

Eric Melvin & Angelyne the Amazing DEAF Cattle Dog

Deaf Dog Inspiration and Basic Training Guide



www.ericandangelyne.com



Eric and Angelyne the Amazing DEAF Cattle Dog



“Eric & Angelyne the Amazing Deaf CattleDog”

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Eric & Angelyne Career Highlights

- Nationally recognized inspirational speakers / performing artists with over 500 public presentations & appearances through March 2018
- Headline entertainment and keynote speaker / presenters for animal rescues, non-profit groups, fundraisers, corporations and much more.
- Character education presentations for a wide variety of youth development programs
- First “special needs” dog to be featured on the cover of Mile High Dog Magazine - April / May 2012
- Featured author in the book – “Lost Souls: Found! Inspiring Stories about Herding Breed Dogs”
- Featured story in the children’s book – “Disabled Dogs” in the *Dog Heroes* series
- Featured author in the book – “Lost Souls: Found! Inspiring Stories about Pets with Disabilities”
- Featured author in the book – “Living with a Deaf Dog” 2nd edition
- Featured model for Sierra Trading Post pet products
- Finalist Subaru Pet Hall of Fame - 2015
- Featured speaker / presenter at local and national pet expos
- 4 gold medals in Doggie Olympics competitions
- 11 pet talent show victories (12 entered)
- Over 60 total cues (hand signs, touch, body language, smell, gestures, lights and vibrations)
- Numerous magazine and newspaper articles including 6 front page appearances
- Over 400 hours volunteered for various charitable events and organizations
- “Most Improved Team” – Puppy Obedience

Books Featuring Eric & Angelyne the Amazing DEAF Cattle Dog



Bookings, Training and Other Inquiries:

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Follow us on Facebook: “Eric and Angelyne the Amazing DEAF Cattle Dog”

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A Personal Note from Eric & Angelyne

“Having a deaf dog is a lot of work. There are no training shortcuts and you can’t be lazy with a deaf dog. You may work harder to train your deaf dog than you would with a hearing dog but don’t be surprised if it’s easier. The connection you could make with your deaf dog may prove to be stronger than any you’ve ever had with any dog. You may talk to your deaf dog at first and forever because you’re conditioned to think a dog should look at you or pay attention when you speak and that’s ok because most deaf dogs can read lips and facial expressions! Even after the communication between you and your deaf dog is strong you may continue to talk to him / her because you can and because you love him / her even more.

Life with a deaf dog may bring you doubts and stress and failures but committing your life to a deaf dog may prove to be the most rewarding and meaningful situation in your life. Knowing and accepting that your dog is not perfect should help you realize that he /she IS perfect just the way he /she is. One day you’ll understand what I mean. If you can see the big picture of your lives together then will you be able to commit wholeheartedly to your deaf dog. It’s your job to help your dog reach his / her potential and create the life and bond that you want for you both.

Most deaf dogs I’ve known hold a very intense bond with their owners. You alone are his / her only one, a bond to the world, to food, water and to protection and love and understanding. Deaf dogs don’t know they’re deaf. They think, act and behave like all other dogs but you have to think ahead for them for their safety, socialization and to protect socialize and train them to be great pets. I never had any experience with deaf dogs before Angelyne. Our bond and success and recognition happened through dedication, patience, consistency and lots of practice and love. All the same things you will need for your deaf dog. Who knew I had a superstar in Angelyne? Who knew I could handle this? I certainly didn’t think so in the beginning.

I did not teach Angelyne with American Sign Language (ASL). I created most of our cues (hand, facial and body language and touches, vibrations). I teach deaf and hearing dogs alike with Angelyne’s methods. I created our training system by thinking outside the box, by trial and error and by being a naturally creative person. The hardest thing about training a deaf dog is getting and keeping their attention. I have found our system to be easy, simple to learn and implement. Most importantly it makes sense for dogs especially because of the focus on bonding and positive reinforcement.

In the beginning of my life with Angelyne I felt the same way and had many of the same questions that many deaf dog owners have: Can I do this? Do I have time for this? Do I really want to struggle with another daily challenge? Should I give up and surrender my dog to a rescue? As time went on my bond with Angelyne grew and the questions soon became the foundation and mission of our purpose. I hope that our success and triumphs and model be an inspiration. I am honored to be an advocate and spokesperson for deaf dogs. I am grateful to share with you the experiences of the most rewarding and fulfilling part of my life; living with and sharing my life with Angelyne.

Belly rubs, and best wishes always,

Eric Melvin



Angelyne

I began writing the “Quiet Room” after learning about Angelyne’s deafness. It sat incomplete until we received our first invitation to perform for the children of the Rocky Mountain Deaf School (RMDEAF) where it was read for the first time and dedicated to their students on December 4, 2009. It has been presented countless times since as an inspirational memento for people of all ages and abilities and as a reminder to me that we may be different yet we’re all the same. I hope it will inspire you and your life and journey with your deaf dog as it has for us and many others.

