

Paws

for thought

AGM
Newsletter
Summer 2016



Reg. Charity No. 1098619

News from the Annual General meeting 2016 of Dog Assistance in Disability



Sandra Fraser
Chairperson



Stephen Jordan
Executive Committee



Caroline Lewis
Executive Committee



Jim Devlin
Treasurer

Your new Trustees and Committee members



Margaret Russell
Secretary



Peta Brandwood
Executive Committee



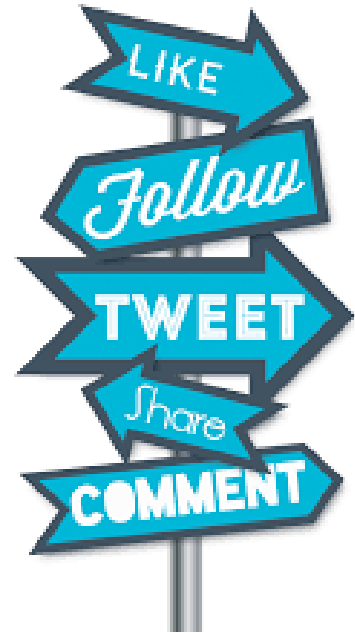
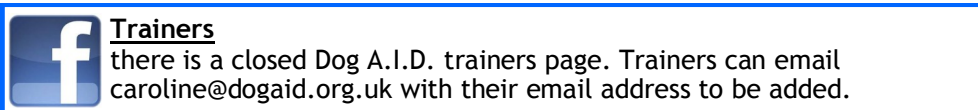
Lucia Hagans
Executive Committee



John Sadler
Executive Committee

Kindly supported by

Natural Instinct
Dog & cat food as nature intended



Obituary

Deborah Gornall

It is with sadness that we inform clients, members & trainers that Deborah Gornall passed away after a long illness. Deborah was a Dog A.I.D. trainer for a while.

Our deepest sympathy to her family at this sad time.

Ed's Note ...

Welcome to the Summer 2016 AGM newsletter.

How exciting to have an extra issue bringing you all the news from the Annual General Meeting, this issue is focussing on reports from our Chairperson, Treasurer and news from the day's events.

Thank you to everyone who has sent in articles for the next newsletter, watch out for those in the Winter issue.

As always do not hesitate to get in touch if you have a story, ideas or tips you think may be useful to include in the next newsletter. Until next time



Lynn Stacey

Editor

Our new Patron

Roger Jefcoate CBE DL

I am exceptionally pleased to have been invited to be a Patron of Dog A.I.D. I am very much committed to promoting and championing the aims of the charity and will be working closely with our CEO and the members of the Executive Committee to create funding opportunities to help the charity progress further.

Since 1962 I have been working to improve the lives of disabled people being involved with many organisations in supporting disabled causes. I played a leading role to build the Paralympics and also pioneered various independence technologies, including the worlds first home remote control system for disabled living, which is still being used today.

I have co-founded several national healthcare and disability charities, like Mobility Trust, Demand, Sequal Trust. I also co-founded Medical Detection Dogs and was the first patron, followed by the Duchess of Cornwall. Similarly, I co-founded Canine Partners and remain as vice patron.

I am also proud to have founded the Disability Aid Fund that continues to support many frontline charities like Dog A.I.D.



Dog A.I.D. Treasurer's Report AGM 2016

Figures in banks at 5.7.16:

CAF Current	£3,646.26
CAF Gold	£47,913.56
Lloyds Fundraiser account	£2,341.23
Pay Pal	£1,317.59
Petty cash	£211.08
 Total	 £55,429.72

Stepping down:

Due to changes in circumstances, I am stepping down as Treasurer and would like to welcome Jim Devlin to the role. I will give him as much support as I can (although I'm sure he won't need much!), and I don't anticipate any problems with the hand over.

The Charity continues to grow:

Dog A.I.D. has grown so much since I started as Treasurer, we have recently needed to employ a part time bookkeeper to help with the 'paperwork'. Katya does a wonderful job, keeping on top of

the day to day bookkeeping for me.

Year end:

The Dog A.I.D. EOY is 30th June, due to the timing of the AGM this year, the EOY accounts are not yet available. They should be available by the beginning of September, so please email treasurer@dogaid.org.uk if you would like a copy.

With the change of Treasurer and addition of bookkeeper, the 3 of us will all ensure that the EOY accounts are done to all of our satisfaction.

