

Can a dog help you "HEAR"?

YES—if they're a specially trained HEARING DOG!

Presented by Brent Mershon and Floyd (the hearing dog)

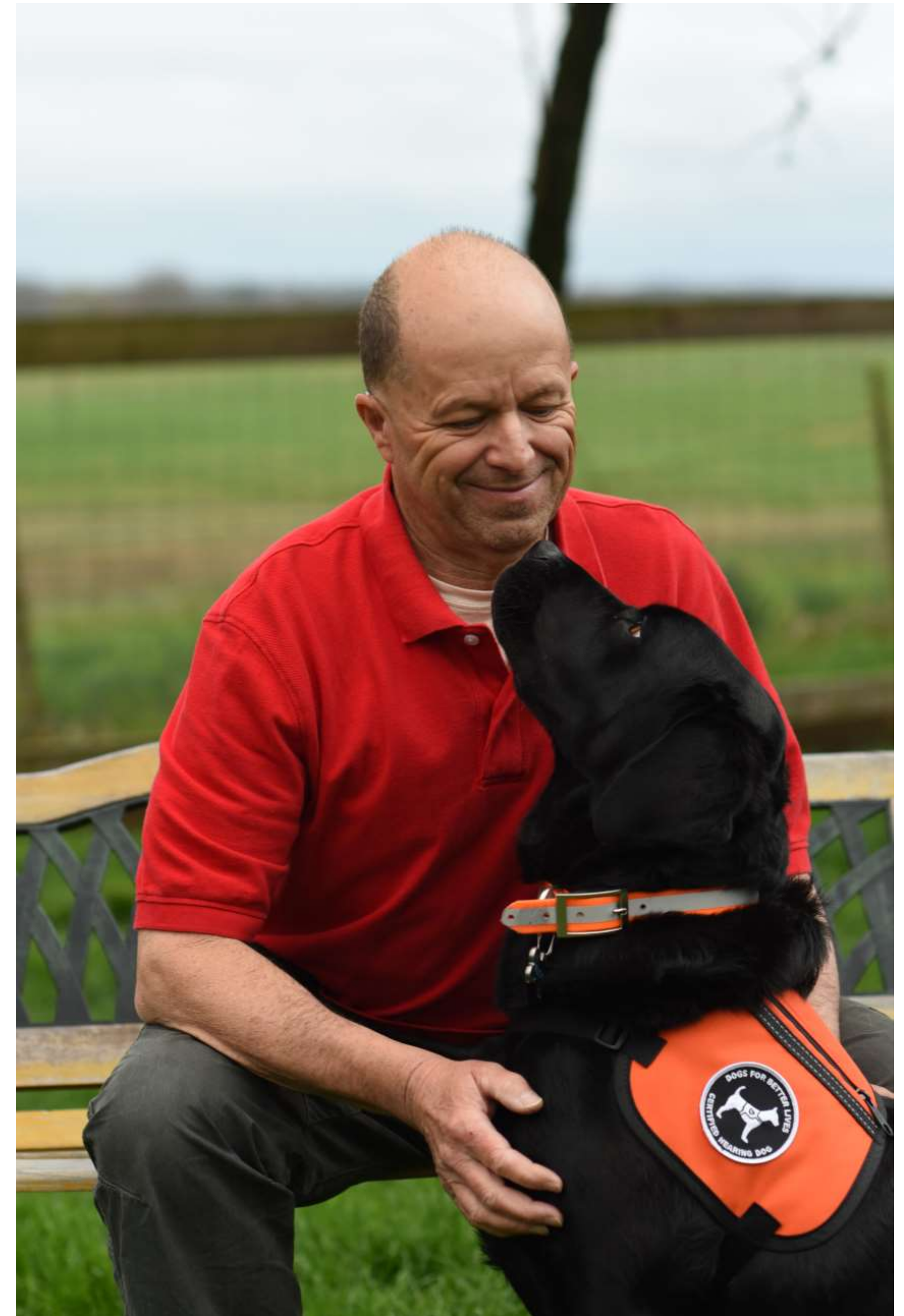
Before we start Brent and Floyd's story, let's meet Vincent and Otto:

<https://vimeo.com/249558993>

Meet Floyd!

Floyd is an 8 year old Black Labrador trained and placed by Dogs for Better Lives as a Certified Hearing Dog.

He was originally bred by Guide Dogs for the Blind but was “career changed” to become a hearing dog.





- Has been rescuing dogs, bettering lives, and providing assistance dogs since 1977
- Main campus in Oregon and a second campus in Massachusetts
- 501(c)(3) organization
- Accredited by Assistance Dogs International
- Rated by Charity Navigator as a 4-star non-profit for ten consecutive years
- 100% of every dollar raised goes to programming services
- Professionally trains and places hearing dogs and facility dogs nationwide
- Trains and places autism dogs in the Pacific Northwest and Northeast US



- Dogs are placed at ZERO COST to clients
- Some of DBL's dogs are rescued from shelters and humane societies in the western states
- Dogs that do not pass the necessary training become adoptable "career change" dogs
- No dogs are ever returned to shelters
- Over 1700 dogs have been placed with clients since 1977
- DBL has started its own small breeding program, particularly for autism dogs
- Some dogs are acquired as "career change" dogs from other service agencies
- DBL has a lifetime commitment to both the dogs and clients

What do hearing dogs do?

Hearing dogs increase the quality of life for their handlers.

Deafness and hearing loss are invisible. Many people feel more secure and confident with their hearing dog beside them both at home and in public.



