



GUIDE DOGS IN ACTION Guide dogs are uniquely capable of increasing the mobility of blind people and enhancing their lives.

A Trip to the Country Store

Guide dogs work in many different environments and must know a number of skills to do their job.

SKILL 2

OPEN SPACES

Sometimes guide dogs must travel across parking lots or other open spaces to get where they're going. They follow a straight line of direction, often homing in on a known destination such as stairs leading into a business.

SKILL 4

CLEARANCE

Another important skill guide dogs learn is to walk around objects, both stationary and moving, that could harm the handler. This includes providing clearance in store aisles that may be very narrow or crowded with displays and other obstacles.

COUNTRY
STORE



HOME



SKILL 1

ROADS WITHOUT SIDEWALKS

In many areas there may be no sidewalks, or they may be in disrepair or buried in snow. In these instances, guide dogs must work along the edge of the road while keeping out of oncoming traffic.



MAINE GUIDE DOG USERS

Opening Doors to Independence and Opportunity

SKILL 3

STAIRS GOING UP

Guide dogs must go up the stairs at a steady, consistent pace without skipping steps. Dogs will often identify the bottom of a staircase by placing their front paws up onto the first step and waiting until the handler gives the forward command.

SKILL 5

STAIRS GOING DOWN

Finally, guide dogs must warn their handlers about stairs going down. When the dogs reach the top of the step, they refuse to move forward until given the command. This gives the handler time to find the edge before stepping down.

PineTreeGuideDogUsers.org



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