

May
2010



Gold Stars for the
Workshop Dogs



Dog Assistance In Disability Registered Charity number 1098619

Spring Newsletter

Sandie



Basil



Millie



Badger



Wolfie



Rocky



Sheba



Amos



Megan



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Dog AID Notices and Information

A New Patron



We are pleased to announce that Vet and TV presenter Steve Leonard has agreed to become a patron for Dog A.I.D . He has a special interest in the relationship between dogs and humans

' Dogs and humans are ideal companions with a history that goes back thousands of years. This relationship is so much deeper than we realise and benefits both parties in so many ways. With a little training dogs can provide support and care that cannot be rivalled and they will do it with a dedication and willingness that is rooted in the amazing devotion that exists between them and their owners.' Steve Leonard BVSc MRCVS



Do you still own a video player? We have several videos for sale at a greatly reduced price.

Turid Rugaas Calming Signals: What your Dog Tells You. £5.00 plus £1.50 p&p. send your cheque to Sandra Fraser, Wyches, Little Worthen Shrewsbury SY5 9HL.

This excellent video is great for trainers and clients alike, well worth watching

WARNING FOR ALL DOG OWNERS - Re Childrens Toys for Dogs.

Last night at an agility class, a vet, who is a fellow agility student was telling us about a case she had this week. The dog ate a child's teddy bear and was very sick. When she opened the dog up to remove what she thought was an intestinal obstruction she found a huge gelatin type mess inside and the dogs intestines were black and the tissue dead. The dog will die, no surgery can fix him, there was no living intestine left from stomach to colon. This was not an obstruction so she called the manufacturer of the Teddy Bear on a quest to find out what the gel was and what killed the dog. It turned out to be the stuffing in children's toys containing ingredients for flame retardants and mite control! *It is designed to become a gel. It is highly toxic.*

Now you would think a child's toy would be safe because it is for children, but they don't expect a child to eat the stuffing of the toys... that seems a bit scary too. But we all know dogs demolish stuffed toys.

So do not give or buy your dog any children's stuffed animals. The vet will be posting a warning and story. Maybe some children's toys do not have this ingredient, but better to be safe than sorry. So meanwhile, make sure all your dog toys are for dogs.

This information was passed around on an e-mail and as it sounded genuine and scary it was a warning we should all be aware of.

Website Web Shop Reminder

Don't forget to use the Dog A.I.D. Website Web Shop if you are buying on line. This is a collection of online retailers that give us commission on most items purchased. We get on average £2 for each transaction. The money comes from the shop so it costs you no extra. Every penny counts for Dog A.I.D.!!

Page 3 Girl Sophie

This is my lovely rescue Black GSD, Sophie, now 7 years old. We have learnt so much together in the 6 years she has been with me. It was a very difficult beginning; having to keep her separate from my other older dog for the first 6 months, not getting her reliably toilet trained until she was nearly 2 years old, wanting to chase anything that moved faster than 10mph. and was closer than about 500 yards. I am not sure who was stressed the most, but we eventually learnt to relax together even if it did take 3 years getting there. We now have a mutual understanding and trust of each other, and have both gained a more rewarding quality of life as a result.

If I were to pick out a natural flair that has developed, she has become the most superb 'guard dog' in the nicest of ways. Depending upon who is arriving, be it by car or on foot and way before I know anyone is there, she picks up the favourite toy that the visitor will like to play with and goes to either the back door or the front depending upon the way they will come in. She ignores all other regular activity in the street, but soon lets me know if my attention is needed. *David Marter Trainer.*



Notification is hereby given of the Dog A.I.D. Annual General Meeting at 4pm on September 11th 2010 at The Kennel Club Building, Stoneleigh Park, Nr Coventry, Warwickshire. CV8 2LJ

Dog A.I.D. Workshop

September 11th&12th 2010

At The Kennel Club Building Stoneleigh Park Nr Coventry CV8 2LJ



How do you do that ?

A look at alternative training methods.

Full programme to be advised. Possible guest speaker/trainer.

Contact Sandra Fraser on e-mail clanfraser33@hotmail.com phone 01743 891314.

Clients requests *If any client wishes to address a particular training issue we will work on this to the benefit of all attending. Please let us know in advance so that we can prepare. Any training exercise considered.*

Training for Dog AID clients and trainers is free. Non Dog A.I.D. Members are welcome at the cost of £30 per workshop day.

Dog AID Workshop – April 2010 by trainers Joyce Jones and Paula Lancaster

After a tortuous 4½ hour journey (oh the joys of the great British roadworks!!) from south Hampshire on Friday we arrived at our hotel very tired and as new trainees, not knowing what to expect over the forthcoming weekend.

However from the moment we arrived at the venue on Saturday morning we were made to feel welcome and our apprehension was very soon replaced by appreciation, both of the Dog AID team and clients alike.