Two types of hearing dogs

Home hearing dogs

- These dogs alert handlers to common sounds that are necessary for everyday safety and independence. Examples of sounds a dog can respond to include:
 - Telephone rings
 - Alarm clocks
 - Door knocks
 - Oven timers
 - Smoke alarms
 - Crying baby



Public hearing dogs

- In addition to alerting to the sounds at home, these dogs are trained to behave appropriately in public settings.
- While the dog is not specifically trained to alert to sounds in public, many do start to work sounds away from the home environment.
- Provides an increased awareness to the handler of his/her environment, simply by paying attention to what the dog is reacting to. Some examples of this might be a dog reacting to a siren, honking horn, name call, etc.



Extra benefits of hearing dogs

- Help ease anxiety sometimes experienced in social situations
- Provide companionship
- Reduce feelings of isolation often faced by people with hearing loss



WHO COULD POSSIBLY BENEFIT FROM HAVING A HEARING DOG

- Teen going away to college
- Adults living alone
- Ron Dog
- Ordering in a restaurant

Living with a hearing dog

- Practicing sound work daily
- Retaining excellent public behavior
- Maintaining excellent physical condition of the dog through:
 - Daily exercise
 - Good quality food and treats
 - Good quality toys
 - Proper veterinarian care



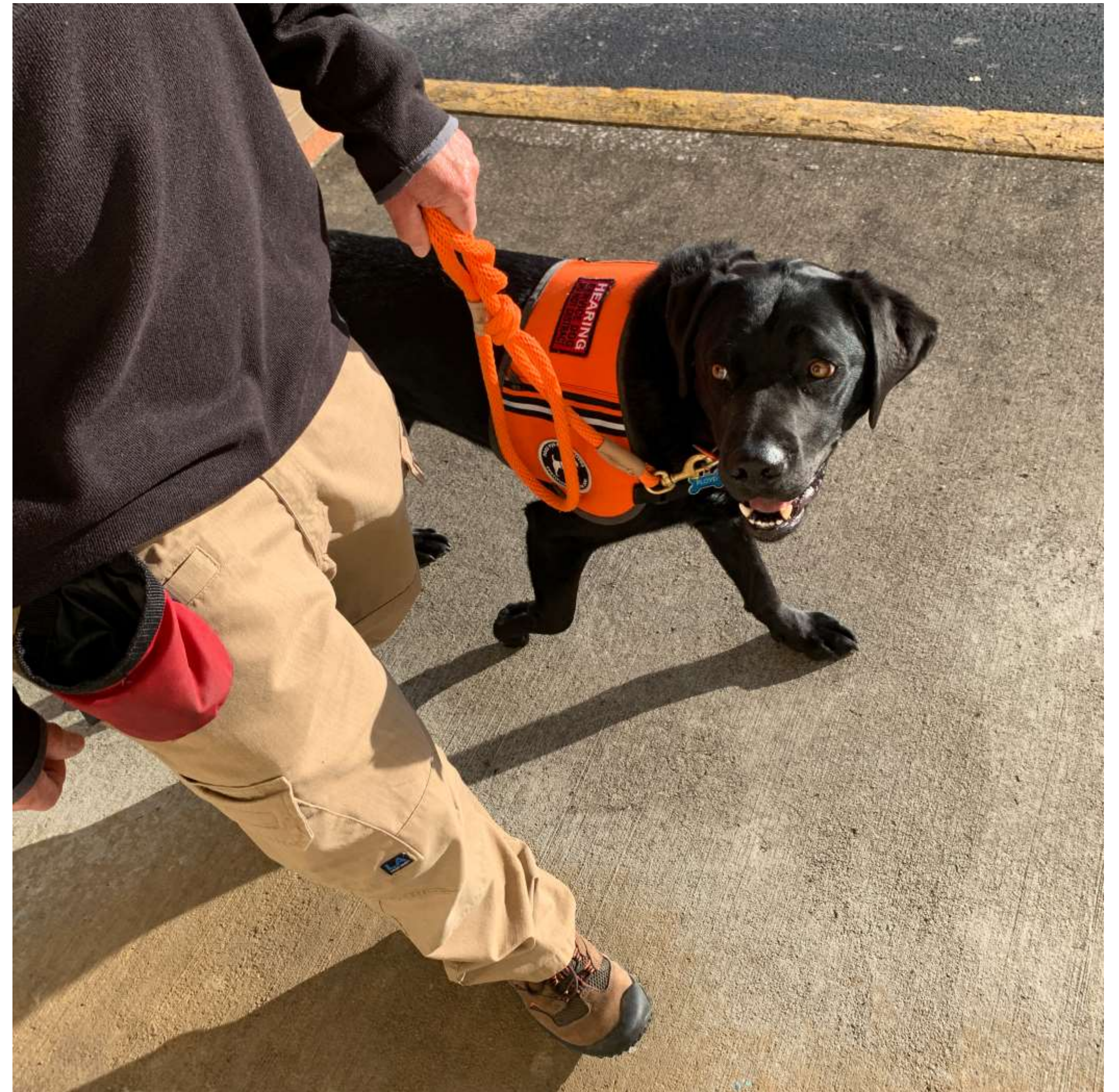


In public with a hearing dog

According to the ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) and state laws, people with disabilities are allowed public access rights for their specially trained assistance dogs.

Assistance dogs are legally allowed to accompany the person into stores, restaurants, public transportation, and other places where dogs are not normally allowed.

