

5 tips for owning a deaf dog

Owning a deaf dog can be daunting, but they're just as trainable as any other. Try our top tips to help keep your pup stimulated, secure and happy.

1. Sign language

Using hand signals in place of verbal cues, you can teach a deaf dog every command you can teach a hearing dog. Choose whatever signs you like (and there are plenty of ideas online) – just make sure your signals are **clear** and **consistent**.



2. Help them learn not to startle

Try this simple training exercise:

1. Wait until your dog's looking the other way
2. Touch their shoulder gently
3. When they turn, give them a treat
4. Repeat!



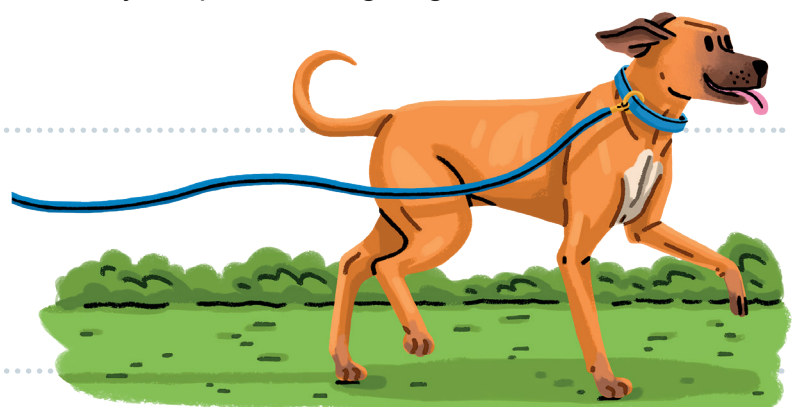
3. Getting their attention

When you're not in their line of sight, you'll need to find new ways to get your dog's attention. Try flashing a torch or switching a light on and off, or gently stamping your feet so they feel the vibrations.



4. Keep talking

Even though they can't hear you, your dog is adept at reading facial movements and body language – so it actually helps them if you speak while giving commands.



5. Out and about

Consider keeping them on a long-line lead unless you're certain of their recall or you're in a completely secure environment.