We had arrived expecting to be “observers” but we soon realised this was not to be the case as Sandra quickly paired us up with clients and put us to work.

We were very impressed by the calm behaviour of the dogs and the dedication and enthusiasm of their owners.



As “new trainers” we knew we had a lot to learn, despite our experience in other types of training, and this was indeed the case but thanks to Sandra’s patience and attention to detail we came away with a lot more knowledge than we arrived with.

It was wonderful seeing the more experienced Wolfie working with Mandy but equally rewarding to watch new-comer Michael working with Rocky.



Mid-morning coffee and biscuits came as a welcome break but lunch was a real surprise and we cannot say a big enough thank you and congratulations to those providing such a superb spread.

By mid-afternoon we were all even more ready for a break as everyone was beginning to flag and the arrival of tea and cakes was more than welcome.

On Sunday we arrived ready to start again, albeit in a smaller hall and sadly a couple of clients missing as they had found one day as much as they could cope with.

At the end of the morning we were able to move back into the large hall (it being unavailable to us earlier as it was being used by a church group) where we were once again treated to an excellent lunch.

By now we were beginning to be able to put names to faces and were starting to feel part of the “team” and felt at ease chatting to trainers and clients alike.



During the afternoon the clients and their dogs took part in a Rally ‘O’ set-up very ably presided over by Angela, which everyone, clients, dogs and trainers all thoroughly enjoyed.

It really was great fun but by the end of the day everyone was pretty worn out and as much as we had all enjoyed our weekend, were more than ready to say our goodbyes and head for home.



Our thanks to everyone for making us so welcome and we look forward to meeting up with you all again soon.

Joyce Jones & Paula Lancaster

Dog Aid Workshop2010 by client Alison Tompsett

Millie (my wonderful black Lab) and I have been clients of Dog Aid for just over a year and so far hadn't been able to make it to one of the Workshops, so this year we made sure we would go. I was nervous as we hadn't been before and I didn't know how Millie would behave in a room with a lot of other dogs; she is fine in the park, but a room?? On top of that it was to be her first stay in a hotel.

So, Friday morning dawned and with our car fully loaded for what seemed 'all eventualities', Derek (my husband) and I headed to Staffordshire. As the journey took so long we decided on arrival at the hotel to unpack our car then head up to Cannock Chase so Millie could have a good run around. We then went to dinner leaving Millie in her crate in our room, so far so good.

Saturday morning we woke to a beautiful sunny day. Whilst having breakfast we met Mandy and her dog Wolfie who was behaving impeccably in the Restaurant, so I asked him to give Millie some tips!

On arrival at the workshop we had coffee and introduced ourselves to the other clients and trainers whilst the dogs waited in the cars. Then a lot of toys were put on the floor and the dogs were introduced into the hall one at a time. On entering the hall Millie ignored the toys and managed to walk across the floor on her claws like she was a first time ice skater, needless to say she hates slippery floors! The dogs then all came in and were introduced to each other, each and everyone behaved beautifully. The sessions of the day then started with *recall* and *down at a distance*. All the dogs did really well with Rocky giving a great demonstration. By the end of the first session Millie seemed to have forgotten about the 'ice skating' and was comfortably walking about, thank goodness.

During lunch the dogs rested in the cars which gave us all time to chat to each other and share stories of our training, friendships were already beginning to form. The afternoon was started with 'one to one' *retrieval* work, which Millie had no problem doing and at times was a little too enthusiastic, picking up everything she could get into her mouth. The day then finished with different activities which was based on what each client needed extra help with. By the end of the last session several dogs were yawning along with their owners. We all left to have a rest before some of us meet up for dinner. A lovely evening was had with lots of laughter and stories told.



Sunday sessions began with a review of Saturday's exercises and then went onto 'greeting'. First a demonstration was given by Sandra with Millie; being a lab she needed little encouragement to greet anybody with food! Then the trainers went around the room greeting each dog, this was great for Millie as she loves to meet people and can be very excitable.

After lunch Angela introduced us to *Rally 'O'* which is a competitive sport. She made a circuit around the hall with instructions on cards in various places. The owners had to take the dogs around the circuit following the instructions i.e. *Turn right, sit, sit then stand* and *weave through cones*. At this point Millie decided to start her ice skating routine again which made it difficult, however she made the circuit twice, 'well done Millie'.



The day ended and we sat and chatted for a while exchanging email addresses and phone numbers. So would we attend another workshop? ... Most definitely, not only did it help us to see how far Millie had progressed in her training, it showed us how much more she can do. We got a lot of tips and ideas from other trainers and made a lot of new friends. More importantly it helped us all to secure an even stronger bond with our special dogs. Thank you to all the trainers for their hard work in putting the workshop together and a special thank you to those who fed us with lots of delicious food.



Rally is Here! *By Angela Woodhouse*
Good News for Anyone with a Dog

Rally O is a canine sport just introduced from the USA by the APDT.UK. It is so new that it is not yet recognised by the Kennel Club.

