One side effect of having an autism spectrum disorder is that I can get overloaded in busy environments or those with a lot of sensory input (noise, colors, fluorescent lights, etc). Caden also provides deep pressure to help me calm down and prevent me from having a meltdown.

**GUIDE DOG Dalmatian**

“I have finally found the perfect partner”, says legally blind owner Christi Bone. “I was born with a rare eye disease, retrolental fibroplasia, and combined with complications have subsequently left me legally blind. While like most blind people I do have a small amount of residual vision, it’s not enough to let me function normally without help.” DIVA ~ JLS My Queen Is Back CGC (L), is proving to be the right dog for Christi and Guide Dog work. Christi explains “Guide dogs react to directional word cues to help steer their partner. I decide where I want to go and know the route but my dog has significant input on how we get there – we work as a team. My dog needs to pull lightly in harness while steering around pedestrians, ground obstacles like fire hydrants, indicate stair step dimensions smoothly, respond to changes in ground surface such as inclines or gravel, navigate overhead awnings and intelligent disobedience which is refusing a direct command if it may place the team in danger, such as refusing to cross the street when there is oncoming traffic after the dog has been commanded to cross. My dog will help find an empty seat, an elevator, a door, a particular vehicle or a specific person. My partner must have appropriate public manners, and generally be unflappable and look to me for direction while being able to think and act independently and scan surroundings to determine a clear path.”

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