

## Human-Animal Bond Matching Game

**Objective:** To provide participants the opportunity to experience what it is like to have a disability and how animals improve the lives of humans.

### **Activity Directions:**

- Step 1: Photocopy “humans” sheet on one color of paper.
- Step 2: Photocopy “pets” sheet on a different color of paper.
- Step 3: Cut out each slip of paper for human’s disabilities, fold each, and put them in a small paper bag.\*
- Step 4: Cut out each slip of paper for pets’ helping roles, fold each, and put them in different small paper bag.\*
- Step 5: Divide the class in half.
- *Group 1 will be the “humans” with a specific disability or need.*
- *Group 2 will be the “pets” that will help the humans through their disability.*
- Step 6: Give the bag of “human’s disabilities” slips to that group.
- Step 7: Give the bag of “pets’ helping roles” to that group.
- Step 8: Have each person in each group draw a slip of paper.
- Step 9: When all participants have a slip, set the timer, and give them 5 minutes to go forge a human-animal bond!
- Humans should ask themselves, “what type of service/support animal do I need to help me with my disability?”.
- Options would be a service animal, therapy animal, or emotional support animal.
- Humans and pets should “find” each other by matching their disability with a pet that can help them.
- More than one “pet” may be capable of helping more than one human in the group, but only one match is needed.
- Time permitting, once humans and pets have formed their human-animal bond, have partners share out about the experience.
- \* A fun idea would be to decorate each small paper bag with the theme of “humans with disabilities” and “pets helping humans”.

### **Materials List:**

- Human-Animal Bond Matching Game Hunt directions and game slips (24 ea role)
- 2 small paper bags, any color
- Scissors
- 2 different colored paper 8.5 x 11
- Flip chart paper w/ markers OR white board w/markers for group share-out

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**Human Disability Slips (24)**

<p><b>chronic medical condition called narcolepsy</b> – fall asleep often, especially in relaxing settings, which can be dangerous if it is out in public; a service animal will help keep watch for you and alert you when you are at risk</p>	<p><b>hearing impaired;</b> having an alert service canine companion will help you feel safe</p>	<p><b>prison inmate;</b> life-sentence; you want to give back; go find your canine companion that you can work with in a special rehabilitation training program</p>
<p><b>PTSD</b> from serving several tours in the military in a war zone; having difficulty acclimating to civilian life; having flashbacks; having difficulty with relationships; your perfect canine service companion with whom you can form a deep bond, is out there waiting for you!</p>	<p><b>sight-impaired;</b> a seeing-eye-dog is just what you need! go find your perfect service canine match!</p>	<p><b>schizophrenia;</b> difficulty with social interactions; a therapy animal is out there waiting for you to help you to re-engage in personal interactions</p>
<p><b>severe depression,</b> with suicidal ideologies; having difficulty finding a reason to live, a purpose for life; go find your emotional support canine companion that will give you purpose and can help you through this rough patch in your life</p>	<p><b>seizure disorder;</b> go find your canine service companion that can help keep you safe and watch over you during a seizure</p>	<p>you are a <b>paraplegic,</b> paralyzed from the waist down; you are looking for a service animal that can help pull your wheelchair if you get stuck, and can be your companion for life; go find your canine match!</p>
<p><b>recovering from brain surgery,</b> from a rare form of brain cancer; enduring long hospital stay; very down from all the medications, isolation, strange setting, etc.; a therapy dog is out there to cheer you up!</p>	<p><b>partial paralysis</b> as a result of a car crash; you are paralyzed from the waist down, so often need help retrieving items that you can't reach or that have dropped; go find the perfect service canine companion that can help you</p>	<p>you are extremely <b>allergic</b> to some airborne particles and to many things in foods such as peanuts, tree nuts, soy, &amp; wheat; your specially trained service dog is out there waiting for you; a lifeline to help you lead a more normal life</p>