*For complete information, visit
www.ada.gov*



In public with a hearing dog

A service animal's handler has the responsibility to:

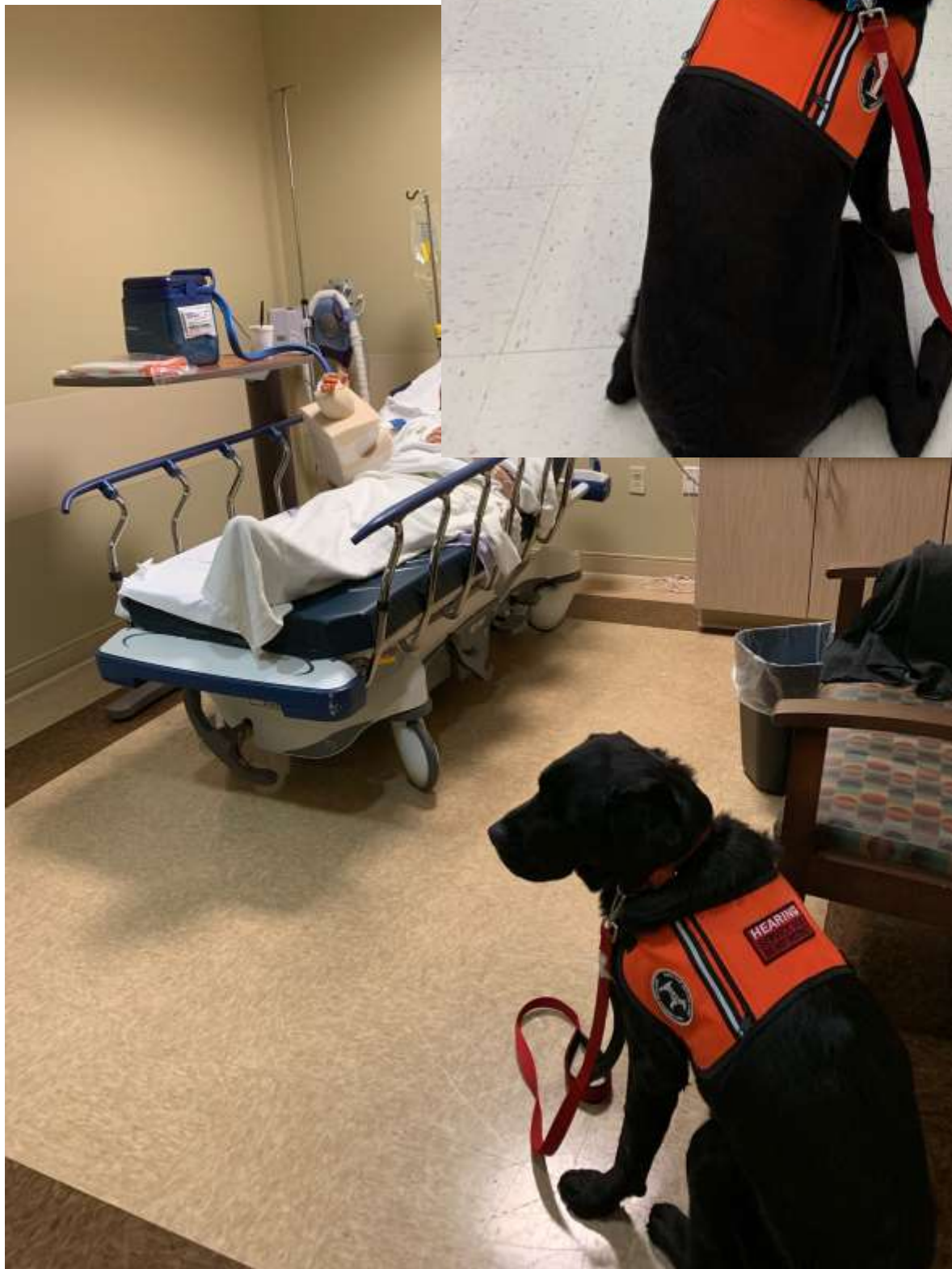
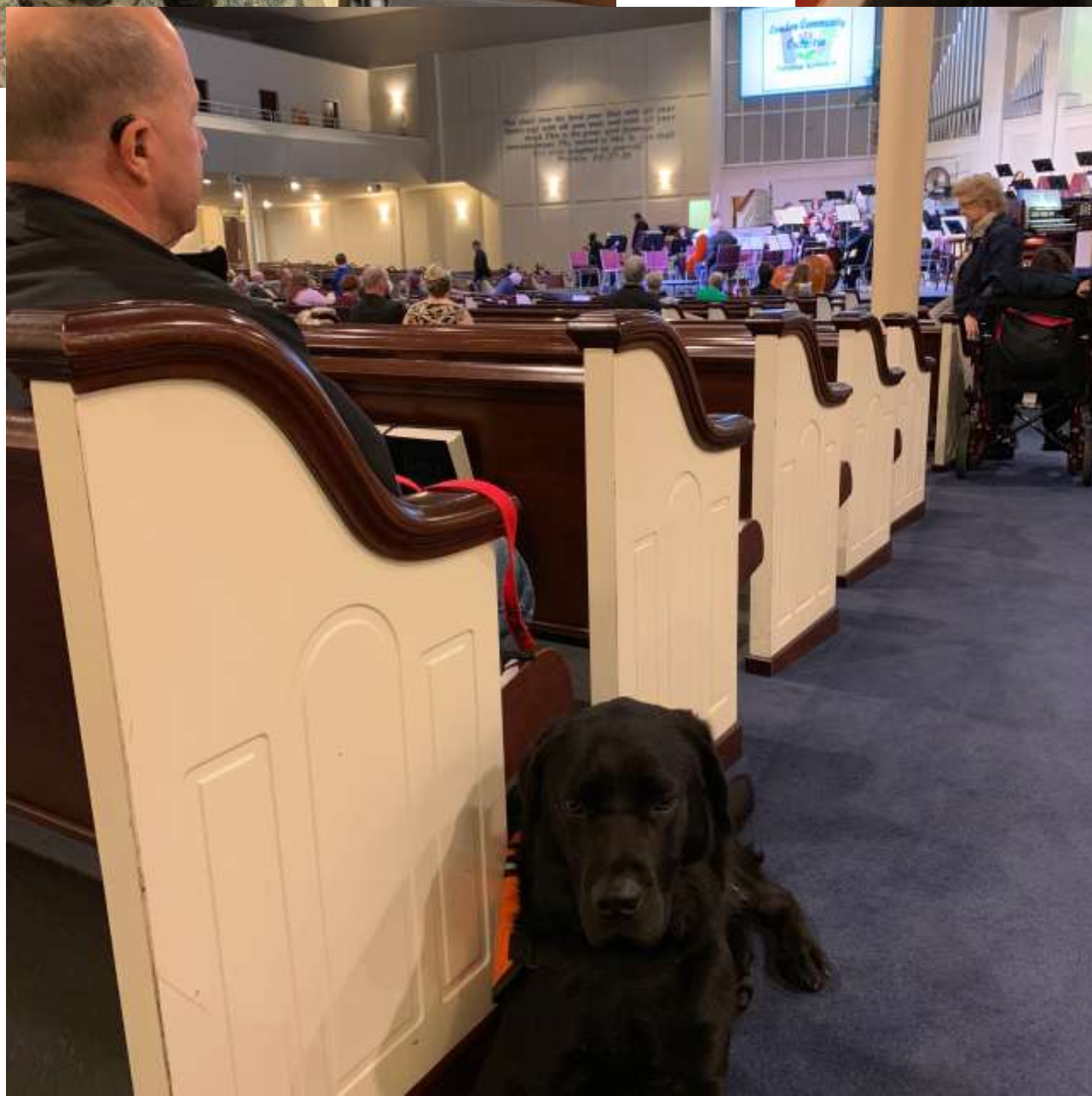
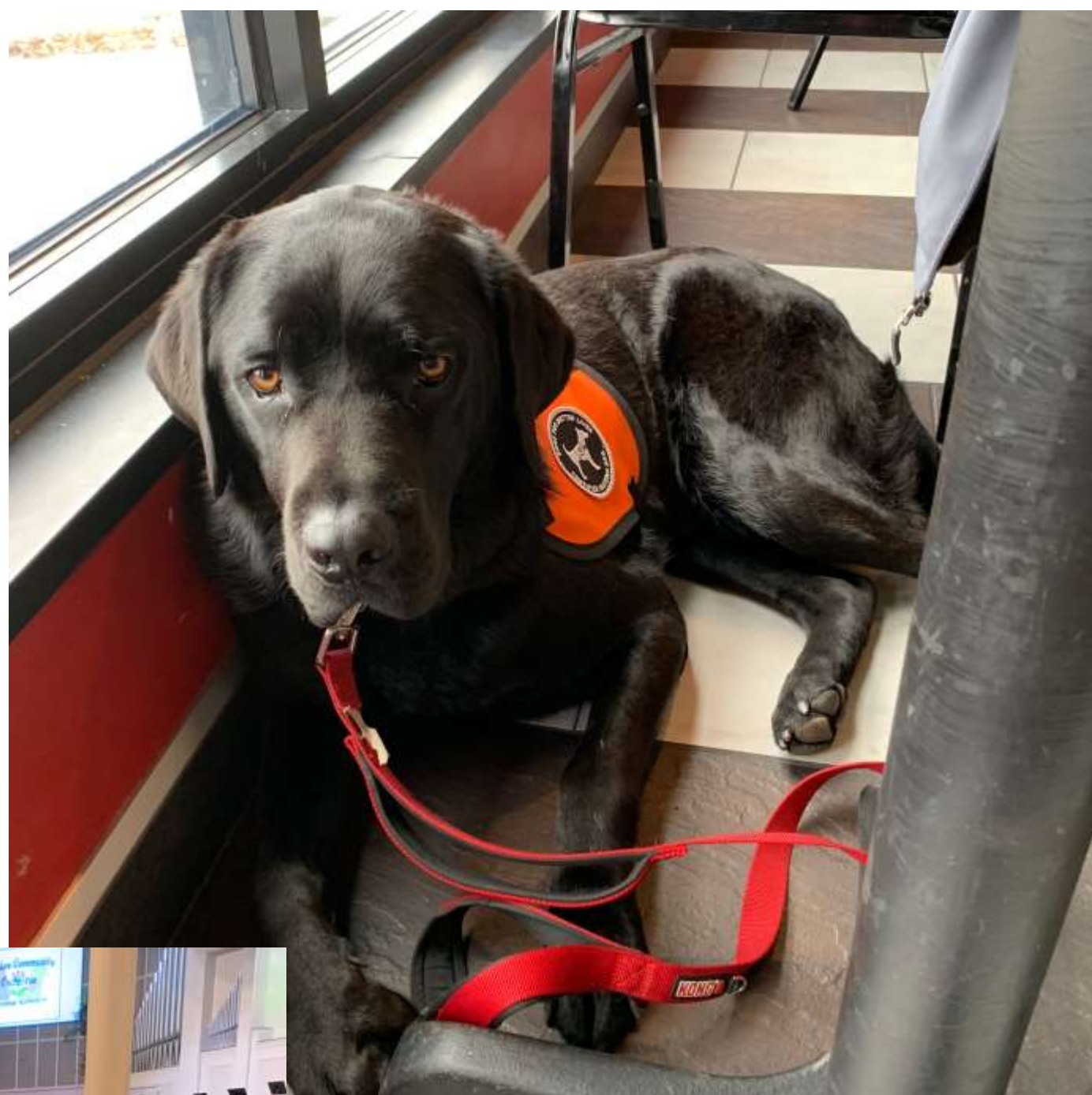
- Keep the dog well-groomed, well-behaved, on a leash, and under control. For example, the dog cannot:
 - Bark excessively
 - Block aisles or doorways
 - Ride in a shopping cart
 - Sit in a person's lap at a restaurant
- Be responsive to the needs of the dog
- Know when NOT to take the dog into a public setting



