

5321 Plaza Lane
Wichita, KS 67208

January 17, 2009

Mr. Mitch Shapiro
Foundation for Sight and Sound
PO Box 1245
Smithtown NY 11787.

Dear Mr. Shapiro:

I am writing to you as a member of the Board of Directors of the Guide Dog Foundation and as a graduate of the foundation. I have worked with a guide dog for forty years.

I received my trekker in June, 2006 and found it incredibly exciting to learn of the many points of interest I passed without being aware of their existence.

The value of the Trekker, however, goes far beyond this. With trekker, it is possible to learn very important attributes present in your environment that bear directly on safety. This is especially true when traveling in unfamiliar territory. You know when you are approaching a crossing and whether it goes completely in front of you or terminates on your path of travel. It is much easier to travel through unknown neighborhoods since you can get enough information to know exactly where you are. It is almost impossible to get lost, something easy to do when you occasionally find yourself daydreaming. You can plan efficient routes to new destinations, making traveling to different cities much less stressful.

It has also made an impact on how me and my canine partner interact. She has come to recognize the alert tone signaling an upcoming intersection and has been more precise than before Trekker in stopping in exactly the same point on the curve. This is important for me, living in Wichita, as we travel through many neighborhoods void of sidewalks, necessitating walking along the shoreline of the street. This means that there is no curb at the end of the block but only the curve of the curbstone.

I could go on but I hope I have already been able to convey the importance of Trekker in improving the ease and safety of travel and to express my appreciation to your organization for assisting in making this opportunity available.

With warmest regards, I remain,

Sincerely yours,



Sanford J. Alexander