The competitor follows a numbered course (as in agility) and each number has a different exercise, such as halt and sit your dog, recall your dog and bring it to heel, or down your dog and go round it. The exercises become more demanding as you move up the levels. You are allowed to speak to and encourage your dog as much as you like, and can give your dog a hand signal as well as a verbal command. In the stationary exercises you are allowed to touch your dog before moving on.



In level one all the work is completed on lead (except for the Bonus exercise); the lead must always be loose and the dog's position must be consistent which means that if you need your dog to work a little bit wide or forward it will not be penalised.

There are three levels, and you qualify to move up a level by gaining at least 170 marks out of 200 on three separate occasions.

In order to start Rally you need to have a dog which will walk on a loose lead, will sit, down, stand, do a basic recall and finish to heel position.

It is an exciting sport which is open to all people and dogs, including those with disabilities. It encourages teamwork between dog and handler and there is a good variety of exercises which I think keeps up the interest for both.

I think it is a great opportunity for DogAID clients to have some fun and show the world what great relationships you have with your dogs, whether they are Assistance Dogs or not. Our training covers most of the requirements for level 1 at least.

We did a 'taster' session at our workshop in April, (see photos) and in spite of everyone being really tired after a very busy weekend's training, it went well and I thought that the standard was high.



For those interested, the APDT website has a section on Rally with updates on competitions, seminars and training sessions: www.apdt.co.uk.

Jayne Harvey



We are very sorry to announce that Jayne Harvey has stepped down from the Committee. We would like to thank her for her time and commitment to Dog A.I.D. during the past 4 Years. We would like to say a particular thankyou for the huge amount of time she spent preparing the paper work for our Assesment for the ADUK.



You will be sadly missed Jayne but we hope you won't be a stranger and will come and visit us at our workshops from time to time. Thankyou also for continuing to train with your present client. We all wish you well in your new home and your new found leisure time.

Crufts March 2010



Dog AID attended Crufts 2010 to take part in the Parade of Members of Assistance Dogs UK in recognition of the work of all the assistance charities. Those attending were Guide Dogs for the Blind, Hearing Dogs for the Deaf, Canine Partners, Dogs for the Disabled and Support Dogs. Mandy Ireland and Wolfie represented Dog AID supported by Sandra Fraser and Jayne Harvey her trainer. Thankyou to Mandy and Wolfie for making the arduous journey we know you had and a special thankyou to Jayne for getting them to full assistance level.

Notification of Grant



DogAID Spring Workshop sponsored by Staffs County Council

The charity Dog A.I.D. (Assistance in Disability) held their Spring Training Workshop for clients and trainers at Avon Business and Leisure Centre, Cannock on Saturday 10th and Sunday 11th April.

Dog A.I.D. is a national voluntary organisation which provides specialised training for people with physical disabilities and their own pet dog.

Following consultation and assistance from Bev Molloy of Chase Council Voluntary Service, a grant towards the cost of the workshop was kindly awarded by the Closing the Gaps for Communities Fund run by Staffordshire County Council; the charity would like to express their gratitude to both Bev and Staffs County Council.

More information on Dog A.I.D. and the work that they do can be found on their website www.dogaid.org.uk

Fund Raising and Events

Dog AID Fund Raising Committee Staffordshire.



On Sunday April 18th Dog A.I.D. attended The Chasewater Transport Show which was held in conjunction with Lichfield Agility Club and organised by Helen Tindall. All proceeds from the main event were split between Air Ambulance and Dog AID. Dog AID received £40 plus £113 from collection boxes. The stand took £207. Many thanks Helen for all your hard work in making the day a success. Those attending were Sandra, Angela, Dave Marter, Sue Line and Sandie, Caroline Lewis and Jade, Erica and Alan Bennett (who also provided the tombola and lucky dip items.)

Other funds raised elsewhere

Calendars; we sold 100 calendars at £7-50 each. Lowestoft College Dog Show £150-50

£1000 grant from Staffordshire County Council. £107.64 Empty Cartridge Co.

£45.77 from Caroline Lewis collection box. £26.86 Kall Kwik collection box.

Thankyou to those who donated goods for the April Workshop. Carol Aldridge made fleece tuggies. Thankyou to Carol Beaman for manning the shop which took £253-15 Erica and Alan's raffle £36-50 Thankyou to Delia Graham for donating her 'penny' collection which amounted to £24-90. The caterers sold off surplus food £14-50 so including other donations the total was £334-05

Forthcoming Events by Cannock Fundraising Team

June 6th Hearing Dogs Summer Fayre. 11am-5pm The Grange, Saunderton Bucks HP27 9NS We would welcome help or support from any clients or trainers near enough to attend.

Saturday 14th August -Summer Fayre, Avon Business & Leisure Centre Cannock.

