



Have you heard . . .

Advanced Audiology Concepts Newsletter
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Dogs with Hearing Loss?

As some of you may already know, Dr. Spisak's American Bulldog/Boxer rescue, Ajax, is deaf. The origin of his deafness is unknown, however we assume his deafness is congenital (since birth). Ironically Dr. Spisak was in graduate school working on her Doctoral degree in audiology when she rescued Ajax. It took her 3-4 months to identify his deafness. Ajax is a smart dog that still learned all of his commands and, other than some severe separation anxiety which is not uncommon for rescue dogs, Ajax was a perfectly well behaved dog. He interacted with other dogs at the dog park, he did not bark excessively and he "listened" to her commands. So what clued Dr. Spisak in to Ajax's deafness or hearing impairment? He would not respond to his name and could sleep through anything. Most dogs will hear the keys in the door and be alerted to their owner being home. Dr. Spisak could come home, walk in the door and be on her cellphone and there Ajax would lay asleep in his crate. She admits that it probably took her longer than it should have for an audiologist to identify her dog's hearing impairment. Why? Most likely because she would make excuses such as, "he is a deep sleeper" or "he just hasn't learned his name yet". When someone or in this case, some animal, we love has an impairment, we tend to make excuses for their behavior. We aren't ready to accept that they may be a bit different or that things have changed, just as patients may make excuses taking on average 7-10 years to seek treatment for their hearing loss. Ajax is now almost 8 years old and lives a full and normal life just as many of you do. Dr. Spisak obviously has accepted that Ajax is a little different from other dogs, and has learned to help Ajax compensate for hearing loss. Dr. Spisak recently rescued another American Bulldog/Boxer mix, Annie. Annie, is approximately 1 year old and she is a hearing dog. She has been a great addition to the Spisak family and helps Ajax out tremendously. She helps alert Ajax to sounds and to things going on. Humans with significant hearing loss can also be candidates for a hearing dog to help alert them to every day sounds like the alarm clock, doorbell, fire alarm, baby monitor, etc.

Dr. Kukula also has a deaf dog in her family. Her nephew and niece-in-law, have an American Eskimo, Lola who is 12 years old and has developed hearing loss with age, though, they haven't ruled out noise induced loss due to Lola's very loud bark. Like humans, animals, such as dogs can develop age related hearing loss, known as presbycusis. Dr. Kukula's nephew and niece were clued in to Lola's hearing loss because she became less engaged with the acoustic environment and wouldn't respond to her name. Lola kept more to herself and was less interactive. Also like Lola, one of the indicators of hearing loss for humans is withdrawal. Although Lola is older, she is adapting to her hearing loss.

Will Ajax and Lola get hearing aids? Probably not, however Ajax seems to be much more in tune with his environment since Annie came along and, Lola has two sister dogs who help alert her to her surroundings.

Life Sounds Great!
Enjoy every moment!



Follow our blog at
www.lifesoundsgreat.blogspot.com

Visit us on the web
www.aacHEAR.org



Mark Your Calendar

May, Better Hearing Month!
Have your hearing checked!

- **May 9, 1-4PM**
Customer Appreciation Day
- **May 16, 10AM-1PM**
Senior Day,
Great Lakes Mall
- **June 3, 10-11:30AM**
What's Up Doc? See what's new in hearing technology
Call 440-205-8848
- **June 7, 10:30-11:30AM**
Hearing Aid Cleaning,
Mentor Senior Center
Call 440-974-5725
- **Sept. 16, 10-11:30AM**
Seminar: An Extended
Wear Hearing Aid, What's That? Call 440-205-8848
- **Oct. 4, 10:30 11:30AM**
Hearing Aid Cleaning,
Mentor Senior Center
Call 440-974-5725



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Enjoy Every Moment!

The Hearing Center



Dr. Jane M. Kukula

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Customer Appreciation Day!

Tuesday, May 9th
1:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Refreshments
Complimentary Hearing Aid
Cleanings

Featured Product

Phonak Virto B Titanium

Virto B-Titanium is the smallest Phonak custom hearing aid. Made from medical grade titanium, it is super discreet, durable and light weight. Being 15 times stronger than acrylic, it makes it possible to build a shell that is 50% thinner than the existing shells. With a significantly thinner shell and 60% smaller electronic components, the size is reduced by up to 26% compared to its predecessor.

Virto B-Titanium



Call for more information:
Advanced Audiology Concepts
8897 Mentor Ave. • Mentor, OH 44060
440-205-8848

In Your Ear

My home is located in your ear,
I like to make things loud and clear,
(Can you hear me now)
I am made of components and chips!
Molding is needed for perfect fits!
(One size does not fit all)
In the ear, or behind the ear
I don't care,
As long as you don't
Break or loose me somewhere!
We are located in the ear!
We give you all you need to hear!
(Perfect sound!)
Program us to make us work,
Test us out don't go without!
(Give us a try!)
Sizes and colors, we're versatile,
Trusting we will last a while,
(Time to hear!)

Author is Anonymous

Gift of Hearing 2017

A pair of hearing aids with essential level technology will be awarded to a deserving individual on Oct. 10, 2017. To enter, send the name, address and phone number of the hopeful recipient to Advanced Audiology Concepts by midnight Sept. 15, 2017 or to enter on line and for complete contest rules go to

www.aacHEAR.org

