



Dr. Biehl removes Sita's vest so that Northridge Elementary 2<sup>nd</sup> Grader Kennedy Engi can pet Sita

## There once was a beautiful yellow lab mix dog that was homeless and wandering the streets in Springfield, Ohio...

...and so begins the real-life story of Sita, a truly courageous and loving dog. In her book, "Hear To Bump and Bump To Hear," Dr. Jane Biehl describes Sita's remarkable journey from wandering the streets of Springfield to becoming her faithful companion. But Sita became more than that, she became Dr. Biehl's ears! You see, Dr. Biehl has had a hearing loss since she was very young.

The second grade students at Northridge Elementary School had the privilege of meeting Sita and Dr. Biehl on Wednesday, March 14th. She came at the invitation of her friend, Ms. Ruth Fisher, a Northeastern Local Intervention Specialist.

Sita is now Dr. Biehl's "*Hearing Ear Dog*." When Sita and Dr. Biehl entered the classroom, Sita walked obediently by Dr. Biehl's side and was wearing an orange vest, indicating that she was on duty and working, and that she was a dog that had been trained to help individuals who were hearing impaired.

After introducing herself and Sita to the class, Dr. Biehl read her children's book, *Hear To Bump and Bump To Hear* to the second graders. The students sat and listened intently to the amazing story about Sita, and as quietly and still as the children sat and listened, so did Sita!

The students heard how Sita began her life abandoned, left to wander the streets of Springfield, until a stranger picked her up and took her to an animal shelter. At the shelter, Sita's life took a turn for the better. Ms. Marlys Staly, the Executive Director of *Circle Tail*, a non-profit organization located in Warren County, took an interest in Sita and removed her from the shelter. *Circle Tail* provides (at no cost) services for hearing impaired people and one of those services is Hearing Ear Dogs. Noticing Sita's calm disposition, Ms. Staly knew that Sita would be an excellent candidate to train as an Assistant Dog.

Ms. Staly brought Sita to a woman named Tracy who lovingly began teaching Sita how to become a Hearing Ear Dog. Sita was also enrolled in Circle Tail's Inmate/Canine Education Program where she lived and was trained by a prison inmate. When her training at the prison was complete, and it was time for Sita to leave, her inmate trainer

Steve wrote that “he had set out to teach Sita how to become a better dog, but instead, she trained him to become a better person.”

Sita then went to another foster home where she needed to learn how to “Bump”. Bumping is the way hearing ear dogs signal their owners about important noises such as a doorbell, a telephone, an oncoming car, a smoke alarm, and much more. The dog “bumps” or nudges their deaf owner to alert them of the noises they cannot hear, keeping them safe.



Sita is shown bumping her owner's leg. It is her way of alerting her owner to various noises, which her owner cannot hear, keeping her safe.

At the same time Sita was ready to be partnered with an owner, Dr. Jane Biehl was ready for a hearing ear dog! It wasn't until a close friend of Dr. Biehl's did not hear an intruder inside her own home that Jane became more acutely aware that a dog would be important for her own safety. She visited Circle Tail near Cincinnati and the instant the handler placed Sita's leash into Jane's hand, she knew this was the dog for her! She instantly fell in love with Sita! Because of Sita's many transfers from home to home, it took Sita about 6 months to finally settle in and realize that Jane was hers to keep! The two are inseparable and Sita will remain with Jane for the rest of her life! Sita has become Jane's loyal companion and stays by her side at all times.

*Dr. Jane Biehl, has her doctorate in Counseling and is currently teaching Introduction to Deaf Culture and Introduction to Interpretation as an Adjunct Professor at Stark State College in North Canton, Ohio. The adventures of Sita in this beautifully written book for children, “Here to Bump, Bump to Hear” teaches children awareness about individuals living with disabilities through the patient and loving eyes of an assistant dog named Sita. You can find Dr. Biehl's book through Happy Tails Books and Amazon. To learn more about Circle Tail, please visit [www.circletail.org](http://www.circletail.org) or call 513-877-3325.*



*Dr. Jane Biehl demonstrates to Northridge Second Graders how Sita, her Hearing Ear Dog will pick up her keys and bring them to her if she accidentally drops them and cannot hear that they have been dropped. After reading her book, “Here to Bump and Bump to Hear”, Dr. Biehl removes Sita's orange working vest letting children know she is off duty and can be petted. 2<sup>nd</sup> Grader Abby Dickens enjoys petting Sita!*