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<p><b>hurricane victim</b> suffering from PTSD after surviving a category 5 hurricane; witnessed much loss of life; can't sleep; having difficulty returning to work and functioning in life; a therapy dog will help you heal</p>	<p><b>psychiatric disease</b> with manifestations of sometimes violent outbursts; a canine companion is out there waiting for you; your service animal can get you back on track when you are having a violent episode</p>	<p>you have an extreme <b>panic disorder</b>; you are looking for a service canine companion that can be with you wherever you go; especially in public places, when flying, etc.; your service animal will try to prevent a panic attack from happening, or help you through one if it happens</p>
<p><b>victim of human trafficking</b>; having difficulty trusting others; suffering from fear, isolation, panic attacks; go find your perfect therapy canine companion to help you trust again</p>	<p><b>long-term care rehab patient</b>; recovering from hip surgery; depression and loneliness is setting in; a wonderful therapy animal is out there waiting for you!</p>	<p>you are an <b>earthquake survivor</b>; in the first days after the quake you are having difficulty sleeping; are fearful of staying inside buildings; go find a therapy animal that help calm your fears and provide comfort after this traumatic event</p>
<p><b>autistic person</b>; difficulty forming social relationships and bonds; low-moderate verbal communication skills; difficulty showing emotion; the perfect ESA is out there to help you build a connection</p>	<p><b>depressed, lonely, anxious; overwhelmed by life</b>; an EAS is out there to help you feel better, calm your anxiety, and give you something to love and care for</p>	<p>you are a <b>survivor of a massive wildfire</b> that destroyed hundreds of homes in your community, including yours; you witnessed animals fleeing; you know community members who were lost in the fire; a therapy animal will help you cope with all you have been through</p>
<p><b>lost a limb in an IED explosion</b> when serving in the military overseas; depressed; severe anxiety disorder; looking for a purpose to live; the perfect service dog match is out there to help you</p>	<p><b>survivor of a mass shooting</b>; suffering from trauma, anxiety, fear; a therapy animal will make you feel better</p>	<p>you have a <b>rare sensory disorder</b> – you cannot sense or feel heat; your skilled service dog is out there to help you navigate the world and keep you safe</p>

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**Pet Slips - Service, Therapy, ESA (24 slips)**

<p><b>service dog</b>          your specialty is helping with people who have <b>narcolepsy</b>; if your human companion starts to fall asleep in a public place, you will alert them to wake up</p>	<p><b>service dog</b>          you have been assigned a very important role; to assist a human who is <b>hearing impaired</b>; you will help your human companion by hearing what they can't hear; you will keep them safe and make them feel safe in their world without sound</p>	<p><b>service dog</b>          you have a special assignment; you will be working with a <b>prison inmate</b>; they have a life-sentence for a crime they committed; they want to give back and have been selected to help train you for service to others; by helping to train you, they will find a little piece of themselves again, and help others who need you; go find your new human companion that you can work with in this special rehabilitation training program</p>
<p><b>service dog</b>          your specialty is helping <b>veterans who suffer from PTSD</b>; when you sense they are having a flashback, you can get their attention, distracting them from the flashback; you can help build trust and alleviate fear that they are feeling</p>	<p><b>service dog</b>          you have been assigned one of the most important jobs a dog can do; assist a human who is <b>sight-impaired</b>; a seeing-eye-dog is just what they need! YOU are just what they need! go find your human match and change a life today!</p>	<p><b>therapy animal</b>          your human has been diagnosed with <b>schizophrenia</b>; they have difficulty with social interactions, plus many fears/phobias; as a specially trained therapy animal you can help them focus, be calm, and re-engage in life</p>
<p><b>emotional support animal (ESA)</b>          your human companion suffers from <b>severe depression</b>; they are trying to find a reason to live; you will give them purpose in life, something special to care for; you can help them find joy and happiness in life</p>	<p><b>service dog</b>          a human is coming to find you; they need your help; they live with a <b>seizure disorder</b>; they need you to help them during and after a seizure; you and specially trained to assist and get help as needed; you will make such a difference in their life</p>	<p><b>service dog</b>          your human is a <b>paraplegic</b>, paralyzed from the waist down; they need a specially trained service dog like you that can help pull their wheelchair if they get stuck, and to be their companion for life; go find your human match!</p>