From a business standpoint:

A business CAN ask a handler to remove his/her service dog if:

- The dog is not housebroken
- The dog is out of control and the handler cannot get the dog back under control



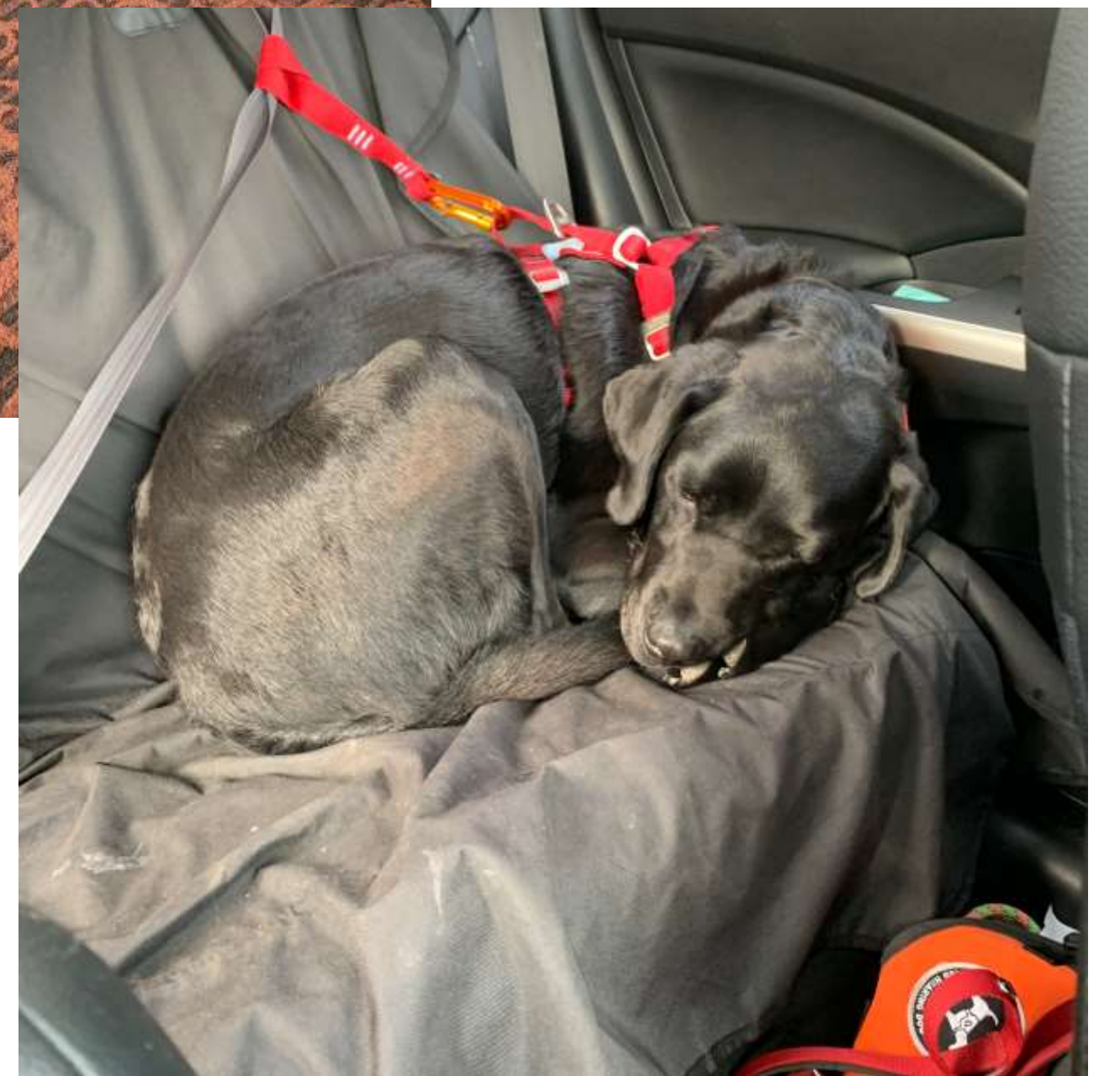
