

PROFESSOR EINSTEIN: Dear students, I need you all to pay really close attention. Today we are going to learn about the most useful animal in the world.

MS. SCHLAU: Exactly. We're talking about...

PROFESSOR EINSTEIN: Flies!!!

MS. SCHLAU: Flies!? No, not about flies. About seeing eye dogs, Professor.

PROFESSOR EINSTEIN: Yes, Ms. Schlau, I know that. But a huge fly just flew across the room. Listen...! Before we can start, we need to catch it.

MS. SCHLAU: But we wanted to report on the most useful animal in the world.

PROFESSOR EINSTEIN: But first we have to catch the least useful animal in the world! Just you wait, you little flying beast. I'll get you with this. Haha. Ms. Schlau, I'm going on a fly safari. See you later!

MS. SCHLAU: Professor, you just can't leave me here. Please stay! Then I'm... uh... stuck on my own. JOWO? Play the movie, please.

This little **puppy (WELPE)**, a labrador, is already going to school with its siblings. It is a very special school: the Hessian Seeing Eye Dog School. Tanja Kohl is a **dog trainer (HUNDETRAINER)** and has constructed an adventure playground for the little puppies. There they learn to balance, to wear a dog harness, and how to walk over different surfaces. They need to know all of this so that in the future they are able to find their way in the world of humans. The puppies come from parents that have good characteristics for seeing eye dogs: Reliable, docile, and not too energetic.

This is Billy. He's just over one year old. He has already learned a lot, but not enough to be able to guide a person who is blind.

That's why he continues to go to school. If he finds the **bench (BANK)**, like he just did, he gets a lot of praise so that he continues to enjoy learning. Today Billy is going to learn what the word **door (TÜR)** means. Andreas Kohl helps his wife and shows Billy his favorite food.

Then he hides it behind the door. That way, Billy's attention is on the door. Now show the **food (FUTTER)** again and hide it once more. Of course, Billy wants to get the treat right away but for now it remains hidden behind the door. The next step is for Billy to associate the word "door" with a reward. The reward is the eating. Great! Everything was done perfectly. That's it for Billy today and he's allowed to go play with the rest of the class.

MS. SCHLAU:

This is Chilly. Chilly is two years old and because she is almost finished with her training as a guide dog, she's wearing a harness with which she'll be able to guide a blind person some day. And she can already complete difficult tasks. Whenever Chilly makes a mistake - look, it's happening now: she should have stopped there - she is immediately corrected and the exercise is repeated until she does it correctly. This way, Chilly learns to stop at curbs, even at ones that are not immediately recognizable. The command is always identical.

Chilly can even memorize the path along which she can safely guide a person who is blind. "Find edge" means: Find the curb. Chilly also knows a few important businesses such as the **pharmacy (APOTHEKE)**. Alright, Chilly, turn right to go to the pharmacy. By receiving rewards and praise, Chilly has learned to behave calmly in stores. She can't allow herself to get distracted, not even when other people walk by her. She just wags her tail in a friendly manner.

Dogs can hear and smell much better than humans. On the other hand, they don't see as well, and they don't recognize colors. Nevertheless, they manage to do quite well in their surroundings using their hearing and sense of smell. And because Chilly has already learned so much, she'll soon be selected to lead a person who is blind.

Up there on the **steps (TREPPE)** is Cross. Cross is already finished with the seeing eye dog school and belongs to Mr. Schäfer. Mr. Schäfer is **blind (BLIND)** and relies on Cross. Today, Cross's first task is to find the **mailbox (BRIEFKASTEN)**. Mr. Schäfer and Cross have already become a good team. Cross knows his way across the city because he has done it so often. This was taught to him in guide dog school. Nevertheless, something unexpected can always happen. Like here for example: The **cars (AUTOS)** have parked so close that you can hardly get by them. Cross helps Mr. Schäfer understand that this is a dangerous obstacle. That's why he simply stops. It's not until Mr. Schäfer takes the leash in his hand and lets go of the harness that Cross understands that Mr. Schäfer is now in charge. The two slowly feel their way past the left of the obstacle and then Cross is in charge again. He walks ahead. And here comes the next obstacle already: Cross stops and lets Mr. Schäfer know that the **stairs (TREPPE)** begin here. For this he receives a reward right away.

Cross and Mr. Schäfer are a well-rehearsed team. Mr. Schäfer always knows where he needs to go and Cross, so to say, replaces Mr. Schäfer's eyes.

MS. SCHLAU: This is how Mr. Schäfer, with the help from Cross, gets to work every day and safely back home again.

What's wrong with you?

PROFESSOR EINSTEIN: I've been searching... this whole time... for this... this fly... Up stairs, down stairs... Down hallways and back again... zigzagging left and right...

MS. SCHLAU: And?

PROFESSOR EINSTEIN: The beast escaped. I'm really dizzy... and I'm very, very tired...

MS. SCHLAU: Professor? Professor! He's sleeping?! Professor, the fly is right beside you... on your... Oh, gross! Did you see that? The professor just swallowed the fly. In his sleep! Well, the fly got away again. And the professor sure did get lucky.