Thanks:

Thanks to our trainers who continue to do a great job helping our clients and their dogs.

Thanks also to any of our other volunteers who continue to do a great job for Dog A.I.D.

Thanks to the fundraisers who travel the country helping raise awareness and funds.

And finally, thanks to everyone who has helped me in my role as treasurer (you know who you are!). I have enjoyed my time, even when it was occasionally emotional!!

Rachel Pattison
Dog A.I.D. Treasurer (Retired!)

I am delighted to have been appointed as a Trustee and be a member of the Executive Committee of the Charity.

I come from a financial services and business background, but have been a volunteer for many years for another Assistance Dog charity. I am looking forward to bringing all those experiences to benefit our charity.

I will be supporting our Chief Executive Officer, Sandra, to develop and progress the opportunities of the Charity going forward. An aim I believe we all share.

Undoubtedly there will be challenges ahead, but the Executive Committee, and I are determined to move the charity forward and deliver the vital support services we are able to offer. We are committed to reach more people who need our assistance and help.

As the new treasurer I would like to pass on my thanks to Rachel, our previous treasurer, for all her efforts in supporting the charity previously in her important role.

In the absence of a centralised fund raising committee I have offered to coordinate our national fund raising efforts, which are so valuable to the charity.

I also look forward to meeting and being in touch with you all in due course and I would value your views and ideas that you have that will contribute to the on-going success of the charity.

I can be contacted at treasurer@dogaid.org.uk

Intro from our new Treasurer

I want to keep you all aware of our financial positions and other important charity messages and will be looking to use various communication channels to distribute that information on an on going basis.

We intend to use our group page on Facebook more, so I would encourage you to be involved in that, and also our website will be an important source of news.

Our 2015 financial accounts are available and have been published on our website. Our 2016 financial accounts will be available and published very soon.

I look forward to working with you all and to the continued success and growth of the charity. It is a privilege for me to have been invited to be part of the Dog A.I.D. family and pleasure to be involved with such a wonderful cause.



Dog A.I.D. has a dedicated high street bank account to make deposits of donations or funds raised "super simple".

Lloyds Bank Account name - **Dog A.I.D.** Account number - **19394468** Sort code - **77-27-38.**

Please remember to include a reference e.g. event/collection box and Surname and send an email to either... general_admin@dogaid.org.uk or treasurer@dogaid.org.uk with the your name and the amount you have deposited, otherwise we will not know where it has come from or be able to send acknowledgements



How many of you like a good book?

Paperback or tablet, makes little difference if the story is a good one; a good page turner I think is the expression. What I have discovered over the last year is that Dog A.I.D. is like a good book for me. There are many chapters that include drama, excitement, sadness and surprises. It has been a real page turner, I can't wait to see what the next chapter brings and I find it difficult to tear myself away.

The Office, a new chapter in the history of the charity.

Last year we were just talking about it, then in September we moved into our first dedicated office, this was with the brilliant support of Natural Instinct who, for one year, covered the difference from our old rent to the new one.

What a difference it has made to how we are able to work. The charity now has 40 hours covered by employees, Lizzie, Ann, Andrea and Katya. Their work means that we have increased the number of clients being processed. We have 56 Fully Qualified Assistance Dogs, 67 clients in training and another 26 in the application stage. It is a busy office and has room to take on more staff when the opportunity arises. The ladies all work very hard and I thank them for their dedication to the posts that they hold.

Finances. This chapter is full of unexpected surprises.

Having our own office has meant that we have increased our outgoings, that is not a surprise and we seek to keep our overheads to a minimum where possible and will be looking to obtain grant funding where ever we can.

In the bleak midwinter, just before Christmas, we received on the same day 2 cheques totalling £20,000, now that was a surprise! One was from the Roger and Jean Jefcoate Trust, the other was instigated by Roger, more about Roger later!

Sadly, our Treasurer, Rachel is stepping down this year; she has done a great job with the finances and keeping the accounts up to date. We have now employed Katya to take on the bookwork which will give the new Treasurer time to devote to helping the charity increase funds and advise on finances. Thank you Rachel, for all your help and support over the last few years. Rachel will continue to be one of our valued trainers.

A new character in "our book" emerges in the form of Jim Devlin who has offered to stand as Treasurer for the charity, you will see from his CV, he has a lot to offer and I look forward to working with him.