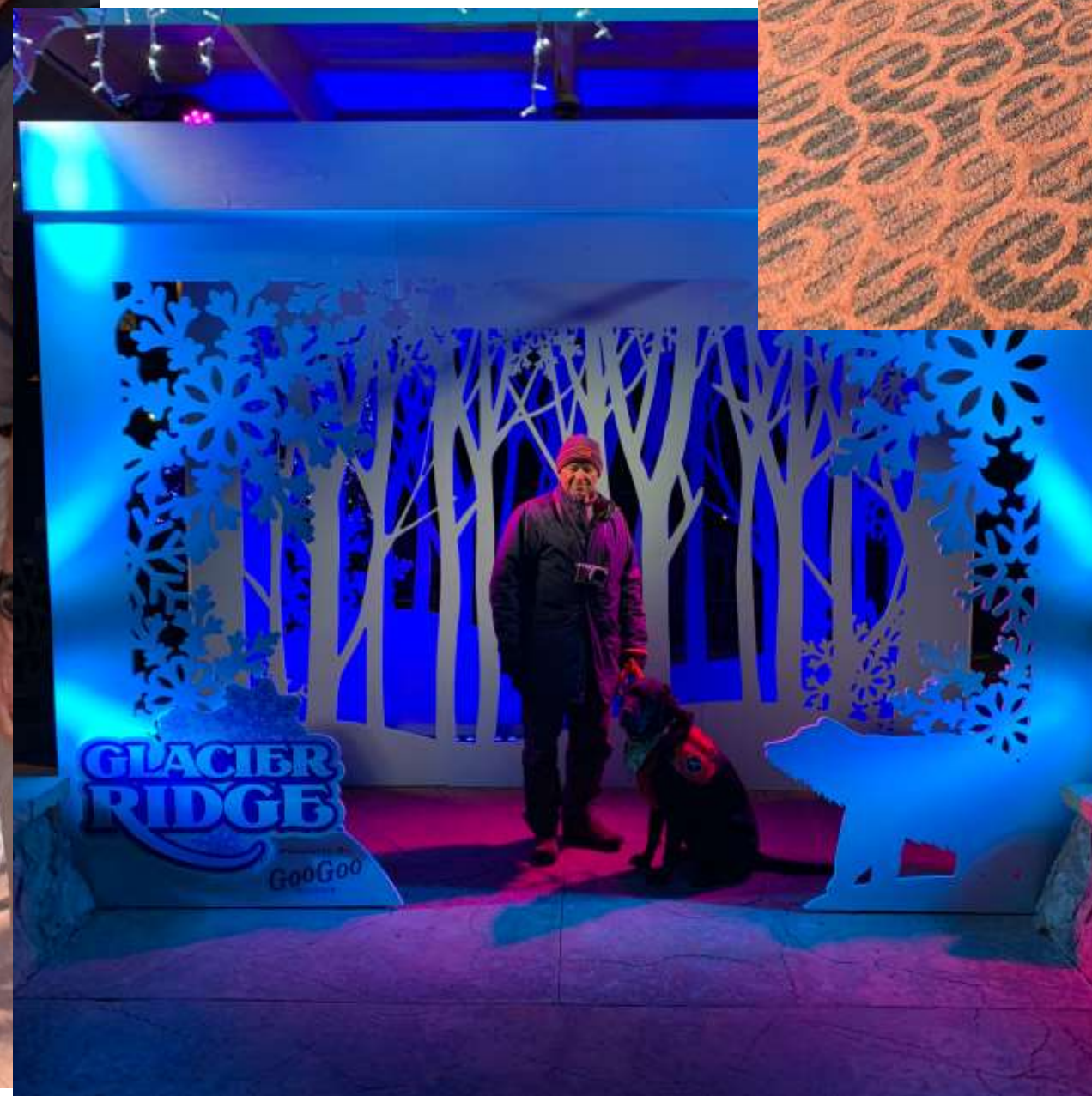
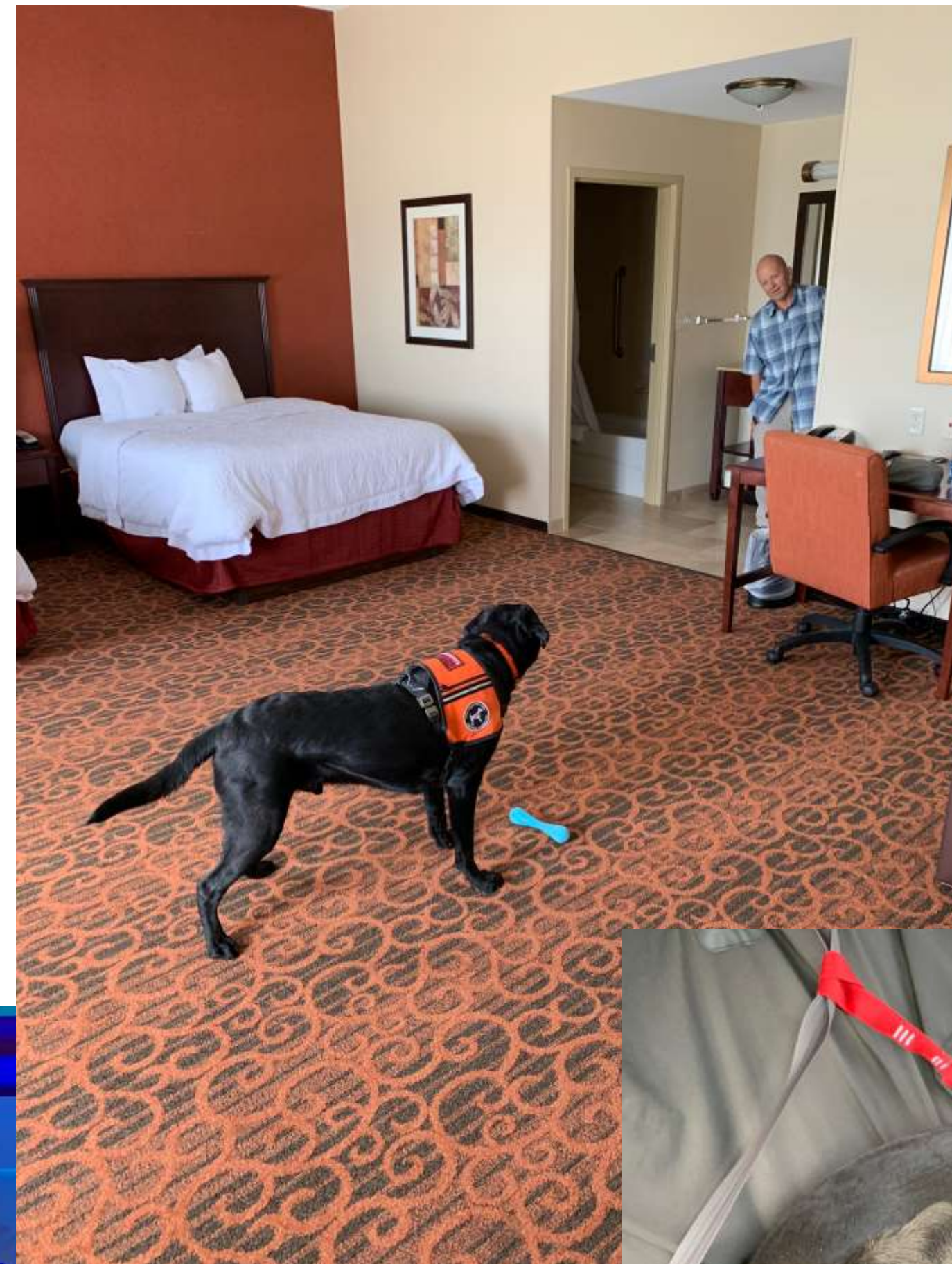
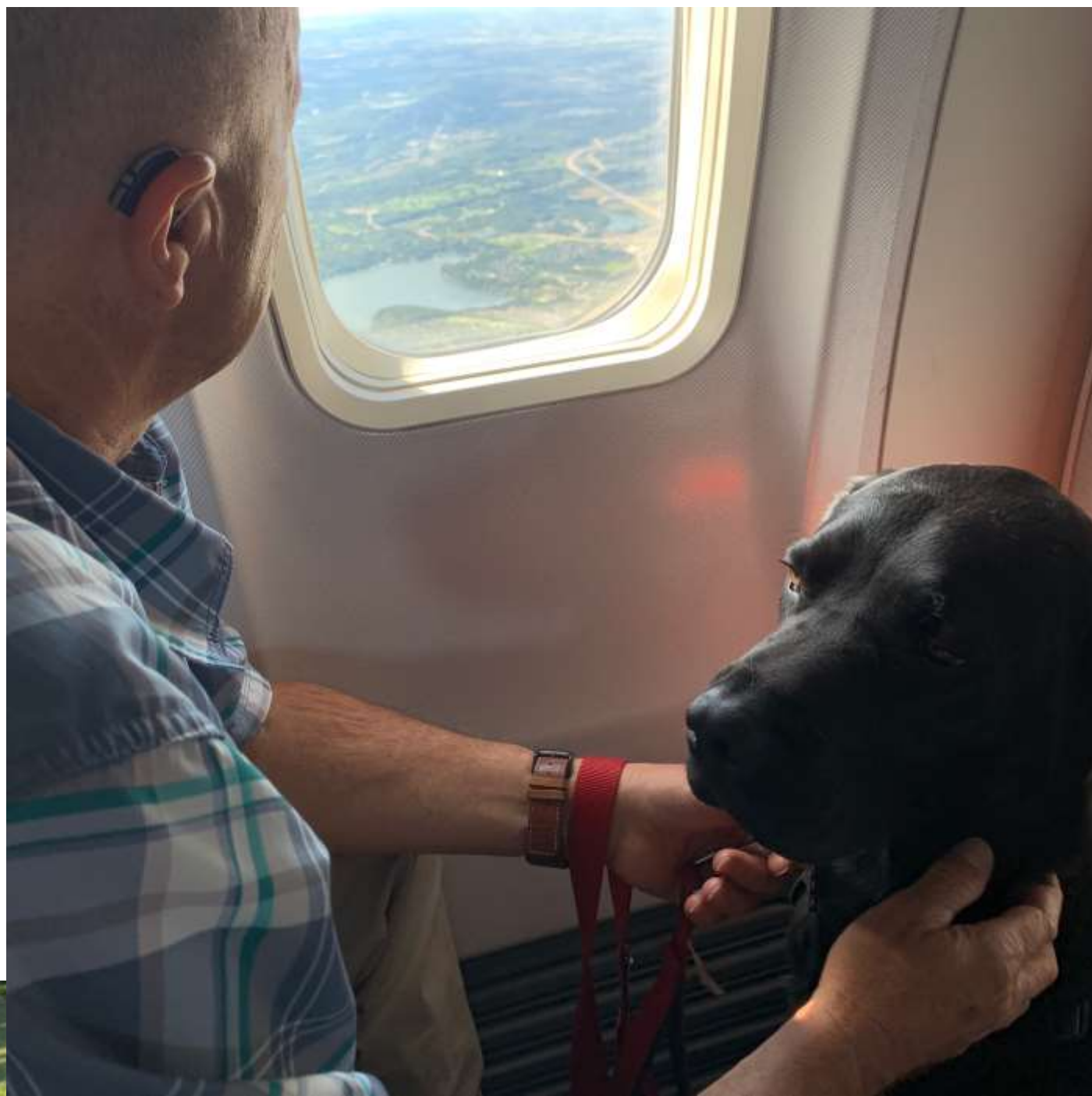
Traveling with a hearing dog

