

Helpers Helping Hands is a non-profit organisation that breeds, raises and trains capuchin monkeys to provide daily assistance to people living with spinal cord injuries. At the age of 5–10 years, they are taken into foster homes to get used to living side by side with humans. During the training process, which lasts 3–4 years, each monkey masters simple everyday activities such as helping with the use of telephones, opening a bottle and Helping Hands is a non-profit organisation that breeds, raises and trains capuchin monkeys to provide daily assistance to people living with spinal cord injuries. The monkeys are specially bred at Southwick Zoo in Massachusetts. This species is quite small, weighing about 6–10 pounds and reaching a height of 15 inches. Their lifespan of 30–40 years allows them long careers as assistance animals. Because they are intelligent, adaptable and sociable, they make perfect partners to humans, lending a hand and offering companionship. In the same way as guide dogs provide eyes to the blind, Helping Hands monkeys provide hands to individuals with physical disabilities, more specifically, those who are quadriplegic.