The Unity Lottery was a new venture for the charity this year and must be mentioned here as it is a way of raising regular income with the chance for players winning £25,000, do promote it where you can please.

Fundraising.

This year like the past ones has been full of clients and supporters raising money for the charity. People unrelated to the charity, have taken on challenges that have brought in several thousands of pounds. They have taken part in the London to Brighton, London to Cambridge and the South Coast Challenges. I hope those who have taken part get to read this report and know how grateful we are for their wonderful achievements.

More and more clients are becoming involved in fundraising, taking on stands at small and not so small shows, bringing the name of the charity to more people and raising awareness of the great work we do. Thank you all of you, I know it is not easy at times and it can tire you out. This next year it is planned to provide greater support, where finances allow, for those who take on events in their area.

One person who deserves a special mention is Lynn Stacey, she has raised, over the last 2 years, an amazing £8,000 through different events like her trick a day challenge and running on line competitions. All this alongside editing the newsletter is such an achievement. Well done Lynn and thank you.

We do try to thank everyone who raises money for the charity by either sending a letter of thanks or supplying a certificate to display or a mention in the newsletter. If we have missed you out, let the office know, we do like to make sure you know your contribution is really appreciated.

Crufts and other events.

This year's Crufts was another great success. The newsletter will have shown you all how great it looked and how wonderful the demonstrations were, thank you all who took part, shall we do it all again next year?

Barclays 'Who let the Dog Out', Dogs Unite Blackpool, DogFest North and South, Shrewsbury Flower show, Animals R Magic, Ludlow Dog Day, just a few of the events we have taken part in or are working towards attending.

Ann in the office has been asked to coordinate all the events, so please contact her when you would like to take part in or run an event.

Trainers, the continuing story.

Our trainers are our backbone and without them we would not survive, we have 80 now, so I would like to thank them all for their gift of time that they give the charity. We continue to try to recruit new trainers, we do get quite a lot of enquiries to join us, but our standards are high and we wish to keep them that way, for every one we take on at least 10 have not returned their application forms, this may be because they do not have time to complete them or it may be that they do not feel they have the skills yet to become part of our growing team. If you are one of our trainers and know another trainer who is as good as you, then encourage them to join us and enjoy the satisfaction of helping dogs to help people.

Sponsors, more excitement and intrigue.

In Natural Instinct we have really good friends, their cooperation, financial support and help has been amazing again this year.

They bridged the gap between our old and new rent. They have given physical support at events and supplied goody bags. They continue to sponsor a couple of clients, contribute to our polo shirts for trainers and jackets for qualified dogs and cover the printing of our newsletter. But this year they have gone one better, they sponsored our new fundraising video which was so exciting, and it went wild on social media, if you haven't seen it yet go to our website and watch it there, star of the show has to be Margaret Russell's Heidi, who nods along to the rhythm of the song. Brilliant! Share it when you can as it is really entertaining and has a great message.

Jayne at Superstar Pets who developed the video, also gave her time for free, when making this great video.

One sponsor, who wishes to remain anonymous, has donated all the fencing that we will need for Crufts next year! It arrived a couple of months ago, Kathie and Tony Ward are the only ones who know who it is, so it is through them that we extend our thanks and gratitude.

Another thank you fits into this chapter; Stephen, by way of his manufacture of jackets for our dogs; purchase and embroidery of uniform items at cost amongst other things, saves the charity huge sums of money making it available to spend elsewhere.

Stephen, along with Caroline, also keeps the website up-to-date, and current, along with social media and twitter.

Paul Alborough, aka Professor Elemental, "an interesting character" has recently agreed to lend his support with a feature on his website and offers of fundraising efforts in the future; we look forward to hearing from him.

Also one last mention for The Good Vet and Pet Guide, who have given us a feature page on their website free of charge and are regularly promoting via Twitter.

PR

Thanks to Hannah Newbury who continues to keep up the momentum of our name in the press. She is always looking for clients and their stories to cover and get in the news, so let her know if you have something that you would like to share.

Business plan

This will need to be reviewed this year as we have achieved many of the short term and medium term objectives. The one that is most important now is to fund and recruit an Operations manager, this is important for the longevity and continuity of the charity. Once in place I will be able to work ON the charity instead of IN the charity, I feel another chapter coming on!