The Quiet Room

To most it may seem like I exist with no sound
I do not live in a quiet room, I’m always around
My world is filled with laughter, senses and sight
Like you I have many experiences and daily delight
I do not lack anything for which I need to grow
I may not hear like you but I learn all I’m supposed to know
I hear with my eyes, my heart and my touch
I experience life with undeniable zest and with so much
Do not see me as different, special or with sadness
My world is full of amazement, light and gladness
When we see each other let us know we’re both ok
We will always see each other in our own unique way
We can both live, learn and exist the same
Neither you nor I live in a quiet room



First Appearance at Rocky Mountain Deaf School – Golden, CO 12-4-2009



Wednesday, December 8, 2010

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AFRICA BAGS FUNDRAISER TO REACH INTERNATIONAL BORDERS PAGES 12-14

LOVELAND MAN ARRESTED AFTER INTERNET SEX STING PAGE 5

Deaf pup treats students

Dog, owner surprise Monroe youths with presentation, show

BY CARL MCCUTCHEN
Loveland Connection

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When fourth-grader **Casey LaTulip** walked into **Marsha Dorr's** classroom for After School Group recently, she was not greeted by her usual classmates and mentors.

Instead, Casey was greeted Thursday at Monroe Elementary School by 5-year-old Angelyne, an Australian cattle dog, who shared a common trait with the young student.

Angelyne is deaf and Casey is hard of hearing, so the two made an instant connection.

"It let me know that humans weren't the only ones with hearing problems," Casey said. "Animals do, too."

Angelyne was visiting the after-school program, which meets twice a month at Monroe for hard-of-hearing and deaf students, as part of a program where her owner, Greeley resident **Eric Melvin**, travels across Colorado relaying the story of her life and her hearing loss.

Melvin, who adopted Angelyne a few years ago,

tells the story of how he didn't know Angelyne was deaf when he adopted her, and after finding out, he taught her more than 40 hand signals and nonverbal cues, many of which he displays during his presentation.

"I think when you have something special, you have to get it out there," Melvin said. "That's what I'm doing."

Thursday's presentation at Monroe was more unique than usual for Melvin because the majority of his audience was deaf or hard of hearing, but that didn't stop the students, most of which attend Monroe, from enjoying what Angelyne and Melvin had to offer.

In fact, Melvin said it might have helped the students appreciate Angelyne's situation a bit more knowing that much like them, she has had to adapt to life without hearing.



Dawn Madura For Loveland Connection

Brandon Wheeler, a deaf student at Monroe Elementary School, is greeted with a kiss as he meets Angelyne, an Australian cattle dog who also was born deaf. Deaf and hard-of-hearing students attended an after school presentation by Angelyne and her owner, **Eric Melvin**, on Thursday.

"A lot of those kids already understand that they might have a challenge they are facing and they might not know how to get past that challenge," Melvin said. "If they can see somebody else that has had challenges in their life or has

overcome that, I think that gives them a leg up. It gives them a little more inspiration; a little more hope to get through that."

For the students, having Angelyne visit was a treat.

While some students, like Casey, admired Angelyne for

her life situation, others, like Monroe kindergartner **Harry Reckase**, admired the dog's athletic ability, gloating about how Angelyne could jump through hoops and dance around.

See **DOG** / Page 3



SNOW PATROL

New equipment to make snow removal easier in the city.

PAGE 6



CHRISTMAS KICK OFF

Sheriff hosts annual holiday party.

