

Moebius Syndrome & Service Dogs



**CASSIUS IS A SERVICE DOG
TRAINED BY
CANINE COMPANIONS FOR INDEPENDENCE**



What types of assistance dogs does Canine Companions for Independence train?

• Service Dogs

- Canine Companions for Independence service dogs are partnered with adults with physical disabilities to assist with daily tasks and increase independence by reducing reliance on other people. A service dog can pull their partner in a manual wheelchair, push buttons for elevators or automatic doors, and even assist with business transactions by transferring money, receipts, and packages.
- A Canine Companions service dog not only assists with physical tasks, but also provides social support. During a two-week training session, participants learn how to effectively handle an assistance dog to maximize use of the 40 commands.
- Disabilities served include, but are not limited to, spinal cord injury, multiple sclerosis, spina bifida, arthritis and cerebral palsy.

• Hearing Dogs

- Canine Companions for Independence hearing dogs are specially bred Labrador and Golden Retrievers who alert partners to key sounds by making physical contact such as nudging the leg or arm. Among the many sounds hearing dogs are trained to recognize and respond to are the sound of a doorbell, alarm clock, someone calling a name or a smoke alarm.

• Skilled Companion Dogs

- Our skilled companion dogs are trained to work with an adult or child with a disability under the guidance of a facilitator. A facilitator is typically a parent, spouse or caregiver who handles and cares for the assistance dog, encourages a strong bond between the recipient and the skilled companion dog, and is responsible for the customized training needs of the dog.
- Disabilities served include, but are not limited to, cerebral palsy, muscular dystrophy, autism and Down syndrome.
- A Canine Companions skilled companion is bred to be calm, reliable, affectionate and reduces the recipient's reliance on other people to complete simple daily tasks.
- A Canine Companions skilled companion can also serve as a social bridge to people who are not used to relating with a person with a disability. Not only does this kind of assistance make their physical lives easier, it boosts confidence and feelings of self-sufficiency.

• Facility Dogs

- Facility Dogs are expertly trained dogs who partner with a facilitator working in a health care, visitation or education setting.

The process of applying for a Canine Companions Service Dog



- The application process is thorough, requiring a short online application, a phone interview, a longer written application, and an in-person interview.
- The wait list for a dog is from 1 to 2 years.

Applying



- There are 5 (soon to be 6) training centers throughout the US.
- When trainers believe they have a dog for you, you are invited to an intensive 2-week “Team Training” where you are matched with a dog and learn to handle your dog – your dog has 6 to 9 months of professional training at this point.

Training



- After graduation, where you meet and connect with your dog’s puppyraisers, you have periodic follow-ups with Canine Companions trainers and staff to ensure the success of the team.

After Graduation



What can a service dog do for Moebius syndrome?



For more information



CCI

- www.caninecompanions.org

Cassius

- www.facebook.com/cassiusthecciservicedog

Service
Dogs

- www.assistancedogsinternational.org