Trustees

There is a big change on the board of Trustees this year; we are losing Anita and Larry Castellina, Sheila Sadler, Rachel Pattison, Lesley (Tigs) Smith, Ed and Belinda Williams. Thank you for your time on the committee, you have been helpful and contributed greatly to the progression of the charity.

Thank you to Caroline and Stephen who are up for re-election along with myself, your continued support is invaluable.

We are pleased to introduce 3 new faces, who I am sure you will agree once you have seen their CV's will make a great team to move the charity forward over the coming year, and further, it is hoped.

Patrons.

Matt Henderson-Rood took on the role of a Patron earlier in the year, thank you for your support. I look forward to working with him further and finding ways that he can promote the charity.

Roger Jefcoate CBE DL, has recently agreed to become a Patron for the charity; Roger has been a huge advocate for Dog A.I.D. for a number of years and has helped us gain more and more funding. He was instrumental in gaining us the £20,000 we received in December, has supported us previously and has introduced me to many grant funders who I hope will be interested in what we do, to support us further financially. Roger is a very generous man with his time and advice; I look forward to working with him and receiving his guidance.

Next Year's AGM

This model seems to work well, so unless there are any other suggestions, the venue will be booked for around the same time next year.

The End, for now!

Sandra Fraser
July 2016

Special notice from the Chairperson.

Subsequent to the AGM, Peta Brandwood has offered to become a Trustee and was co-opted on at a Special General Meeting of the Trustees.

The Executive Committee are delighted to welcome Peta Brandwood as a Trustee of the charity. We are pleased that Peta has accepted to join the management team and bring her experience and contribute to the progress of the organisation.



Minutes of Dog Assistance In Disability AGM

held on Saturday 9th July 2016 at 12pm At Avon Business & Leisure Centre, Cannock

1. Those present

Pamela Isherwood, Lynn Stacey, Sandra Crouch, Sheila & John Sadler, Peta Brandwood, Jill Doran, Jess & Karen Walker, Margaret Russell, Marye Arnett-Clark, Carolyn Greenhalgh, Lucia Hagans, Jim Devlin, Roger Jefcoate, CBE DL, Caroline Lewis & Katya, Stephen Jordan, Bel Williams, Kirsten Dillon, Deborah & John Cornwall, Teresa & James Cort, Vivienne & Ian Sleightholm, Keith Sleightholm, Rob Ritchens, Christine & Paul Evans, Joanne & Neal Deakin, Chantelle Rae-Bradley, Jeanette Kennelly, Sandra Fraser (Chair), Lizzie Charlton (Minute taker)

2. Apologies

Hazel Reynolds, Jo Jackman, Anita & Larry Castellina, Rachel Pattison, Lesley (Tigs) Smith, Ed Williams, Midge Walster, Loz Tilston-Brookes, Helene Dyson

3. Acceptance of Minutes of last meeting

Sandra welcomed and thanked everyone for coming.

SF asked that the minutes were a true record. Acceptance of the minutes was proposed by Margaret Russell, Seconded by Marye Arnett-Clark. All present agreed.

4. Matters arising from the minutes

None. SF signed the minutes as a true record.

5. Chairman's Report

Sandra read out the Chairman's report. (see page 4)

To adopt the Chairman's Report was proposed by Sheila Sadler, Seconded by Vivienne Sleightholm. All present agreed.

6. Treasurer's Report

SF read out the Treasurer's Report in the absence of Rachel. Rachel is standing down as Treasurer. The full accounts would be ready at the beginning of September.

To adopt the Treasurer's Report was proposed by Kirsten Dillon. Seconded by Chantelle Rae-Bradley. All present agreed.

Sandra thanked Rachel for all her help over the years and wished her well in her new business venture. She is staying on as a trainer with Dog A.I.D.

7. Election of Officers

Caroline Lewis took this part of the meeting. She asked for it to be proposed that Sandra be re-elected as Chair; Marye Arnett-Clark proposed and Caz Edwards seconded. All present agreed.

Committee members standing down this year are: Ed Williams, Bel Williams, Sheila Sadler, Rachel Pattison, Lesley Smith, Anita Catellina & Larry Castellina

The procedure of electing a new Treasurer and Secretary followed.

Treasurer – Jim Devlin.

Proposed by Caroline Lewis, seconded by Sheila Sadler, unanimously agree.

Jim stood to say a few words, that he was delighted to become an officer of the Charity and to become part of the Dog A.I.D. family. Amongst other things he has worked with Canine Partners (see CV) and hopes to use his roll to progress the charity to its potential. He feels we need to work together to decide what direction to take the charity.

