

Service Dogs and Parkinson's

Everything You Need to Know



or...

Everything We've Discovered So Far



About Us



Carolyn & Selma



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Renee & Sir Thomas



www.limyoga.com

About Us



Who, What, Where, Why, When & How

- **Why a Service Dog?**
 - Hope (C); More personality than a cane (R)
- **Agency**
 - Paws with a Cause (C); Service Dog Project (R)
- **Primary Daily Service**
 - Balance, help with freezing (C); Balance (R)

About Us



Who, What, Where, Why, When & How Continued

- **Time together**
 - 2 years, 5 months (C); 1 year, 3 days (R)
- **Wishes she knew before applying**
 - How much I would love her (C);
 - More people with a service dog to ask questions, shadow for a day (R)

A, B, Cs



of Living with a Service Dog

- **A: All the Good:** Companionship, Mobility, Social Bridge
- **B: By the Way:** Cost, Schedule, Responsibility
- **C: Caution:** Not a Cure, Not Easy, Not for Everyone

A, B, Cs



of Living with a Service Dog

- **A: All the Good**

A, B, Cs

of Living with a Service Dog

- **A: All the Good: Companionship**

Service Dogs Can

- Lift mood, relieve depression
- Ease loneliness
- Be there
- Provide help without judgment
- Increase independence



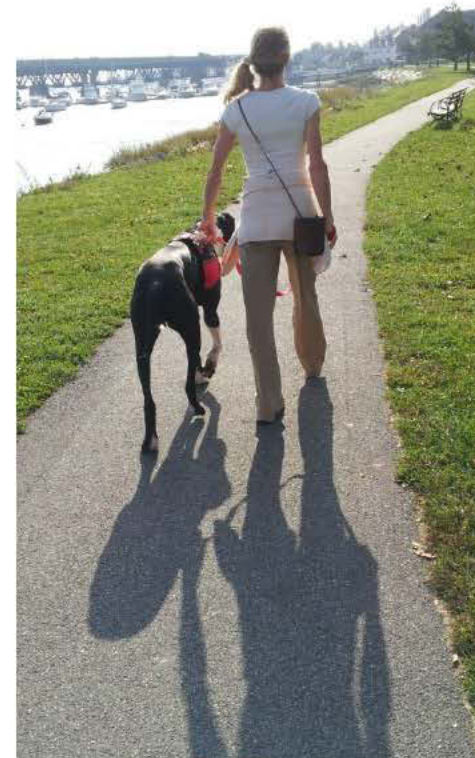
A, B, Cs

of Living with a Service Dog

- **A: All the Good: Mobility**

Service Dogs Can

- Brace to lean on
- Act as a cane for stability
- Provide walking support and balance
- Help with 'freezing'
- Retrieve dropped or hard-to-reach items



A, B, Cs

of Living with a Service Dog

- **A: All the Good: Social Bridge**

Service Dogs Can Be a

- Conversation starter
- Way for people to approach
- Distraction from the handler's disability



A, B, Cs



of Living with a Service Dog

- **B: By the Way**

A, B, Cs

of Living with a Service Dog

- **B: By the Way: Cost**
 - Many organization donate dogs but require fundraising
 - Vet fees, food and general care become household budget items
 - One-time expenses include bedding, harnesses, ID tags
 - Will a larger car or van be needed?



A, B, Cs



of Living with a Service Dog

- **B: By the Way: Schedule**
 - Factor time to harness, load, unload dog
 - Plan extra time for airport security when traveling
 - Remember the dog's feeding times and outdoor needs
 - Be early to places that may have limited space



A, B, Cs

of Living with a Service Dog

- **B: By the Way: Responsibility**
 - General care, feeding, grooming, vet checks
 - Up-to-date vaccines
 - Training maintenance



