

Wheels help us move around



Hello! I'm **Invincible Vinny**. I found out something very interesting about wheels I want to share with you. Wheels were invented a very long time ago. We use wheels for many things - on our bicycles, cars and toys. There's another important way that we use wheels to help people and animals.

This is my friend, Ranger. His rear legs aren't able to hold up his body. So when he moves, he crawls on the floor. Unless, he's wearing his wheels! His wheels let him walk, go on hikes, run and chase his favorite toys! Do you see how he wears a special harness to hold the wheels in the right place so he can run and play?



Ranger gets excited when he puts on his wheels because they will help him to be able to go fast and move easily. He moves his front legs to walk or run, and the wheels let the rest of his body move forward easily. When Ranger is tired and wants to lie down, his person takes the wheels off so he can be comfortable in his dog bed. Ranger is a very happy dog!



People may use wheels attached to chairs. These are called wheelchairs. There is a seat for a person to sit on. Sometimes the wheels on the chair are big so the person can push the wheels with their hands to make the chair move. Some of these wheelchairs also have handles on the back for a friend to help push the chair if needed. It's important not to help push someone's wheelchair unless that person asks you to. It's polite to wait until you are asked.

Other wheelchairs have small wheels. These wheelchairs are motorized and run with large batteries. A person sits in the chair and uses a joystick to move the chair. Some wheelchairs have a seat that moves up and down as well to help a person reach something up high.





Wheelchairs can help people when they need extra help moving around easily. Do you know someone who uses or has used a wheelchair?

Some people who use wheelchairs may have special dogs helping them. These are called service dogs. I have some friends who are service dogs.

Service dogs can be different sizes or colors of dogs. Many of them will wear a special jacket that shows they are special dogs and are allowed to go in places that pet dogs aren't able to go.

Service dogs do tasks to help the person using the wheelchair. It can be difficult to pick up things that drop on the floor when you're sitting in a chair. A dog can help by picking up what was dropped and giving it to the person.



It might also be challenging to pull open a door when sitting in a chair with wheels. A service dog can pull open a door by holding a strap connected to the door in its mouth. There are many things a service dog can do to help a person using a wheelchair.

It is important if you see a service dog to remember that the dog is doing an important job. Please don't talk to or pet the dog. This might distract him from doing his job to help his person.



The next time you see a person or an animal using wheels, remember how important wheels are to help us move around easily. Wheels can help us all be able to do the things we like to do more easily!

Ranger's picture courtesy of Rescued Rollers

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www.yourinnerdog.com