Saturday 30th October -Harry Potter / Halloween Disco, Avon Business & Leisure Centre Cannock.

Monday 18th October (provisional date) -Variety Show, Prince of Wales Theatre, Cannock

Saturday 29th Jan, 2011 -60's, 70's and 80's Music Party, Avon Business & Leisure Centre Cannock

Dog AID Fund Raising South East

Oct 4th PDSA Exemption Show £72-50,

Oct 25th Boot Sale stand paid for by friends of Dog A.I.D. Sue&Chris Wells £173. Many thanks for your continued help and support.

Nov 7th St Edmunds Charity Market Beckenham £61. Dec 1st Hextable Dog Club Raffle £53 -90

Dec 12th Erith Church Christmas Market £128-25.

March 20th PDSA Exemption show £66-70. plus £100 donation from an interested lady at the show.

May 3rd Hextable May Fair £50. Thankyou to those attending a very cold, wet and windy day. Trish from Hextable Dog Club with 'Have a Go Agility' Mary, Carol, Marie and Midge on the stand and Alison, Dereck and Karl Tompsett with Millie came to support us. Unfortunately we had to abandoned the event due to such bad weather.

Forthcoming Events at Dog A.I.D. South East

June 6th Erith Waterfront Charity Event. June 13th English Groomers Challenge Swanley.

June 27th Teston Park Dog Show, Maidstone. July New Ash Green Summer Fayre.

Sept 5th Midge and friends have entered the 5K Womens Challenge to be held in Hyde Park London. See Dog A.I.D. website for sponsorship donations.

2009 Raffle Winners

A very big thank you to all who took part in last years Raffle – we raised the amazing sum of £379.00! The draw was made on the evening of the Variety Show, 14th November, and the winners were as follows:

1st prize – Overnight stay at the Birmingham North Ramada Hotel, won by A Warner

2nd prize – Photographic session and complimentary print, won by India

3rd prize – Hair Salon voucher, won by Jo Ely

A further 12 prizes of Gym passes, massages, an oil painting, variety of meals out, whisky etc, were won by both our supporters and also visitors to the show, the furthest north being from Barrow in Furness.

Dog A.I.D. Merchandise for Sale

Car stickers, wording is
Dog A.I.D. Supporter.
£2 plus pp.

Dog A.I.D.
Bags £4-50
Plus pp



Road Refresher
Bowl
see page 15



Iron on logos
£2-80 plus pp



Cosy clickers
£4-50 plus pp

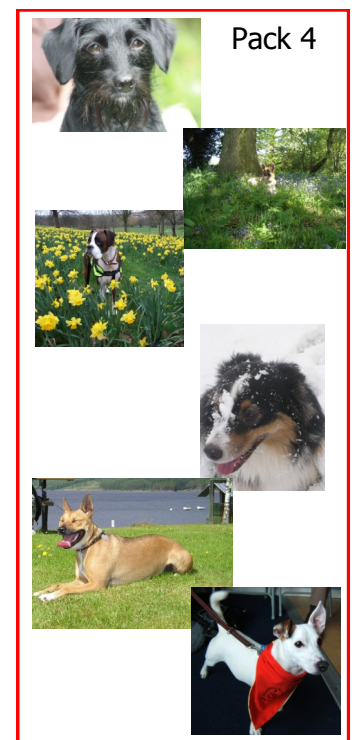
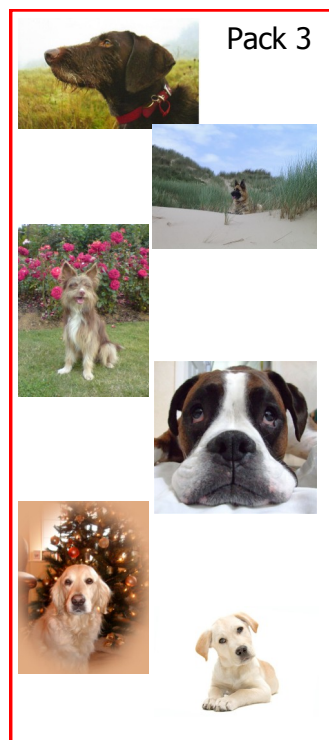
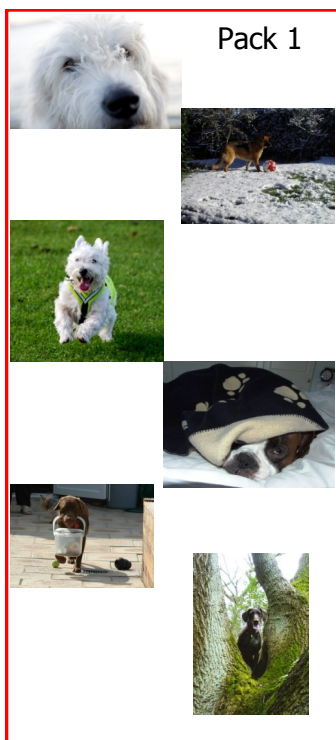


Dog A.I.D.
Bandannas
£4-50 plus pp



Blank greetings cards as shown below £3-00 per pack plus pp.

