

Considering the addition of a deaf dog to your family? Did you know....

They love company and having someone at home with them.

They are very dependent upon you and many show their devotion and love by being your constant companion throughout the day. In fact, your shadow may resemble a dog!

Some prefer to be the only pet. Deaf dogs do not hear typical warning social cues; barking, growling and cat hissing of other animals attempting to let them know it is time to take a break.

Deaf dogs should be approached head on and caution should be used when awakening them as they sleep deeply. Young children easily startle them.

When outside the home, deaf dogs should wear a deaf dog harness, collar, vest or scarf. This will alert others to approach cautiously and to hold on to them in case they become separated from you. They should remain on a leash when outside a fenced in yard. Their collar should provide your contact information.

Deaf dogs LOVE and NEED daily training to practice the signs they know and to learn additional signs.

Deaf dogs bark! They can bark for longer periods than hearing dogs and their bark can be high pitched and whiney.

Excellent resources for additional information on living with and training deaf dogs can be found:

www.deafdogs.org Deaf Dog Education Action Fund
www.dfordog.co.uk/article-deaf-dog-hand-signals.html Deaf Dog Hand Signs

Living With A Deaf Dog written by Susan Cope Becker