Some considerations:

- Extra time needed—always!
- Seat belt
- Length of travel day
- Weather—especially heat and cold
- Sleeping arrangements
- When flying—layovers, food/water intake, relief areas

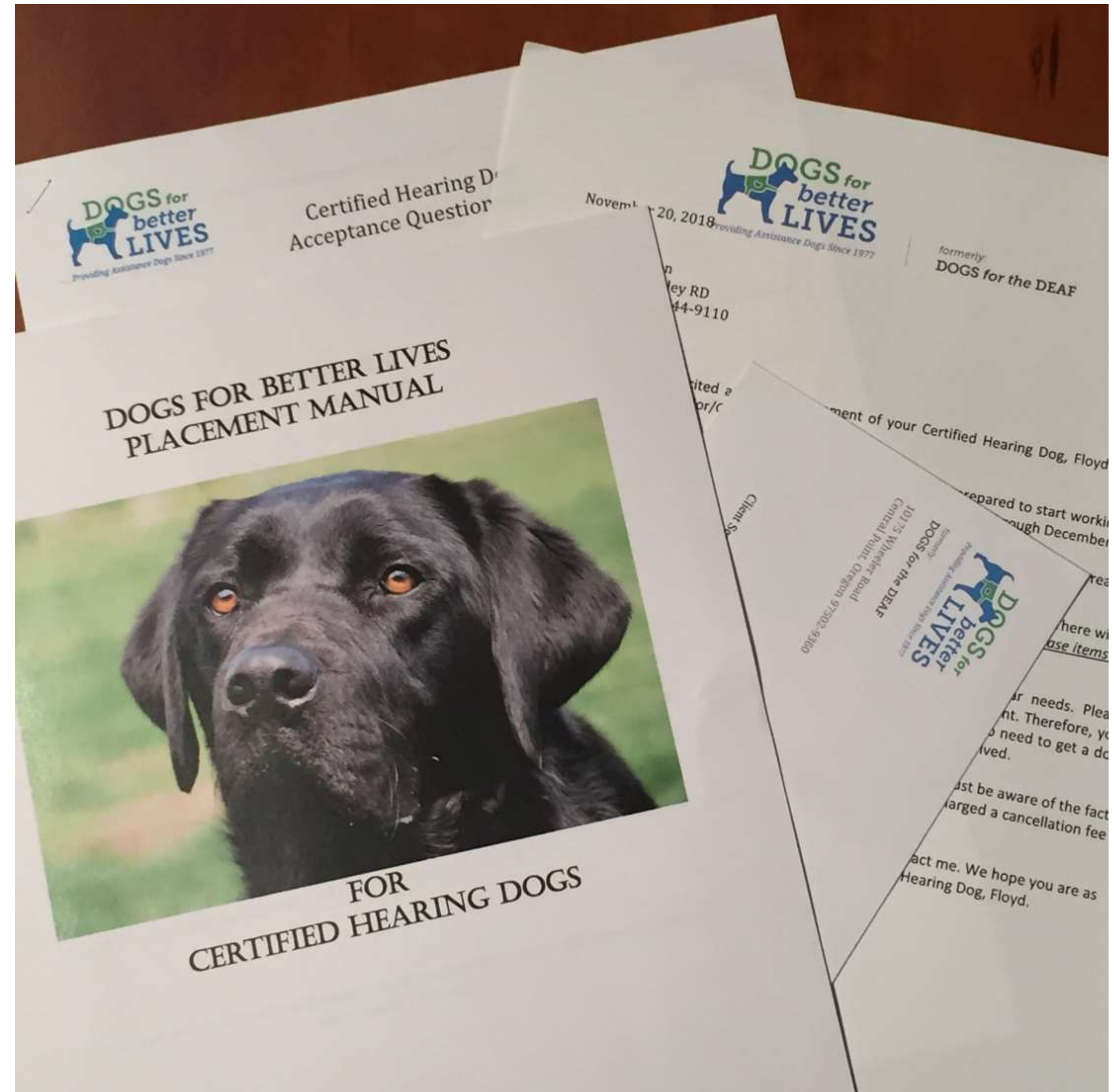


This is just FLOYD'S luggage for his trip to Disney World!



Applying for a hearing dog

- Application
- Screening—including medical records
- Interview via video—including interior/exterior of home
- Acceptance or denial
- Waiting period
- Placement
- Follow-up



Special considerations right now...

- Due to COVID-19, the DBL campus is locked down, with dogs being cared for by trainers and volunteers at their homes.
- This will result in a delay in accepting and processing applications.
- However, they'll be very anxious to get back to 'normal', so please keep tabs on their progress towards re-opening.



DOGS FOR BETTER LIVES

www.dogsforbetterlives.org

On the website, you can:

- Read more about the dogs
- Find out more about the application process
- Get accreditation and financial information
- Read past issues of Canine Listener magazines
- SUBSCRIBE to blogs, e-newsletter, and/or e-magazine

(800)990-3647

Facebook: @dogsforbetterlives

Instagram: @dogsforbetterlives



HOW TO FIND OTHER PROVIDERS

- Go to the website of Assistance Dogs International
- Filter by country, state, and assistance dog type (hearing)
- Research each provider's requirements, placement process, waiting period, FEES, etc.

WHY SEARCH THRU ADI?

- It's a "buyer beware" market for reputable assistance dogs
- Using an accredited ADI member ensures the program is meeting the highest standards in the assistance dog industry for clients, dogs, training, and ethical business practices

How to contact Brent (and Floyd!)

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**FOLLOW FLOYD ON
INSTAGRAM!**

@floydismyears