A, B, Cs



of Living with a Service Dog

- **C: Caution**

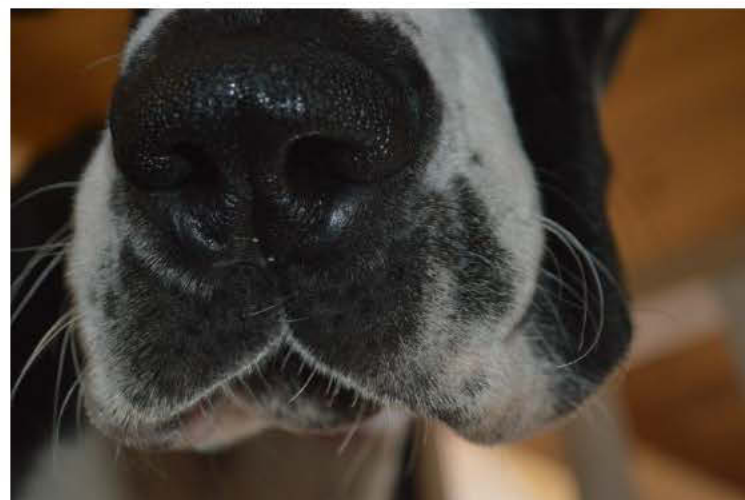
A, B, Cs

of Living with a Service Dog

- **C: Caution: Not a Cure**

Service Dogs Cannot

- Change the diagnosis
- Replace meds
- Prevent all falls (the dog, at least initially, can cause them!)
- Relieve tremors or dyskinesia
- Not be a dog



A, B, Cs



of Living with a Service Dog

- **C: Caution: Not Easy**

Service Dogs Need:

- Care: Feeding, grooming, exercise, vet checks
- Training: The training doesn't end when the dog comes home
- Attention: Give affection & praise, allow for play time and family time
- Awareness: This is a working dog in public & at home

A, B, Cs



of Living with a Service Dog

- **C: Caution: Not for Everyone**

A Service Dog may not be for you if you

- Have allergies
- Are unable to feed the dog or let the dog out
- Are uncomfortable with drool, fur, ear cleaning, waste pickup
- Don't want a shadow
- Are more a cat person

A, B, Cs



of Living with a Service Dog

Summary

Despite the

- Challenges, responsibilities, cost, work

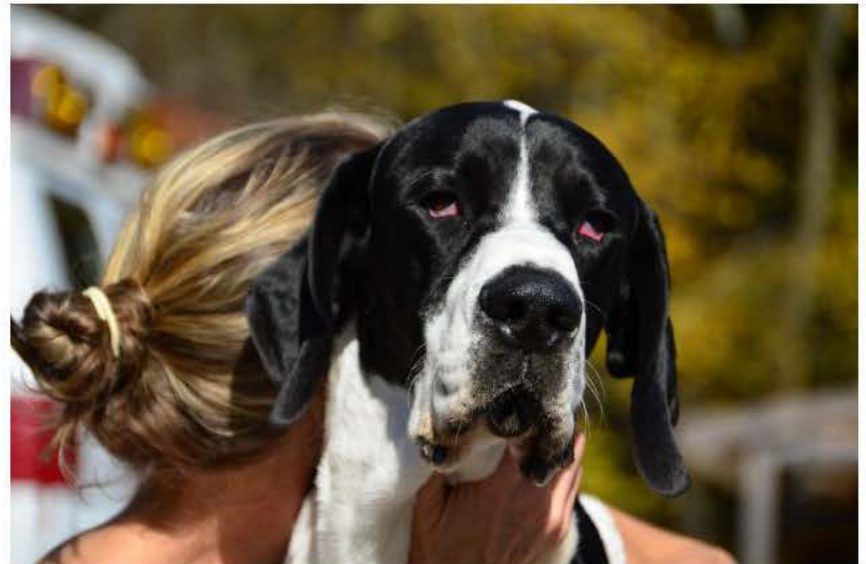
Life with a Service Dog makes life with Parkinson's

- More balanced
- Connected
- Joyful

A, B, Cs

of Living with a Service Dog

A Angels **B** Best friends **C** Co-pilots



A, B, Cs



of Living with a Service Dog

Resources

- International Association of Assistance Dog Partners, c/o IAADP, P.O. Box 638, Sterling Heights, MI 48311, 1-888-544-2237, www.iaadp.org
- Paws with a Cause: National Headquarters: 4646 South Division, Wayland, MI 49348, 1-800-253-7297, www.pawswithacause.org
- Parkinson's Disease Foundation (PDF): 1359 Broadway, Suite 1509, New York, New York 10018, www.pdf.org, Spring 2013 Newsletter Service Dog Project: 37 Boxford Rd., Ipswich, MA, 01938, 978-356-0666, www.servicedogproject.org
- Parkinson Service Dog Blog: http://www.limyoga.com/service_dog_parkinsons/
- Service Dog Project: 37 Boxford Rd., Ipswich, MA, 01938, 978-356-0666, www.servicedogproject.org

This information is at <http://www.limyoga.com/WPC2013/Servicedog.html>