

# SEIZURE ASSISTANCE DOGS

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Service dogs can provide one-of-a-kind support for people and their families coping with a seizure disorder



[www.MagnoliaPawsforCompassion.com](http://www.MagnoliaPawsforCompassion.com)





## ABOUT MAGNOLIA *PAWS FOR COMPASSION*®

Living with a seizure disorder can be physically and emotionally challenging, often resulting in feelings of depression, isolation and loneliness for the person living with the condition. Family members and caregivers often live with stress, worry and anxiety as well.

Created by Eisai Inc. in partnership with the Epilepsy Foundation and 4 Paws for Ability, *Magnolia Paws for Compassion* seeks to increase access to animal assistance and raise awareness of the many benefits that service and therapy dogs can provide to those coping with an illness, such as epilepsy or a seizure disorder.



In partnership with Eisai, the Epilepsy Foundation conducted a survey with over 800 respondents to understand what families coping with epilepsy want to know about seizure dogs and canine assistance.



# SEIZURE DOGS RECEIVE INTENSIVE TRAINING

Seizure assistance dogs undergo intensive training to respond to a seizure in someone who has epilepsy or a seizure condition. Training for service dogs varies among service dog training organizations, and there is currently no standard process. Agencies such as 4 Paws for Ability provide training and placement of quality, task-trained service dogs. Training typically follows these stages:



## **Puppy enrichment:**

From birth, service dog puppies begin to experience the world and prepare for their job ahead.



## **Foundational skills and socialization:**

During these phases, puppies learn basic commands, spend time with people and are introduced to different environmental settings, to help with socialization.



## **Advanced training:**

Dogs will learn service skills and participate in activities such as tracking, medical alert, retrieval and hearing. Based on where the dog excels, it will be matched to a partner with these specific needs.

**~70%**

of respondents were looking for information on how to find or train a seizure assistance dog.



# COST FOR SEIZURE ASSISTANCE DOGS

Costs can vary drastically to train and place a service dog with a disabled child. Cost variations depend upon whether the service dog organization breeds and trains the dog on-site, in addition to specifics around the training process and training equipment, medical care and food.



For more information on the cost of obtaining a service dog through our partner, 4 Paws for Ability, visit [4PawsForAbility.org](https://4PawsForAbility.org).

**65%**

of respondents were looking for information on the cost of a seizure assistance dog.







## ASSISTANCE IN ACTION

### HOW SEIZURE DOGS CAN HELP

A seizure assistance dog is specifically trained to respond to a seizure by alerting an individual's family when they are having a seizure. Some learn to lie next to the person having a seizure, while others may bark. Being alerted when a seizure occurs may help provide comfort and peace-of-mind to families and caregivers as well as those living with a seizure condition.

For children with epilepsy, seizure dogs can also provide a measure of comfort for the child, help with distraction during medical procedures, such as blood tests, and be incorporated in a therapy session to enlist the child's participation.

Beyond their role to alert for seizures, seizure dogs may also offer companionship for their partners and peace-of-mind for their families.

>50%



of survey respondents were looking for additional information on how a seizure assistance dog can help support a person with epilepsy.

# RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

## FOR SERVICE ANIMALS AND THEIR PARTNERS

In the U.S., individuals with disabilities who require the use of service animals have certain rights and protections under The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and its regulations, the Air Carrier Access Act, and potentially under state and local law.

Under the ADA, service animals are dogs that are individually trained to do work or perform tasks for people with disabilities. Their work or task must directly relate to their partner's disability. Animals whose sole function is to provide comfort or emotional support do not qualify as service animals under the ADA.

- Service animals must be under control
- Service animals can accompany their partners into public places.
- Limited inquiries are allowed by staff.
- Service animals and their partners should have equal treatment to other patrons.
- Access and service cannot be denied because of allergies, fear of dogs and food service.
- Service animals can accompany their partners in the cabin of aircraft, if health and safety requirements are satisfied.

All laws are subject to change. Within the U.S., be sure you understand the specific laws for your state. This Summary has been provided for reference only and is not legal advice.

**To learn more about *Magnolia Paws for Compassion*, please visit us online at [MagnoliaPawsforCompassion.com](https://MagnoliaPawsforCompassion.com) and check out our partner organizations.**

>33%



of survey respondents were looking for information on the rights and responsibilities for owners of a seizure assistance dog.

