

## April Hearing Dog Herald

### International Hearing Dog, an ADI Accredited Member!

International Hearing Dog is thrilled to share some big news that has been YEARS in the making! We are thrilled and honored to share that International Hearing Dog, Inc is officially an Accredited member of Assistance Dogs International (ADI) and recognized for maintaining standards of excellence in all areas of our assistance dog program. Yes, this is a BIG deal!! We have had our eyes set on this news since submitting our application for the two-year Candidacy back in late 2020.



ADI - Assistance Dogs International - a worldwide coalition of nonprofit programs that train and place assistance dogs, has established high standards for assistance dog organizations through its accreditation program. Accreditation by ADI represents a significant achievement for the staff of IHDI, as it indicates our strong commitment to upholding the highest professional standards of excellence within the assistance dog industry.

We'd like to thank everyone on the IHDI team and within our community who contributed to the ADI Accreditation process. An extra special ADI MVP nomination in recognition of our Director of People and Community, Heather McLaughlin, who championed this effort in addition to our highly-skilled ADI accessor, Julianne from Can Do Canines & Laura, our Accreditation Manager. The assessors visit each program seeking full accreditation for a multi-day on-site visit, in which the assessors interview program staff, volunteers, the Board of Directors, assistance dog applicants, and clients. Assessors inspect a variety of the program's documents and records as well as their facilities. Additionally, assessors observe dog training as clients work with their assistance dog partner.

We are honored to share space with program excellence across the industry as an Assistance Dogs International Accredited Organization!



### Welcome, Cosmo!

We are thrilled to introduce you to our newest Hearing Dog candidate, Cosmo!

Cosmo is a bernedoodle (a mix between a Bernese mountain dog and a poodle) and was picked from a large litter of ten, beating out his brothers and sisters to be a Hearing Dog hopeful due to his self assured manner and gutsy attitude. Bernedoodles have the potential to be good Service Dog candidates as they are known to be very trainable, people-pleasing, and adaptable. They are family friendly dogs in addition to being a breed that is compatible to our clients with dog allergies.

Not only did Cosmo orient to each novel sound he met, but he even ran over with gusto to pounce on the source so he could investigate further! He likes to spend time with people, is friendly with dogs, and is willing & interested to try new things. Although he has a lot to learn and a long way to go, these are some of the attributes we like to see in young pups when considering them for a Hearing Service Dog. Cosmo already began his house training and crate training before joining IHDI at eight weeks old, and is building on that great foundation. Cosmo is also getting comfortable walking on a leash, exploring his new environment with our PAWS'ABILITIES program, and starting to learn his foundation behaviors. Join us in welcoming Cosmo as he reaches for the stars!



### Call for Short-term Puppy Sitters!

Denver Metro residents, summer time means travel time & a busy season for many! With that in mind, we are thrilled to open up the volunteer position of Puppy Sitter to provide short term coverage for IHDI's Dogs in Training. If you can't commit to having a puppy for 10-12 months, but are looking to do some good and make a positive difference, our Puppy Sitter position might be the perfect fit! From weekend coverage to a 2-3 week long stint, Puppy Sitters open their homes and their hearts to teach a trainee the fundamentals of basic manners, expose the trainee to positive interactions, and give them a loving and enriching home, all with the support of IHDI professional trainers.



**Supplies?** We supply everything to set you, your family and our Hearing Dog in training up for success.

**I'm not sure I am ready for the Puppy phase?** No worries! Our trainees range in age from 10 weeks - 2 years. We evaluate your schedule, activity level, our trainees age and level of training to create a joyful match! While some individuals step in as Puppy Sitters to get their puppy fix, we know this is not a desire for everyone.

**Do I need to be a dog trainer?** No, our staff handle all the advanced training of the Hearing Dogs. We do require a dog handling class during our Puppy Sitter on boarding

Sound like a give back opportunity you would be interested in joining? Head on over to our Puppy Raiser landing page to learn more about this opportunity! If it feels like the right fit and you want to spend some summer days with a puppy, please submit a Puppy Raiser application, calling out Puppy Sitter within and your availability in the coming 3-month period to assist in lining your calendar up with a Puppy in Trainings need for a sitter!

[Puppy Raiser/Sitter Info Page](#)



### Stanley Market Training

Training class headed to the market! Stanley Marketplace is a community of 50+ independently owned Colorado businesses that offer a place for the community to eat, drink, shop, exercise, play, work, and more!

This bustling indoor community provided a wonderland of training opportunities for a training class; well occupied walkways, children thrilled to be exploring & numerous delicious eateries with delectable scents.

This environment allowed our trainees to practice their manners in an elevator and how to politely walk on stairs, and showcase their ability to work around distractions, and explore new things in a calm state of mind while remaining focused on their handler and their job at hand!



Give the gift of safety, confidence & independence!



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