

Sampson



Sampson graduated at the top of his class with a service dog degree in February of 2017 from the training organization Paws Giving Independence located in Peoria, Illinois. Sampson has been training to be a service dog since he was 8-weeks of age, with a concentration in mobility, balance and medical alert. Sampson successfully completing his Public Access Test, which is accredited by Assistance Dogs International, in 2017. He was placed with his handler and partner Joey Ramp in February of 2017 and works daily to provide her with the independence needed to pursue a degree in Neuroscience. He and Joey started in Rhodes Lab in the summer of 2017 as Undergraduate Research Assistants. Sampson was the first service dog at the University of Illinois to be granted access to a+ Molecular and Physiology research laboratory as well as a Behavioral Genetics and Neuroscience

research laboratory in the institutions 150-year history. He will be the lead service dog in a 2-year study on the impact a service dog has on laboratory rodent physiology and behavior. Broadly, aside from his daily dedication to assisting Joey, his outside interests are focused on playing fetch, napping, rolling in the grass, and snacking on peanut butter flavored treats.

Laboratory Experience

1. Rhanor Gillette Molecular and Integrative Physiology Laboratory. Department of Molecular and Cellular Biology, University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana. Summer 2017
2. Rhodes Lab. Beckman Institute, University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana. 2017-present

Awards

1. 2018 Service Dog of the Year: American Kennel Club Humane Fund Awards for Canine Excellence
2. American Humane Hero Dog Award. 2018 Top 3 finalist