

## What is a Service Dog?

A Service Dog is a lifetime companion to an individual that may need assistance with day-to-day activities.

There are many types of Service Dogs, including:

Mobility Assistance

Hearing

Guide

Psychiatric

Seizure Alert/Response



## WV State Law

*West Virginia Code; Chapter 5, Article 15; Chapter 19, Article 20*

“West Virginia law requires that a specially trained Assistance Dog be allowed to accompany a blind, deaf, mentally or physically disabled person or trainer to all public accommodations and common carriers. Extra charges cannot be made due to the presence of the dog, but if the dog causes damage to the premises, the dog user is liable.”



## Contact Us:

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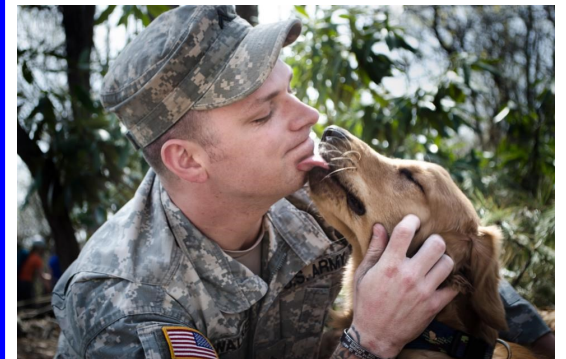
Independence...with a Heart of Gold

WVU courses available

Volunteer Handler positions

Foster a Service Dog in training

Teaching Assistant positions



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## About Us



Hearts of Gold is a service dog training program providing service dogs for individuals with mobility impairment and/or post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). The Division of Animal and Nutritional Sciences and Interdisciplinary Curricula of West Virginia University offers university courses in service dog training, has an outreach effort with a minimum security prison (FCI Morgantown) to train incarcerated veterans to train service dogs and research projects with both the prison program and with NIOSH to investigate the efficacy of utilizing service dogs to improve the outcomes of returning veterans, particularly with PTSD.

Hearts of Gold Service Dog trainers have expertise in the area of behavior analysis. As such, all training methods are grounded in empirical evidence for their effectiveness.

Students and Volunteer Trainers will be taught training methods as well as the principles behind the use of those methods. In this way, students and volunteers will develop an understanding of how to train, not just a recipe-style format of training.

*Earn WVU credits every semester*

*Summer courses available*

## WVU Courses:

\*Students MAY foster a dog in advanced courses, but are NOT required.\*

### A&VS 276: Service Dog Training

3 credits, lecture and lab

In this introductory course, students gain knowledge about behavior analysis techniques, basic obedience and skill training, grooming, canine cognition and research evaluation. Students apply the knowledge learned in lecture to train the dogs in lab and on public outings.

### A&VS 470: Animal Learning

3 credits

Pre-requisite: Students must have taken and passed Service Dog Training (A&VS 276).

In this advanced course, students will gain an in-depth understanding of the basic principles as they relate to dog training and behavior management.

### A&VS 476: Animal-Assisted Interventions

3 credits

Pre-requisite: Students must have taken and passed Service Dog Training (A&VS 276).

In this advanced course, students will learn about animal-assisted interventions and assist in developing and implementing a community service project using the Hearts of Gold Service Dogs.



## Opportunities Available:



- **Dog Training courses:** Enroll in a course to learn valuable behavior principles and dog training skills.
- **Volunteer Handler Certification:** Certified Volunteer Handlers may take a Hearts of Gold Service dog into public places to help train and socialize and assist during events.
- **Foster:** Service Dog fosters raise and train a Service Dog in training.
- **Teaching Assistants:** TAs assist the course instructor with grading, demonstrations, lectures, organizing events and conducting laboratory sessions.
- **Volunteer:** Volunteers needed for marketing, fundraising, computer skills, and office work.

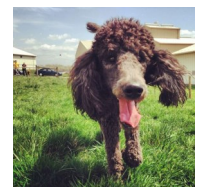
## WVU Therapy Dogs



Caruth Center  
GRETEL



Engineering  
BRANDO



College of Media  
OMEGA