PAGE 8

A Few Tips for Living with and Training Your Deaf Dog

- * Deaf dogs cannot hear hazardous things such as cars, weather, construction and wildlife. Please follow the leash law policies for the areas you live, work and play and travel. Build a sense of trust with your dog so she looks back at you frequently when given time off-leash. I use a 10 second rule with Angelyne. When off leash if she doesn't look back at me in 10 seconds I go to her and leash her.
- * Deaf dogs can communicate with more than just hand signs including body language, facial expressions, touch, lights and vibrations. The essentials are come, sit, stay, come, down, wait, lay, good, no and watch / focus. Please see the pictures of my hands as well as our videos on YouTube and our Facebook page for details.
- * Find what motivates your dog. When you find those things use them as training tools!
- * Be consistent in your communication and practice, practice, practice!
- * Buy a tag for your dog's collar that reads: I AM DEAF, the dogs name, your name and phone number
- * Place a bell on your dog's collar so you can hear and find her easily if she's out of sight
- * Use flashlights, treats, fans, laser pointers and vibrations to get your dogs attention
- * Let your dog know when you are leaving the room or house so not to startle and confuse
- * Wake a deaf dog gently. Use a piece of food at first to make it a positive experience. Be sure that you are the first thing your dog sees / smells when she opens her eyes. I pet Angelyne on the side of her head softly with one hand while I give her "thumbs up" with the other hand as she opens her eyes. Some deaf dogs may bite, startle or jump when you wake them. That can be avoided with training.
- * Arrange furniture around the perimeter of room with the center open so your deaf dog can see everything in the room at all times so not to startle or surprise when your or a guest enters the room.
- * Keep all cleaning / automotive chemicals, medicines, food or other items up high, or in areas / cabinets / closets that the dog cannot get to. Many deaf dogs can smell stronger than hearing dogs and sometimes search out those items out of curiosity, hunger or boredom.
- * Leave a light on in your house when you leave and your deaf dog is there alone. Deaf dogs are sensitive to light. When they see changes in light, shadows and darkness they may become startled. Light is good for deaf dogs because it can help build their confidence and comfort level.
- * Don't leave toys or food out when you leave. You won't be able to supervise them and protect them from chewing / playing and possibly choking.
- * In new and familiar places shut doors to rooms you don't want your dog going to. Deaf dogs wander based on smell and curiosity. If deaf dogs don't see us they get anxious. Keep your dog close and don't allow them to wander into areas where you can't see them. When in doubt use the leash!
- * Once you have developed a bond with your dog and she knows the way around the house play hide and seek with him / her. I trained Angelyne to be able to find me based on my scent when I leave a room. Most of the time I let Angelyne know when I'm leaving a room but other times I don't so I can test her ability to trace my scent. Once she found me I would give her a treat in the beginning until she

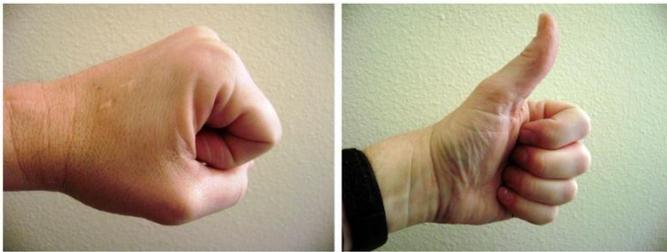
knew she was doing a good thing to come and find me. Now when I'm not in her sight she comes to look for me every time!

Basic Signals Used to Train Angelyne and Deaf and Hearing Dogs

Focus – flat, open hand to closed hand like a fist. All our commands begin from the “focus” position



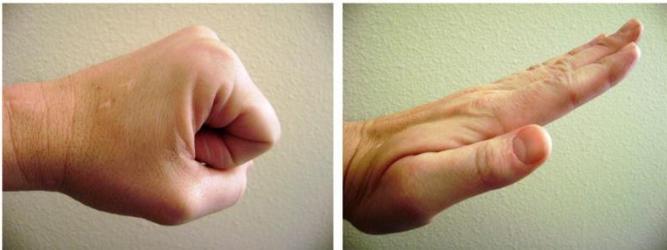
Good / hello / everything is ok - thumbs up



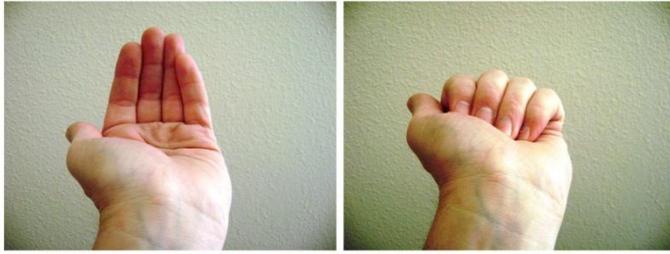
Sit - Thumbs down



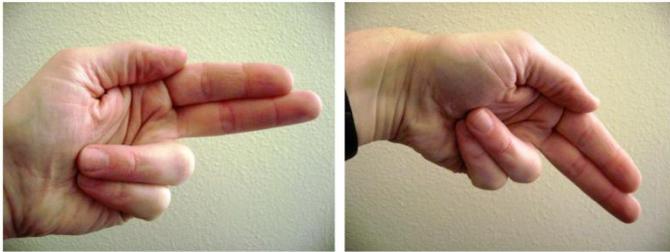
Wait - Flat hand opened so dog can see your palm



Come (up close) – opposite of focus. Open hand, palm up to closed hand like a fist



Lay – two fingers slapped or pointed towards the ground



More advanced signals and cues are available through our training sessions and at our shows.

« **DEAF DOG** jumps through hoops to inspire others

A LANGUAGE ALL THEIR OWN

ANGELYNE, AN AUSTRALIAN CATTLE DOG, leaps through a hoop while performing with her owner, Eric Melvin. Angelyne was born deaf and responds to more than 40 hand signals and nonverbal commands.

JIM RYDBOM / rydbom@greeleytribune.com

Greeley Tribune 11-29-09

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