See enclosed order form for all Dog A.I.D. items shown



DogAID Launches 2010 Summer Charity Draw!

Once again we are sending out 2 books of Raffle Tickets with each of our Newsletters, and plenty more are available where they came from!

Let's see if we can beat last years' sum of £379.00.

We all appreciate just how little spare cash people have these days, but we would ask that you do your best to sell some of the tickets for us, or even buy one for yourself.

We have the whole of the summer to sell them; the draw will take place at our September workshop on Sunday 12th September. We ask that wherever possible ticket stubs and payment are returned by 31st August, to the address show on the counterfoil of each ticket.

This years prizes include

1st prize – 1 weeks holiday for up to 2 adults and 2 children in a self-catering apartment.

The details of the stay are as follows:

Staying at the Alanda Club in Marbella. This is a new concept in leisure and luxury; the Private Members' resort offers luxurious self-catering apartments, ideal for both couples and families alike. Located in east Marbella, with the world famous Nikki beach at the side of the resort so you can hang out with the rich and famous. Or you can simply take advantage of some of the best beaches on the south coast right in front of the resort. Alanda Club offers access to some of the finest beaches on the Spanish coast, local restaurants, shopping and golf courses and is situated 41Km from Malaga airport.

Please note that flights and airport transfers are not included.

2nd prize – Bungee Jump! Enjoy the adrenaline thrill of a lifetime with a bungee jump available at venues nationwide

3, 2, 1, BUNGEE! These are the last words you will hear before launching yourself from a 160ft platform and plummeting rapidly towards the ground. Once you have jumped, a euphoric sense of achievement fills your body with the knowledge that you have jumped with nothing more than an elastic band to save you!

Please note that certain restrictions apply. **Kindly sponsored by Buy-A-Gift**, more information can be found on their website www.buyagift.co.uk

3rd prize – Pet Portrait. A superb gift for pet lovers!

We all love our pets, but being a fantastic feline or a man's best friend isn't the easiest of tasks, so why not show your appreciation and love for everyone's favourite family member with this perfect Pet Portrait. Whichever pet you choose to take, you will be able to capture an image of them to keep forever.

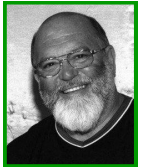
Available at over 100 studios nationwide. **Kindly sponsored by Buy-A-Gift**, more information can be found on their website www.buyagift.co.uk

There are many other superb prizes to be won.

We hope that you will do what you can to sell a few tickets for us; and if you need extras please contact Erica on 01543 270026 who will be happy to post more out to you.

Fundraising Variety Show

The Cannock fund-raising team proudly held their first Variety Show in November 2009, at Avon Business and Leisure Centre in Cannock. The show was compèred by a very well known raconteur and traditional folk singer, Mr Will Morgan (pictured right) Will brought to the evening his very special Black Country humour which was appreciated by not only the audience but the performers as well – the things he found out about them just by chatting to each one before making his introductions!



The show leapt into life with Mike Gibbons (pictured left) who has sung at open air concerts with the likes of Gary Barlow, Kylie and Westlife to name but a few. We were all then totally charmed by Emma Kerry's dancers 'Dance with Expression', whose ages ranged from 3 – 13 years. Their evenings' programme included Freestyle, Street and Slow routines. Sarah Bickley (pictured right) stepped onto the stage next, having travelled all the way from the South of England just to perform for us, and what a performance she gave! Mrs Charles and her daughter Steph charmed the audience with a variety of routines from Stephaneta School of Stage Dance, (pictured below) including four little 3 year olds performing The Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy, complete with tiny pink tu-tus and wands; what a wonderful sight they were and everyone in the house was thrilled by their performance.



Kristina Castellina (pictured left) wowed the audience with her renditions of many popular songs; at just 23 years old she has performed alongside Bonnie Tyler, Joe Longthorn and Ricky Tomlinson; all this from a wonderfully attractive young lady who hailed from one of our local schools here in Cannock! The Wozettes, a group of advanced guitar students who meet at the Avon Centre, gave us a whole variety of music accompanied by 2 young girls giving us some of their best vocals; they certainly had everyones toes tapping well! The show culminated in the second of two performances given by Body Beat School of Dance, led by their choreographer Laura Hughes. Laura has been awarded both International Choreographer of the Year and Best Urban Street Dance Choreographer and freely passes her dance skills on to each and every one of her very enthusiastic students. Their routines were spectacular and a great hit with every one of the audience especially the ones of 'street cred' age!