Margaret Russell has been nominated to come onto the committee and be Secretary (see CV)

Proposed by Vivienne Sleightholm. Seconded by Ruth Piggott. All agreed.

8. Election of Committee

Lucia Hagans has been nominated to become a committee member (see CV). Proposed by Caroline Lewis.

Seconded by Sandra Fraser. All Agreed

Sandra asked for the re-election of Caroline and Stephen to the committee. Proposed by Marye Arnett-Clark.

Seconded by Carolyn Greenhalgh. All agreed.

There was a proposal from the floor – John Sadler. John has been involved with charities for many years and has much experience to offer. He has worked with Canine Partners for 10 years. He hopes to spread the word about Dog A.I.D. through fundraising in the South of England.

Proposed by Margaret Russell. Seconded by Stephen Jordan. All Agreed

Sandra thanked the Committee members who have stood down for all their hard work and input over their time with the committee.

The Executive Committee for 2016/17 is:

Sandra Fraser, Chair

Jim Devlin, Treasurer

Margaret Russell, Secretary

Lucia Hagans

Caroline Lewis

John Sadler

Stephen Jordan

9 Proposed constitutional changes

To reduce the notice that needs to be given for meetings and AGM and to allow electronic communication wherever possible – see attached. Proposed by Peta Brandwood, seconded by Kirsten Dillon, all agreed. Margaret Russell commented that it was useful to have more than 42 days' notice to allow making arrangements for travel and booking hotels for those that need to stay overnight. SF explained that there would be prior notice in both the Autumn and Spring newsletters.

50/50 balance of clients and other interested parties on the Committee. 7 out of 10 places on the Committee are now filled. Pamela Isherwood (Trainer) said she would be interested to know more but felt she was very new to Dog A.I.D. at the moment. Sandra explained that it would be possible to be co-opted later in the year. Proposed by Peta Brandwood, seconded by Sheila Sadler, all agreed.

Continued on page 8 ...

10. Any other Business

The following items were raised by Carolyn Greenhalgh, Lynn Stacey, Karen Walker, Deborah Cornwall and Jill Doran:- Corporate Identity, Equipment availability and Regional Co-ordinators. They were asking for assistance with co-ordinating equipment, “uniform” and layout of stalls for outside events. Some discussion took place about making “the Dog A.I.D. stands” all look the same at different events. This is a good idea and makes us more recognisable at different events up and down the country. It was talked about having nominated Regional Co-ordinators who could be a team. To have a list of available equipment (gazebos, tables, table cloths, small baskets for stock etc) and to have a standard layout for stalls on a printed sheet.

The suggestion of using tabards was talked about, which could be red with our logo on, as an alternative to polo shirts, as they would fit most people, are gender free and reusable. It was agreed the office would look into this. Any or all ideas could be added to the fundraising pack that Jean put together for the last AGM

Ann in the office now runs a list of all events taking place up and down the country so it is better to co-ordinate what people need for events.

Notification to members regarding nominations and ballot opportunities. Several members said that they had not received paperwork that had been circulated in the Spring newsletter and felt that this affected their right to nominate people if they so wanted. It was agreed to look into a more failsafe method of informing members and again, where possible, use electronic communication. SF had consulted the constitution and did not find anywhere that it said that anyone who was nominated had to be circulated to the membership before the meeting. In future there will be greater effort to give out this information as above.

Marye Arnett-Clark asked about the BVA offer of free jabs, wormer and flea treatment for qualified Assistance Dogs. Could information be added to Dog A.I.D. paperwork when members qualify? The office will look into this. After some discussion it was agreed that the first thing to do is ask your own vet.

Caz Edwards asked about Continuing to the evening after the AGM. She asked that for next year’s AGM there could be a room booked for the evening as well, for members who were staying overnight to have a social gathering.

Sandra thanked Avon Leisure together with Anita and Larry Castellina for their help and assistance in providing accommodation for our AGMs over the last few years.

