

# Introduction

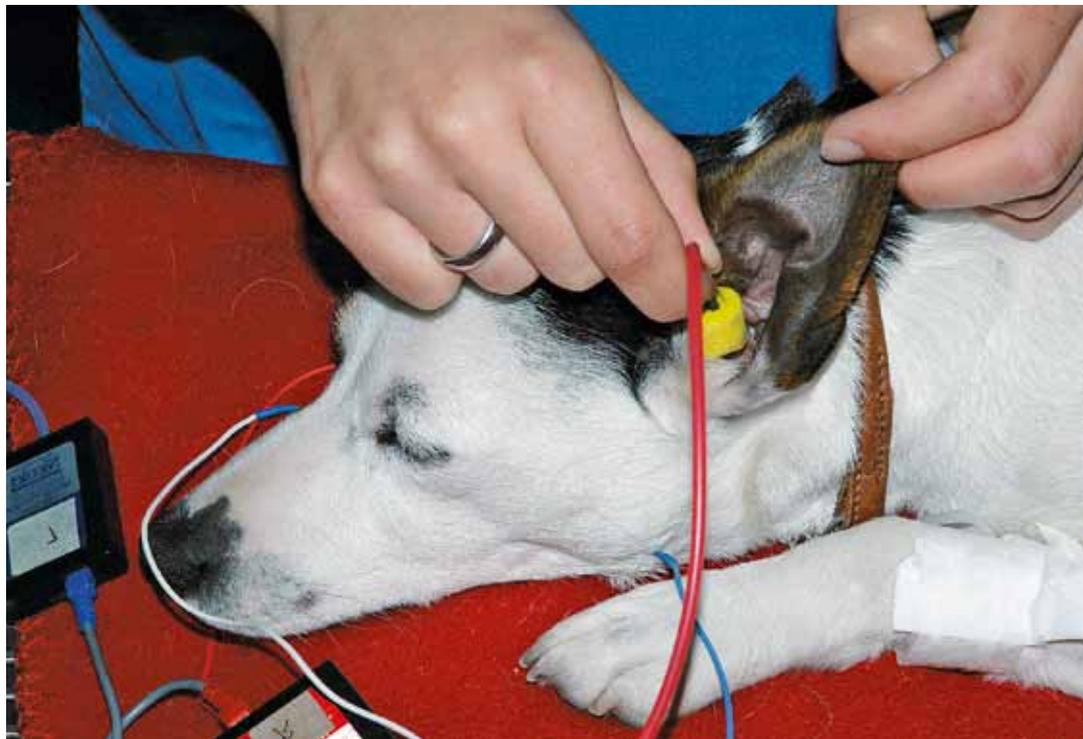
On 23 May 2002, our dog, Chocolate, was born as one of nine puppies near Lübeck, in Germany. To search for our puppy, we decided to use a website dedicated to helping Dalmatians in need. Chocolate's breeder had advertised the puppy on this website ([dalmatiner-in-not.de](http://dalmatiner-in-not.de)) because she thought that because of Chocolate's deafness, this website would be an especially good place for her.

Since we already had a Dalmatian dog named Jack, the decision to take on a new puppy was relatively quick, and Chocolate moved in with us. Despite her deafness, she developed like any other puppy: she attended puppy classes, and successfully completed a training course at dog school. Instead of responding to vocal commands, Chocolate responded to hand signals, learning new



*Jack and Chocolate meet for the first time.*

commands with obvious pleasure. Sometimes she got so excited she would perform her whole repertoire of tricks for just one treat! However,



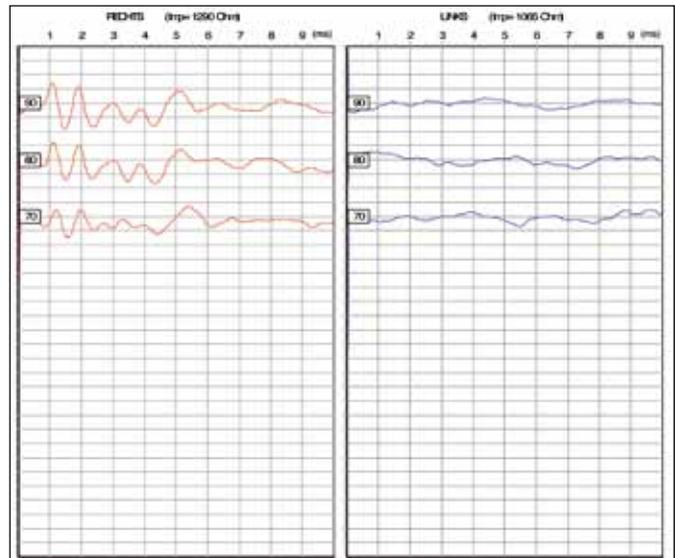
..... *but lives life to the full!*



Top left: In order to obtain an accurate result, the patient must keep very still, and so is either sedated or anaesthetised.

Bottom left: Three to four electrodes are attached to the dog's head, to measure the amplitudes.

Above: Using a clicking noise over earphones, the vet stimulates the auditory nerve.



This audiometry result shows that the dog is deaf on one side only.



*If Chocolate's owner places his palm parallel to the ground, she knows it's time to lie down.*

*If we want Chocolate to heel, we tap the palm of the hand on the thigh.*

close to your foot. Keep the lead short and signal to your dog by tapping with the palm of your hand on your left leg, showing him that you have now begun. The tapping is the hand signal for 'heel.' Walk a few small steps and ask him to sit again. Praise him if he remains close to you during these first few steps. You shouldn't feel any tugging on the lead during the command, and cover very, very short distances initially, otherwise you run the risk of your companion being distracted by passers-by, noise, or other animals. If he manages small distances



*but lives life to the full!*

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without too much trouble, you can gradually extend these.

### Stay!

The 'Stay!' command is also useful for everyday situations.

Begin the exercise by asking him to sit or lie down, and then combine that command with 'stay!' the hand signal for which is to bend your arm and raise your hand, palm outward. Back away slowly one or two steps. Praise him profusely if he remains where he is. Let him stay there for a while (a short time at first). Your ultimate goal is, of course, that your dog remains where he is, even when he can no longer see you.

### No!

Dogs can get themselves into all sorts of trouble. Sometimes it's the furniture that suffers, or a pair of shoes lying on the floor, or food that has been left unattended. When this happens, it's very useful to be able to signal to your dog that this behaviour is not acceptable, and the following hand signal will help you deal with bad behaviour.

Bend the arm at the elbow so that the lower arm is a right angles to your body, palm facing downward. Move the lower arm from side to side, keeping the palm facing down. Whenever your dog is doing something he should not, immediately get his attention and



*The two parts of the sign for 'stay close.'*