The show was produced and directed by Helen Tindill and Erica Bennett, both of whom are on the fundraising committee for DogAID. Every member of their families was also drawn in to help both in the show planning and production; and thanks were extended to each of them for this. The hire of the room was kindly donated by the directors of the Avon Centre, which includes Mrs Anita Castellina who, together with her wonderful Cocker Spaniel George, is a DogAID client. McDonalds generously sponsored each of the performers with a meal and drink before the performance, which was greatly appreciated. All performers appeared free of charge, in order to raise as much money as possible for DogAID. *A massive £690.00 was raised!*

We received great feedback from many of the people who came along, and hope to offer a further show later this year.





Strawberry Tea Week for Dog A.I.D.



Dog A.I.D. are planning to hold an annual Strawberry Tea event during the week commencing Monday 28th June 2010. We invite you to assist our fundraising efforts by holding your own strawberry-related event.

Your event can be as adventurous and original as you wish but should incorporate the strawberry theme. We have chosen this theme as our charity colours are red and white.

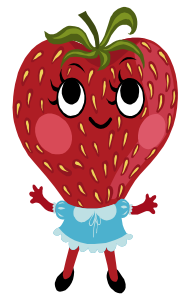
To minimise your costs for holding your event, a simple event idea could be:

1. Buy 2 punnets of fresh strawberries and some cream
2. Invite 5 friends to enjoy them with a cup of tea
3. Ask them to make a £2.00 donation each (suggested amount)
4. Now you have £12 (including yourself)
5. Deduct the cost of your strawberries and cream (approx £4)
6. Make an £8 donation to Dog A.I.D

Dog Aid was originally based on an American idea and to acknowledge this, our annual event will coincide with American Independence Day (July 4th).

If every member of Dog A.I.D participated in this simple but effective way, the money raised could exceed £1000, which would be a wonderful sum to be used to further enhance the work of our charity. **Should you be the more adventurous type, more extravagant strawberry ideas could be:**

- Hold a larger scale strawberry tea event at your home or workplace
- Invite friends to take part in a sponsored strawberry eating competition
- Be sponsored to wear a strawberry related costume at work
- Bake/make and sell strawberry food (cakes, jam, biscuits, scones, etc)
- Ask your child's school to hold a 'red clothing' day for 50p per child
- Invite friends and work colleagues to a strawberries and champagne event (whilst watching Wimbledon perhaps)
- How about a strawberry and chocolate fondue or fountain?!



These examples are only a few possibilities; you are most welcome to invent your own strawberry event! *Please remember these events are designed to be quirky and fun, also to raise much needed funds for our charity. If you would like to take any photos at your event, please let us have them for possible inclusion in the next newsletter!*

Youth organisations may wish to become involved, as this event could be utilised for attaining badges (cookery, voluntary work etc)

In order to maximise fundraising, we ask that you keep your expenditure to a minimum. Dog A.I.D. is happy for you to deduct the cost of the strawberries (and cream) from your fundraising total before making your final donation. Any other costs incurred should be borne by you, unless previously authorised by DogAID Committee. Information on how to donate will be supplied in your strawberry event pack. To request your pack, please contact Erica Bennett on 01543 270026

Introduction of Dog AID Workbooks

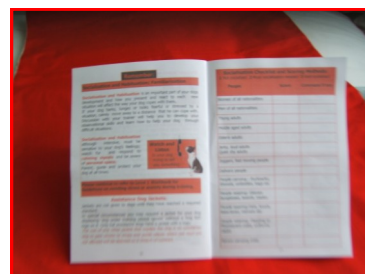
Dog AID now has two new workbooks for trainers and clients to work with. These will help to keep the client fully aware of what exercises and tasks they are working on plus a point of reference for the trainer while guiding the client through the criteria for each level.

Level 1 Workbook contains all the areas that need to be covered by the client, including Health and Welfare, Body Language, Socialisation and Familiarisation, socialisation check list, training tips and recommended reading or viewing.



The workbook is intended to be a way of continually assessing the team and relieving the client of the worry about a 'test' on a given date. As the client and dog achieve certain levels the trainer will mark off the date at which the exercise or task was attained. Once all exercises have been worked on and marked with a '3' ('does all the time') the client will be awarded their Good Companion Certificate. The trainer will need to complete a Summary of Achievement and return it to the office which will generate the delivery of the Level 2 Workbook.

Level 2 Workbook. This holds the criteria for all the exercises needed for the Advanced Good Companion certificate. Once again there is scope for 'continual assessment', so that the trainer and client are aware of the progress being made and when it is necessary to inform the office when the client is nearly ready to arrange a time and place for their assessment.



Both workbooks have useful training tips and suggestions many of these will be existing knowledge for trainers, however it is useful to go over these areas with the client so that they become more involved and informed about the training. There is space provided for appointments and a section for notes and memorandums for clients.

We hope you will enjoy working through these workbooks. Any feedback would be appreciated, especially if you feel there is something that we could add that would improve their usefulness.