New Patron

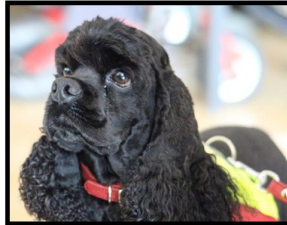
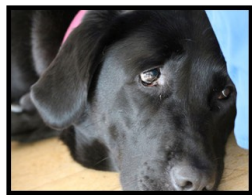
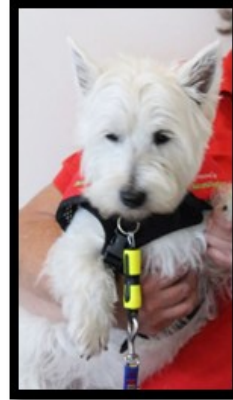
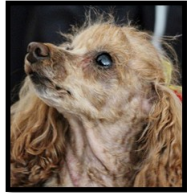
Sandra introduced Roger Jefcoate MBE, DL who has agreed to be a Patron for Dog A.I.D.

The meeting closed at 1.55pm

Your new Executive Committee



Your dogs at the AGM...



Pro Pet First Aid

Keith Sleightholm has very kindly offered all clients and trainers the chance to complete the online First Aid training with Pro Pet First Aid , if any clients or trainers would like to take up this offer then please let the office know.





WORKSHOP DATES



Autumn Workshop for Clients & Trainers



Saturday 10th and Sunday 11th September 2016
Stoke Mandeville Stadium, Aylesbury Bucks, HP21 9PP



Success from the start!

Saturday morning

Lead work - Every which way!
beside, behind, backwards and off lead.
feel confident that your dog will know where you
want him!

Saturday afternoon

Task training - from foundation skills to full proofed
work.
Pulling/tugging, targetting and picking up.
Open doors, pick up named items and remove
clothing.

Sunday

There will be the ever-popular challenge course, designed by the trainers, to give everyone the chance to put their new learned skills into practice.

There will also be the opportunity for 1.2.1 support on any particular tasks and skills which individuals feel they need help with. We want everyone attending to get the most out of the weekend so please come and join us. This is your chance to not only learn new skills but exchange ideas as you to meet with other trainers and clients.

The weekend is for clients and trainers. The venue has 50 fully accessible hotel rooms. Dog A.I.D. will subsidise 1 night bed and breakfast, all other requirements to be covered by the client.

All applications to general_admin@dogaid.org.uk in the first instance.

Please **do not** contact Stoke Mandeville Stadium direct

Trainers' Workshop

Saturday 8th and Sunday 9th October 2016

Stoke Mandeville Stadium, Aylesby Bucks, HP21 9PP

**For new and existing trainers and their own dogs, limited places for those bringing dogs.
Trainers without dogs also welcome.**

Saturday

In their shoes

This workshop gives you a chance to experience how it feels to work with and care for a dog when you have limited mobility. Resources such as a wheelchair, crutches and other items will help to give trainers a better understanding of what our clients endure when trying to carry out everyday tasks and activities.

When is my client ready for assessment?

A look at what is required for the all-important assessments. New trainers will gain a more in-depth guide on working towards and accurately assessing their clients and dogs at level 1. Discussions and demos will help all trainers find out details of what your assessor is looking for during the assessments for Level 2 and the ultimate Level 3 assessment.

Discussion, demos, questions & answers.

Trick training or task work - What's the difference?

An opportunity to compare and contrast the tasks and activities Assistance Dogs need to learn and perform to aid their owners in everyday life.

Sunday

Possible Guest speaker!

Good management.

How to maintain professionalism and still enjoy the new friend you gain when taking on a client. When teamwork works!

Is there a right way?

Exercises often need adjusting when teaching a client and their dog. Distance control, lead walking and food refusal all have different ways, which one is best?

So that you can try to fulfil your commitment with Dog A.I.D. to attend at least one workshop over a two year period, the charity is now in a position to subsidise one night's stay, as a gesture of goodwill, we also offer travelling at 20p per mile to go towards fuel.

For application forms and timetable, please send an email to general_admin@dogaid.org.uk

Please **do not** contact Stoke Mandeville direct.

Dog A.I.D. Times

BREAKING NEWS ... ROUND UP FROM THE AGM

... FROM PETA BRANDWOOD

After travelling through torrential rain we arrived at the Avon Business Centre for the Dog A.I.D. AGM. It is a great venue for accommodating lots of dogs and their handlers and it was great to see so many people there.

The AGM included the election of officers and the committee and it was good to see the re-election of some familiar faces, changes in committee roles and the election of new members. The scope of knowledge and skills within this newly elected team should help the charity to move forward in many areas, including marketing, financial support opportunities and realizing potential.

