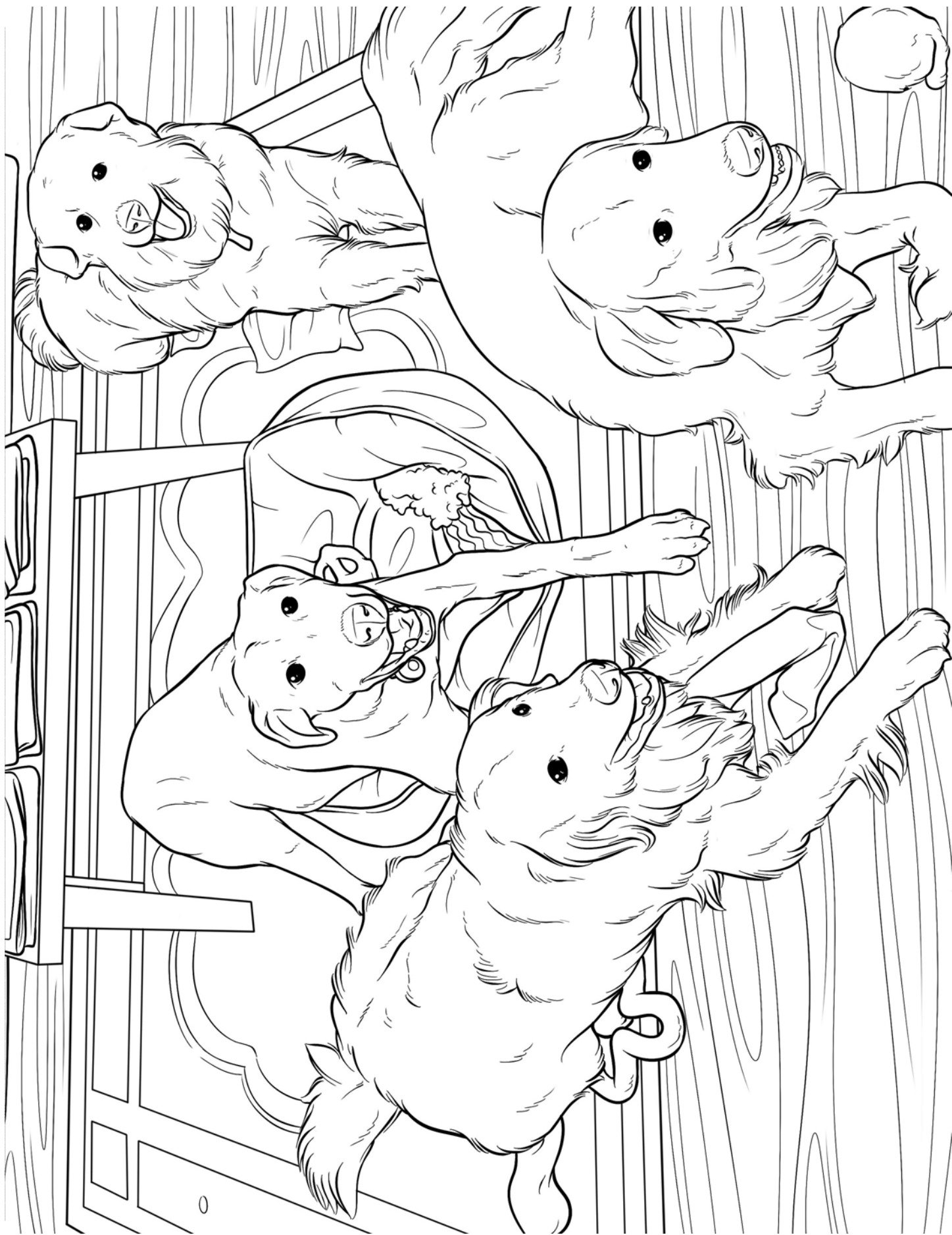
Service dogs can provide a lot of help and comfort to people with PTSD by allowing them to feel more safe and secure in public places, getting them out for walks, making things a little easier in social situations, helping them be less inwardly focused, and settling in for some good snuggling when needed.



Most dogs don't like walking over grates or other surfaces with open spaces,
but service dogs must be comfortable on all sorts of unusual surfaces,
such as this staircase that has open treads and no back.



Labrador retrievers, Golden retrievers, and mixes with these two breeds are most commonly used as service dogs. We estimate that even among these breeds, though, only about one out of a thousand dogs has the right temperament and is appropriate for service dog work.



The Difference Between Service Dogs and Therapy Dogs

While a service dog is trained for one individual—and that individual must have a disability that rises to a level recognized by the Americans with Disabilities Act—a therapy dog is trained to help all sorts of people (in schools, nursing homes, hospitals, etc.) and is usually owned by a handler who does not have a disability. Unlike a service dog, which can be brought into public places by their handler, a therapy dog doesn't have any special rights to go into public places (because the handler doesn't have a disability, and the dog is trained to help others rather than the handler). Originally called "pet therapy," therapy dog work is now usually described as "animal-assisted therapy" or "animal-assisted activities."

The training for a therapy dog differs from that of a service dog. A therapy dog must be comfortable getting attention from lots of different people, whereas a service dog should focus on its handler. Both types of dogs need to be comfortable going into new places and meeting new people. Both types of dogs might wear a vest, but a therapy dog might not, especially if it's going to be used for petting or cuddling.

You can see here how calm this therapy dog is while receiving lots of petting and attention.



We always have service dogs wear a nose collar when they are going for walks or doing public access work. Not only does this device allow the handler to give more precise cues to the dog, it helps them to control the dog if an extreme situation occurs.

Here a boy with autism is learning how to put a waist leash on himself and a nose collar on his dog.



Here, a boy with Landau-Kleffner syndrome meets with his service dog for a training session as his mother looks on.



What could be harder for a dog than shopping at a pet store and having to ignore all the goodies? That's just one of the many skills that service dogs need to learn.



Since their paws and claws can get caught in the metal slats of an escalator, it's preferable for a service dog to take an elevator or the stairs. But it's good for them to be comfortable on escalators just in case that's ever the best option for their handler.



Because German Shepherd Dogs have traditionally been bred for use as guard dogs, they aren't often used in service dog work. However, a really great candidate can be suitable for an adult.



This boy used to bolt so much that he had to wear a tracking bracelet on his ankle, and his parents had to install an alarm system in the house so he wouldn't run away at three o'clock in the morning. His parents were worried that once he hit puberty, he would be so fast that they wouldn't be able to catch up with him. Once he had his service dog, though, his parents could bring him on outings and he got used to the idea of staying close to his family. Eventually, he got so accustomed to going places as a group and sticking close to his parents that he stopped bolting altogether.



A service dog can serve as a "social bridge" for a handler who has a hard time interacting with other people or who is isolated by their disability. The dog provides a way for children or adults to talk to the handler, by asking questions or inquiring whether or not they can pet the dog. This gives the handler an opportunity to engage with others and talk about their dog, if they'd like to.



For a child with autism, the presence of a service dog can be immensely calming. They might spend time playing together, cuddling, or going out to public places. Just having the dog nearby tends to be soothing and comforting for the child.



A service dog can be taught to pick up and retrieve objects
that the handler has dropped.



This boy has autism and blindness, and he loves his service dog with all his heart. Service dogs do many things for their handlers, and one of their most important jobs is bringing joy to the lives of the people around them.





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