Achievements

Level One Good Companion

*Anita Castellina and George Deborah Cornwall and Basil Sue Line and Sandie
Charles Elliott and Lennie Rachel Nickeas and Darwin Soraya Kazmi and Gabriel*

Level Two Advanced Good Companion

Rosie Pocock and Oscar

Level Three Assistance Dog

Rosie Pocock and Oscar



Spotlight on Trainer-----Billie Jenkins

----- an interview with the client Anita Castellina

Anita, how did you hear about Dog AID?

I heard about Dog AID through Sandra when she was booking the Workshop at Avon Business Centre.

Did you wait long to be matched with a trainer?

Not at all! Only a few months.

Tell me your first impressions when you met your trainer?

Billie is amazing, she instinctively knows about dogs and their capability. She is excellent to talk to, a thoroughly nice person and very down to earth. My dog George took to her straight away.

Has the training made a difference to you and your dog?

150% difference!! Cocker spaniels can be wayward but with Billie's help we have sorted all his little problems out. He is a delight to take out and have.

Was there a 'light bulb' moment when the training took on a new dimension?

Yes most definitely! When George got to 12 months old everything just fell into place. It was as though he knew what we had been working towards and he changed overnight.

How has the experience with Dog AID impacted on your life?

In February I was taken ill, George gave me a reason every day to get out of bed to go for his walks. I would of stayed at home feeling sorry for myself without George. I knew he needed his walks and his training and despite the difficulties especially with my breathing I did it and got better quicker. He gives me more than I could ever give him. He is quite simply my best mate and the love he gives is without question.

Can I add a footnote?

Dog Aid have given me so much, I could never thank them enough, George is doing things I could never of imagined with any of my other dogs, the training has been "Fun" but above everything George has given me a new friend in Billie, she is a really remarkable person and a credit to Dog Aid. She gives 100% to the training, she has such instincts and bonds with dogs, Dog Aid is very lucky to have her as a trainer.

In the picture you will see a puppy on Billie's lap, this is Flo a cocker spaniel who is 4mths old. She was born blind and Billie rescued her. Flo is amazing and she plays with George on the beach. Billie has given this dog a life and I think it just shows what an amazing person she is.



Left Anita and George, Centre Billie and Flo, Right Sarah Whelan and Lottie.

**If you would like to 'Spotlight' your trainer e-mail
midgenal@btinternet.com**

Introduction of a new product to Dog A.I.D. Merchandise



No more snatched drinks on the move for our dogs!!
Dog A.I.D. are pleased to be able to offer for sale the revolutionary new Road Refresher Dog Bowl

The road Refresher is an ingenious non-spill dog bowl that eliminates spills both in the car and at home. It has also been shown to reduce your pets slobber by up to 90%.



This product was originally shown on TV's Dragons Den when the inventor Natalie Ellis showcased her product. The dragons rejected her product but this turned out to be a mistake on their part as she is now turning over millions of pounds a year!

At Home- The Road Refresher bowl stops spills from accidental kicks, this non-spill pet travel bowl also keeps long ears and beards out of the water. The bowl encourages tidy drinking as it limits the amount of water your dog can pick up at any one time.

On The Move- The non-spill pet bowl can be filled with water and then left in a car so your pet can have access to fresh water whenever he wants, yet none will spill. Using this bowl your pet can arrive healthy and refreshed wherever you go.

How It Works- Road Refresher has a floating plate inside which feeds enough water through for your dog to drink at all times, yet immediately restricts the flow whenever there is a surge of water as a result of cornering, braking, being knocked or kicked and so on.

The Road Refresher has been found to be of great benefit to wheelchair users; even when toppling off a footplate it did not spill.

The bowl has Velcro pads on the base so fixes easily to carpets and additional Velcro fixing pads are supplied for fixing the bowl to most other surfaces.

Made from heat resistant, toughened polypropylene the Road refresher is easily taken apart for cleaning and then clicks back together again.

The bowl is available in 2 sizes:

Small (£9-99) which holds 0.6 litres
(just over a pint).

Large (£11-95) which holds 1.4 litres
(just under two and a half pints)

Both sizes are available in cream and sport the Dog A.I.D. logo in red.

Easy fix super strong cage brackets are also available to attach to any cage,
small £4-99 and large £5-99.

Life with Holly *by Niki Smith*



Holly came to live with us when she was 8 weeks old. It was January and the year before I had lost my Dalmation with cancer. He was my first unofficial assistance dog, helping me with my agoraphobia. I had not left our house for almost a year but one day something happened and he encouraged me to try, only to the end of our street and back, but that was enough to start an idea that grew. It did not last for long as it was only a few months later that he died.

When the New Year came I decided the time was right for a new dog. I still could not cope with seeing 'spots' so another Dally was out of the question but I loved the size and build of the breed having had Dalmations for many years. Holly was part of a litter that was purposely bred to be working gun dogs, she had a very strong instinct to point and has even today.

