DO YOU KNOW OF SOMEONE WHO NEEDS A LIONS HEARING DOG?

BUZZ IS OUT AND READY FOR ACTION

AND DOUG IS OFF TO HOBART

Find out more inside ..............
ASHLEY’S STORY

Woof, woof, my name is Ashley, I’m a Silky Terrier X (Maltese?) and am Australian Lions Hearing Dog. #420

I have been with my owner, Jan, for 10 years now and we have became inseparable.

My working life began when I was about 18mths old and a trainer from the Lions Hearing Dog training centre came to the kennels where I was staying (Adelaide Animal Welfare League, Wingfield), put me through some paces to see if I would be suitable for training which of course I was, so I was then taken to their training centre up in the beautiful Adelaide Hills at Verdun.

I was put into ANOTHER kennel which was actually a quarantine area for new dogs. While I was in there I was given a vet check, vaccinated (ouch), had an ID implanted and wormed.

After about 2-3wks I was introduced to the other trainee dogs in the big ‘run free’ area and moved into my own “room”. It was so nice there, warm in winter and cool in summer. The man that looked after the kennels was so good to us. The trainer that was allocated to me was Mary Knight. She started an extensive training regime with me which was so much fun.

I learned how to run up to her, touch her then run and “take” her to the sound she had just activated AND I got a treat for doing it!

After what seemed like and eternity (about 12mths), my training was taken over by the Head Trainer, Luiza, in preparation for getting me ready to go to a recipient they thought I might be suitable for. Well, the day came for me to meet him. Alas….he didn’t like me, I was too timid and shy of him. Just between you and me, I didn’t like him either!

Shortly after this event, I was taken in by a family (Lions) in the hope that it would cure my timidity. I was only there for a few months when I was taken back to the training centre because they had found another recipient that might suit me.

Jan and I have had many adventures together over the years

Two of the trainers took me to meet Jan and we took to each other immediately. No looking back. She had a nice house with a well fenced backyard (the trainers checked that). I moved into her place about a month later. I was one very happy, contented dog.

Luiza came to visit us every day for the first week I was there to show Jan how to continue with my training and how to look after me. We met 3 couples from Willunga Lions club (my sponsoring club) who came to Jan’s house 3 times a week for 3 months to help her with my extended/in home training. They would make me work sounds around the house like knocking on the door, ringing the door bell, ringing the phone and setting off a timer that Jan could use for many purposes and of course the all important smoke alarm. This is the only sound that I work differently.

When the smoke alarm goes off, I have to run and touch Jan, drop to her feet and not move until she tells me it’s ok to do so.

I felt very alone and became very withdrawn

I am 12 years old now and getting on a bit. Jan and I have had many adventures together over the years. I have learned about grandkids that like to doing very strange things to me. No, my tail doesn’t come off and neither do my ears! I love it when we meet other Lions Hearing Dogs so that we can swap stories and ideas. I was so happy to be reunited with my best friend from the training centre, Marni. Jan and her Mum have become very good friends, so I get to see her often. We love going to the Lions Hearing Dog Open Days at the training centre every year to catch up with old friends and to check out the new recruits. Last year I met 9 hearing dogs that came from interstate with their owners.
We also love talking to groups about Lions Hearing Dogs and spreading the Hearing Dog word. We have visited all sorts of groups from kindergarten children to Weight Watchers. These talks make me feel very special (the centre of attention) and very proud to be a Lions Hearing Dog.

We belonged to The Noarlunga/Morphett Vale Lions club for 5 years but we moved to Goolwa in April of 2015 and we have now transferred to the Goolwa Lions Club.

I was so grateful to Lions for giving me Ashley

I know her family are very relieved that she has me to look after her so that she isn’t alone and that I can “tell” her when sounds are happening.

I came from a humble beginning with an uncertain future to having a person to care for and look after. I love the way my life has turned out. Thankyou Lions.

I’m one happy dog,
LHD Ashley McMinn.

With the loss of most of my hearing in 1998 and the passing of my husband in 2005, I felt very alone and became very withdrawn, not wanting to face the world. When LHD Ashley came into my life I regained my confidence and felt able to cope with life again. My family were also very relieved that I had him with me. He maybe my Hearing Dog but he is so much more than that to me. I was so grateful to Lions for giving me Ashley and in learning more about what else they do, I decided to join up. That was the best thing I ever did.

Lion Jan McMinn.

1 in 6
The number of Australians who suffer from some form of hearing loss.

1982
The first Lions Hearing Dog, “Amber”, was delivered in SA.

550
Number of Lions Hearing Dogs delivered since the programs start.

7
Average time in months it takes to train a Lions Hearing Dog

3
Months of follow up training each dog receives when placed in its new home

215
Helen Keller Fellowship Recipients

$30,000
The cost of training and delivering a Lions Hearing Dog

$1,000,000
Over $1m of Sound Field Systems donated to Primary Schools across Australia

105
Current active Lions Hearing Dogs helping their owners across Australia

0
Cost for a deaf or hard of hearing person to receive a Lions Hearing Dog
HELEN KELLER FELLOWSHIP

Do you know of a Lion or member of the community who deserves recognition for their hard work?

Helen Keller has been identified within our organization for the work she did for the blind, but many forget that Helen was also deaf and she was committed to improving the education facilities for both the deaf and the blind. She gave inspiration and hope to the many deafblind people of the world.

Helen was also a dog owner for most of her life, with a great love especially for the Akita, a large dog originating from Japan.

It is because of her work for the deaf that Australian Lions Hearing Dogs established the Helen Keller Fellowship.

Clubs who donate $1000 may nominate a recipient of a Helen Keller Fellowship. The A4 sized brass on wood plaque also comes with a lapel pin for the recipient.

Applications for the Fellowship can be sent out, please contact the Training Centre for more information.

BOUND FOR HOBART

ALHD will be accompanied by trainee ‘Doug’ when we attend the MD201 convention in Hobart in May.

Doug will be the star of our on-stage presentation titled ‘DOUGS DOG DAY OUT’ on Friday. Doug will be ready to say hello to everyone who visits the Australian Lions Hearing Dog for the rest of the weekend!
RECENT PLACEMENTS

Clockwise from top left:
Logan sponsored by the Lions Club of Euroa V5,
Dusty sponsored by the Lions Club of Diggers Rest V1-4, Taffy
sponsored by the Lions Club of Elizabeth Playford C1 and
Buzz sponsored by the Lions Club of Morayfield Q3.

AUSTRALIAN LIONS HEARING DOG #550

‘BUZZ’

Buzz, Australian Lions Hearing Dogs 550th dog, is now out in his new home acting as his recipient Narelle’s ears.

Sponsored and supported by the Lions Club of Morayfield, Buzz is working everyday to alert his owner to sounds within the home.

Currently Buzz and Narelle are still going through their follow up training period, but from his work to date it wont be long until Buzz is a fully accredited Australian Lions Hearing Dog.
Please send all correspondence and donations to:

PO BOX 164
HAHNDORF
SA 5245

PH: 08 8388 7836
FAX: 8388 1299

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