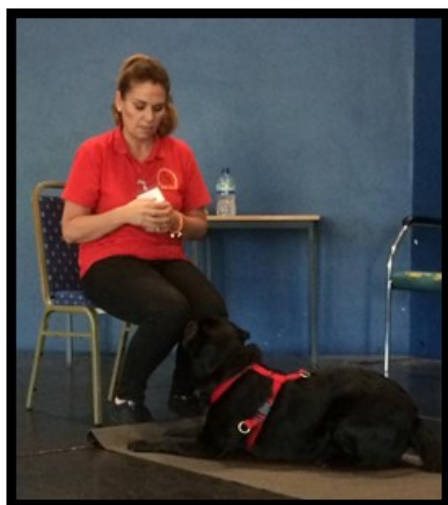
As a trainer for Dog A.I.D. I feel that it's crucial that all interested parties should have a voice on the new committee and although Chairperson, Sandra Fraser, is a trainer, her role has to cover many areas. So, after careful consideration, I have since proposed some changes to my Dog A.I.D. trainer recruitment role, which would then enable me to take a place on the committee - if they will have me. Feedback indicates that there's every chance that I will be accepted!

Also included in the day's events was an introduction to First Aid for dogs. It was an interesting dip into this important topic by Keith Sleightholm of Pro Pet First Aid. We had the opportunity to ask questions, watch a couple of demonstrations and then practice our dog-bandaging skills (although very few were brave enough to take up the challenge on that one!) It's the type of knowledge that will never be wasted.

Later in the day we watched and listened as Kirsten Dillon delivered a short intro to the Real Dog Yoga. It was really very interesting and I would love to do a full working session on the topic. We ask our dogs to do so much and we expect a lot from them, but sometimes we forget to give them the time and space to switch off and relax. Kirsten's talk and demo really helped me to understand how it's possible to guide dogs into this gentle, relaxed mode.

And finally The food. I loved it! So refreshing to have so much choice and not a sandwich in sight!!

Thanks to all involved for an enjoyable AGM.



... FROM JILL DORAN

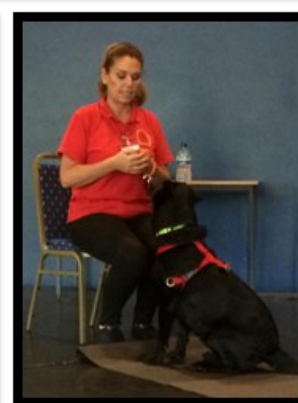
I was really interested in the dog First Aid talk and demonstration by Pro Pet First Aid. There are some things which all dog owners should know and the simple procedures shown during the talk were extremely useful, procedures such as finding the pulse on dogs, resuscitation and abdominal thrusts (on the dummy dog only, of course!)

The election of new members to the committee was a breath of fresh air with new blood, new skills and a fresh approach, this being overseen by the steadying influence of Sandra Fraser – re-elected Chair Person.

Lunch break was very welcome and worth waiting for. The selection of food made a pleasant change from the norm – refreshing!

The Real Dog Yoga demonstration by Kirsten Dillon helped de-mystify quite how our dogs can partake in this activity. Whilst eagerly anticipating how Tilly would assume the lotus position, Kirsten proceeded to talk about giving our dogs time to relax. So, not a lotus position in sight, but a really useful talk with emphasis on giving our dogs choice to take time out. I would have really enjoyed watching and listening to a full workshop session and hopefully this can be planned for future events.

Overall it was an interesting day, but just not long enough. Chatting over a cup of tea with other clients at the end of the day would have been a perfect ending. Looking forward to the chance to meet up with everyone again soon.



Natural Instinct®

Dog & Cat food as nature intended

- 🐾 The no stress, no mess way to feed most lovingly made by award winning UK Raw Pet Food Manufacturers
- 🐾 A variety of high quality natural raw wholesome meals as nature intended
- 🐾 Human grade ingredients
- 🐾 Veterinary approved
- 🐾 Free from artificial additives, colours, preservatives and fillers
- 🐾 Friendly and professional advice on raw feeding



Proudly supporting Dog A.I.D



🦋 **Ulrika Jonsson**
with Dot and Dexter who
love Natural Instinct

🐾 Every dog should be on this diet - I can't tell you how grateful I am to know that my dogs are getting the best, the purest and healthiest (so they tell me) food they possibly could 🐾

Proudly supporting British produce 🇬🇧

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