



OUR ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

The recipient-service monkey partnership is an interactive relationship. Our recipients must be able to direct the care and behavior of their service animal, and follow guidelines in training, health, and diet for their monkey in order to be successful in our program. The applicant must:

- 1 Be at least one year post-injury or post-diagnosis.
- 2 Identify a reliable caregiver or family member who agrees to assist in the daily care of the monkey.
- 3 Spend most of his/her time at home.
- 4 Have sufficient motor ability to control a manual or electric wheelchair.
- 5 Have unimpaired cognitive function.
- 6 Be responsible and mature (and over the age of 18).
- 7 Be able to communicate verbally and in English.
- 8 Not have children under the age of 12 living in the home.
- 9 Show motivation and commitment to apply for and provide long term care for a service animal.
- 10 Demonstrate patience, adaptability—and have a sense of humor.

Please note that the presence of certain impairments may disqualify an applicant from receiving a monkey helper:

- Significant psychiatric or emotional impairments
- Individuals who are ventilator dependent
- Blindness
- Deafness
- Heart conditions or seizures



TRAVIS AND SIGGY'S STORY

Ever since the events of 9/11, Travis knew he wanted to join the armed forces to serve his country. His dream of becoming a SEAL was dashed when it was discovered that he had a severe shoulder injury. After his discharge he moved to New Orleans.

His life changed in an instant when he was out with his friends, fell from a building, and broke his neck. His family transferred him to a hospital back home in California.

In October 2015, Travis started his new chapter with Siggie: "Mornings are now my favorite time of the day, to wake up and have Siggie on my lap. We put on some tunes, sit in the sun, and just soak in some rays. When she grooms my hair it's such a special experience because I don't have any sensation from the shoulders down. I can feel her when she sits on my shoulder, and wraps her tail around my neck—music, warmth, and companionship all in one. This is exactly what I was hoping for—everything I could have asked for."



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www.monkeyhelpers.org

**Service Animals for Adults Living
with Spinal Cord Injuries
and Other Mobility Impairments**

www.monkeyhelpers.org



ABOUT HELPING HANDS: MONKEY HELPERS

Since 1979, Helping Hands: Monkey Helpers for the Disabled, Inc. has been serving adults with spinal cord injuries and other mobility impairments by matching them with a professionally trained service monkey to provide in-home assistance with daily tasks.

Helping Hands service monkeys bring more than just a willing set of nimble hands to their recipients. They also bring the emotional benefit of the human-animal bond. Our work encompasses all aspects of this service:

- We raise, train, and match the monkeys with carefully chosen recipients
- We provide extensive coaching and customized in-home training at the start of each placement
- We oversee each monkey's lifelong behavioral, nutritional, and medical needs
- We provide ongoing active support and mentoring for every partnership and retain ownership of each animal throughout his/her life



WHY A MONKEY?

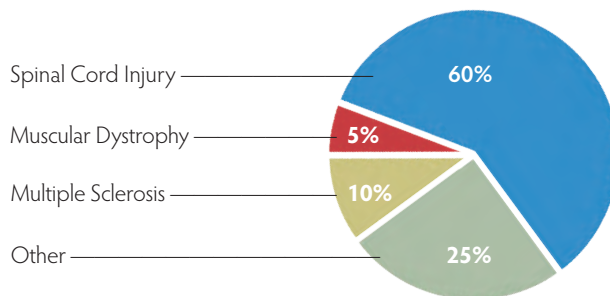
Helping Hands service monkeys are highly trained and uniquely able to perform certain tasks that no other service animal can accomplish. Capuchin monkeys are a great match for our clients because of their small size (6-9 pounds as adults), dexterous hands, fine motor skills, and long life span. Our monkeys are trained to:

- Retrieve dropped or out of reach objects
- Turn on/off light switches/push buttons for TVs, computers, and other electronics
- Help with a drink of water
- Turn pages of a book or magazine
- Scratch itches
- Reposition limbs on a wheelchair

Equally important to all of our recipients is the companionship, joy, and laughter that our monkeys provide which can help alleviate feelings of loneliness and depression.

WHO WE SERVE

The following is a breakdown of our active placements throughout the U.S.



Our service monkeys are placed at **no cost** with recipients—all of our work is supported by individual donors and foundation grants.

“Nothing is going to undo the trauma. But the monkey can help not only focus on the present but on the future, on what we’re going to do tomorrow.”

– Alan Moy Sooho, MD, Chief of Staff, Retired; VA Medical Center



HOW TO REFER A PATIENT OR CLIENT

Helping Hands service monkeys are trained to help adults living with paralysis due to injury or illness if the patient also:

- Has unimpaired cognitive function
- Lives in an independent home environment (often with the assistance of family or caregivers)
- Requires help with everyday tasks within his or her home
- Would welcome the emotional benefits of the human-animal bond

If you are interested in learning more about our program or have questions about a specific patient's eligibility to apply, please visit:

www.monkeyhelpers.org

or contact:

Anne Lawrence, LICSW, Social Worker
at 617-787-4419 x130 or annel@monkeyhelpers.org

We have partnered with staff and patients from renowned spinal cord injury and rehabilitation centers throughout the country, including Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital, The Shepherd Center, and Craig Hospital. We welcome your inquiries and referrals.