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Amid some skepticism, a pit bull serves as a hearing dog

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VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. (AP) - Jeff Hayman's hearing dog has some people talking.

Bob Marley is 1 of the most unusual hearing dogs in the country and, to some, a controversial one. Marley is a pit bull.

Like any good hearing dog, Marley knows to wake his owner by nudging or jumping on him when he hears certain sounds. This month, Hayman completed the last session in a 13-week course at Tidewater K-9 Academy to turn his muscular, 54-pound companion into a certified hearing dog.

Some hearing dog advocates worry about the public reception of a pit bull as a hearing dog because of their aggressive reputation.

But those close to Marley say he's a sweetheart and a great help to Hayman.

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