



International Hearing Dog, Inc.
Since 1978

January Hearing Dog Herald Happy New Year!



Puppy Progress Report, Atlas!

At IHDI, purposefully selected puppies are partnered with either prison or community-based volunteer Puppy Raisers who provide a crucial foundation through daily care, socialization experiences, and behavioral training (over 10 to 12 months) that puppies need to become future service dogs.

For our Prison Puppies, we work with the Wyoming Medium Correctional Institute in Torrington Wyoming for our PAWS'abilities (Preparing Animals With Service Abilities) Program. Our Team of inmate Master Handlers have been making tremendous progress with their pups. As our Master Handlers already had seven years of experience training rescue dogs through the prison's canine program, they bring a great deal of skill as trainers to their work with our puppies. Combine that with the high level of involvement, commitment, structure and compassion the Master Handlers provide the pups, and it is the best recipe our puppies can have for successfully becoming the best hearing service dogs.

Another critical aspect of IHDI's Prison Puppy Program is our Weekend Puppy Sitters. Each pup is paired with a community volunteer who takes their pup on "furloughs" every other weekend; introducing them to a broader range of experiences and environments than the Master Handlers can provide within the prison.

Meet Atlas, one of our prison pups. Atlas is a Golden Labrador Retriever. He is a loving, curious, confident, and playful fellow who LOVES to eat! Initially a slow bloomer, Atlas has made tremendous progress in the last couple of months and has a long list of cues he can be relied upon to respond to. Atlas is curious about just about everything. He will cock his head to the side to consider anything new – especially new sounds. This curiosity in Atlas is great as he moves into more advanced training with sound alerts. Atlas and his Master Handler, James, have been making significant strides in Atlas' sound training and Atlas can already complete two-way alerts!

We are so grateful for our partnership with our Master Handlers. We believe they bring tremendous PAWS'abilities to our pups and our d/Deaf clients!

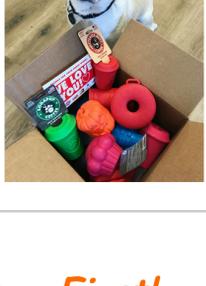
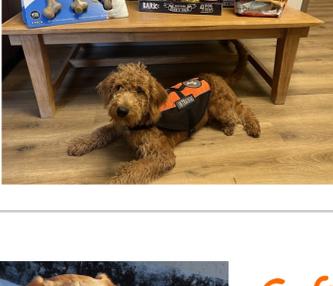


Help IHDI start 2023 off with stocked shelves!

Please consider helping to ensure IHDI starts off 2023 with stocked shelves, ready to assist, reward and provide for our hard-working Hearing Dogs in training! In-kind donations: from training treats to paper towels, each purchase has an impact on IHDI by allowing our organization to allocate the funds that would have been used to purchase these needed items, to other areas of need; facility improvements, vet visits, continued education and much more!



[Click here to shop IHDI's Wish List](#)



Safety First!

Grayson is here to share about the importance of dog booties and how they can help protect your dog from extreme temperatures and the hazards that come with them.

In the summer, hot blacktop or other rock surfaces when hiking can lead to paw burns and a trip to the vet. When experiencing such surfaces, your dog may appear restless, lifting his or her paws as an indicator of discomfort, but some dogs don't give obvious signs. Conversely, in the wintertime, subzero temperatures, rock salt, and other chemical treatments for the ice can make outings for your dog a dangerous and painful situation. Getting your dog acclimated to wearing booties ahead of these situations can give you a safe and humane option for dealing with these hazards.

When introducing booties to your dog, have their favorite treat nearby, and start on a surface that has some grip. You don't want the dog sliding around in the booties. The whole experience should be positive, and rewarding for your dog, so give lots of praise through the whole process. It may take several sessions before the dog is able to walk in all four booties. Start by putting a bootie on one paw only. Praise the dog and give him a treat and then remove the bootie. Continue the process for the rest of the dogs paws. If this is going well, try putting a bootie on one front paw and see if the dog will take a few steps. Try luring the dog with food and encouragement. Next put a bootie on a back paw and continue the process. Go slow and take breaks. Work up to doing a short walk around the block or try playing with your dogs favorite toy to help distract him from the fact he is wearing booties. Once the dog is acclimated, don't forget to put the booties on periodically so your dog continues to be comfortable wearing them. - Hearing Dog trainer, Leah!



Adopted!

To each and every one of you who shared his story, passed along his photos and forwarded his bio, we are thrilled to share that Tulok has found his forever family and has made his home in the snowy Colorado Rockies!

At IHDI, our dogs are the core of our program. When we accept a dog into our training program, we make a commitment to them to help find their best fit in the world. However, we fully recognize that working as a hearing dog will not be the right fit for every dog we bring into the program. Consequently, we listen when a dog

signals to us – as Tulok did - that they'd prefer a "career change" to that of a best friend, which is also an incredibly important job!

Tulok's family says he is the perfect fit and have enjoyed watching his intelligence shine with his quick responses to all his cues; heel, sit, down, and come. They have remarked on how obedient he is and how his past training shines through and makes him an easy and wonderful dog to live with!

His family recently shared, "Tulok has been on many big adventures in the snow. He is doing so well. Lots of walks, of course, but he has also been on several snowshoe adventures and has lots of new friends. He is so sweet and such a happy, goofy boy. He is living his best life in the mountains and snow" We couldn't be more thrilled for our snow loving boy!



Giving Hearts Day

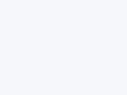
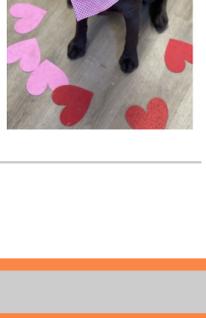
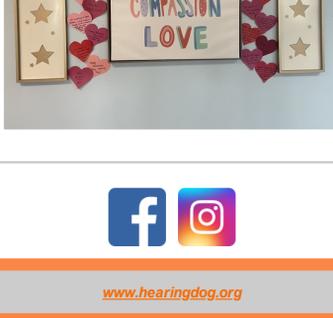
IHDI's Annual Valentine's Day Fundraiser

Between now & Valentine's Day you can support International Hearing Dog through our annual Giving Hearts Day fundraiser! For every \$5 donation, we will hang a heart throughout our facility with your personal message! Honor someone past or present, give thanks, or send love and well wishes to the staff, Hearing Dogs in training, and future clients of IHDI!

Include your special message in the comment section of your donation and it will be handwritten on a heart to be hung throughout the Hearing Dog facility! Many

walls at IHDI can be found with hearts hanging from years past, bringing joy & inspiration to all those who pass them!

[Hearing Dog Hearts Fundraiser](#)



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