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<p><b>therapy animal in a hospital</b> you have been assigned to a hospital to help a <b>long-term patient</b> who is recovering from major brain surgery, after being diagnosed with a rare form of brain cancer; your job will be to cheer them up, help the “blues” go away!</p>	<p><b>service dog</b> you have been assigned to assist a human who has <b>partial paralysis</b> as a result of a car crash; they are paralyzed from the waist down, so often need help retrieving items they can't reach or that they have dropped; go find your human and see how you can help them, from this day forward; they need you</p>	<p><b>service dog</b> you are a very specially trained service dog that can help identify <b>allergens</b> for a human who is particularly sensitive to some airborne particles and to many things in foods such as peanuts, tree nuts, soy, &amp; wheat; you have been trained to smell the allergens and alert your human to their presence; go find your human and forge this important, life-saving bond</p>
<p><b>disaster stress relief dog</b> your human is suffering from <b>PTSD</b> after surviving a category 5 hurricane; they witnessed much loss of life; can't sleep; they are having difficulty returning to work and functioning in life; a visit with you once or twice a week will help them heal from this traumatic experience</p>	<p><b>service animal</b> your human is suffering from <b>psychiatric disease with manifestations of sometimes violent outbursts</b>; they need you to sense when they are going to have an episode and try to prevent it with a nudge and a distraction; you will help them through the tough days and be there in the good and bad times</p>	<p><b>service animal</b> your human has an extreme <b>panic disorder</b>; they are looking for a service canine companion that can be with them wherever they go; especially in public places, when flying, etc.; you can help them by distracting them when you sense a panic attack about to happen, or help them through one if it happens</p>
<p><b>therapy dog</b> you are a therapy dog that has been trained to help a <b>victim of human trafficking</b> who has endured much pain, fear, sadness, and loneliness; they thought they would never be rescued; your job will be to connect with them and help them through fear; help them trust again</p>	<p><b>therapy animal</b> your human is a <b>long-term care rehab patient</b>; they are recovering from hip surgery; depression and loneliness is setting in; they need a wonderful therapy animal like you to cheer them up and keep them company</p>	<p><b>therapy animal</b> your human has survived a <b>catastrophic earthquake</b>; in the first days after the quake your human has been having difficulty sleeping; is fearful of staying inside buildings; is having difficulty coping with this life-changing event; go find your human and comfort them; help them feel safe again</p>

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<p><b>emotional support animal (ESA)</b>          you are the perfect canine companion to help a <b>young autistic person</b> who has difficulty forming social relationships and bonds; they have low-moderate verbal communication skills and difficulty showing emotion; you will help them make a connection</p>	<p><b>emotional support animal (ESA)</b>          your human is suffering from <b>depression, loneliness, and anxiety; they are overwhelmed by life</b>; you will be able to make them feel better, calm their anxiety with your presence, and give them something to love and care for</p>	<p><b>therapy animal</b>          you have been brought to a community to help a human who has suffered from a <b>devastating and massive wildfire</b>; their home and many others were destroyed in the fire; they witnessed much tragedy; a therapy animal is just what they need to help them cope with all they have been through</p>
<p><b>service animal</b>          your human <b>lost a limb in an IED explosion</b>, when serving in the military overseas; they are suffering from depression, an anxiety disorder, and are struggling to find a reason to live, a purpose in life; you will help rebuild their confidence, give them purpose, and build a bond that will last a lifetime!</p>	<p><b>therapy animal</b>          a human is out there looking for you; they are the <b>survivor of a mass shooting</b>; they are suffering from trauma, anxiety, fear; you will be able to make them feel better; alleviate their fear; help them re-engage in life</p>	<p><b>service dog</b>          your human has a <b>rare sensory disorder</b> – they cannot sense or feel heat; your skills are needed to help them navigate the world and keep them safe so they don't burn themselves; things like hot water and hot pans could cause them great harm; you will improve their life by leaps and bounds!</p>