We started at a class as soon as possible and this was where we learned clicker training. I trusted her right from the beginning and she appeared to trust me. When she was a year or so old we started training for flyball, Holly loved it and I really enjoyed seeing how happy she was.

When she was 18mths, we were assessed as Pets As Therapy (P.A.T.) visitors. We were living very close to a residential home for people with Alzheimers. We passed the assessment and within weeks were going on our first visit. I didn't know then that it would be brilliant training and continuing socialising for Holly when she later became my assistance dog. She came into contact with walking frames, wheelchairs, a variety of people and very often the biscuit trolley!

She was a little shy at first, as was I, but halfway through our visit we both relaxed. The people were lovely and Holly had her favourites even though everyone who wanted to say hello to her could. One lady in particular always came over to see us. She had very advance Alzheimers but she never forgot Holly's name and always wanted to go for a walk around the complex. I was told one day that when we visited was the only time she left her seat and the only time she smiled. What more could you ask for.

In 2004 I entered Holly into the 'Mans Best Friend Awards' at the Wag and Bone Show. I had completely forgotten about doing it until I had a phone call from Dogs Today magazine saying we had won something and could we go to their photo studios as they were doing a piece on Holly along with other winners (one being Endal) We also had a day at the show and Holly had a certificate, though I am sure she would have preferred a go at the flyball!! Our local news crew also did a report on her, though I dare not watch it. It was not long after this we went to another assistance dog organisation. It was to see if Holly would be suitable to be trained to help me with the agoraphobia and now sciatica.

After a long drive to the training centre and meeting with the head trainer I found out we were not suitable. It was there I found out about Dog AID. As soon as I felt up to it I wrote a letter to see if we could be helped. There was a waiting list and I did not mind as it gave us something to work towards, my determination had set in. We trained with guidance of a trainer at our club. I taught Holly to fetch my phone when asked and in an emergency (that was when she had to decide for herself) We also trained in basic and advanced obedience, Canine freestyle and much more. Before I knew it we were told there was a trainer for us.



We were still visiting with P.A.T. and this was the thing that led to our time in the main ring at Crufts. Holly had been nominated for the Friends for Life award for the help she gave me and for her work at the home. The whole weekend was spent at Crufts 2006, We were put into the Hilton where we met the other finalists, they were all lovely, both humans and dogs. This was the year that Dan and Yogi won, something that we had decided amongst ourselves, and it was well deserved by them both. They were a lovely pair. All the finalists received an engraved crystal and silver bowl and all dogs looked for their dinner in them!! It took about 3 weeks to calm down from the excitement of the weekend and in that time we moved to a different town and were also invited to the House Of Commons by NOAH (National Office of Animal Health) for a celebration of animals during National Pet Month, along with Assistance Dog Charities and Animal Rescues. Holly loved watching the birds on the Thames from the tented balcony.



Within a couple of months Holly and I passed the Full Assistance Dog Status . I felt like we had struck gold. We have not looked back since though sadly we have stopped P.A.T. visiting because of moving but if anyone had considered joining P.A.T. it is well worth it.

Holly has also been a wonderful foster mum for 30 plus rescue dogs and one rescue kitten. Not only has she helped me but many others, it must be in her blood.

I feel I would be lost without her it was lovely to be part of all those things, I could go on for many more pages but will finish here. Our dogs give us so much but ask so little in return even though they deserve much more.

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April 2001 in Peterborough a black and tan German Shepherd male dog was born, he was given the name of Jake. Little did this pup know what his future would entail and how important he would become.

One year later Jake along with parents drove to Ipswich where he met his new adopted mum and dad Claire & Simon. Still a young pup he went through many struggles and he witnessed his mum Claire go from using crutches to going into a wheelchair.

Claire and Simon had their ups and downs and many struggles especially whilst behaviour training and before he was neutered, but through the thick of it all, they got through.

Later on in the year Claire found an organisation on the internet that helped disabled people train their own dogs to become assistance dogs. The organisation was called "Dog A.I.D." (Assistance In Disability) so she applied to them and was accepted. She was put on a waiting list for a trainer in her area. There were many problems including getting a trainer available to help.

Claire and Simon went to training classes for a while. Claire decided now that Jake was 2yrs she would start to train him herself. One night whilst watching T.V. she saw a programme about working dogs called "Jobs for Dogs". She watched an episode about a girl in America who had a muscle condition and had an assistance dog which she took to school with her. In the lesson she dropped her pencil and she said "Oopsie" and with that her dog immediately picked up her pencil and gave it to her. Seeing this, Claire thought "what a brilliant idea".

After a few hours of practicing with Jake he was able to do it. They gave Simon a demonstration, Claire told Simon to drop his keys, curiously he dropped them and Claire said "Oopsie" with that Jake picked up the keys and gave them to Simon. Both Claire & Simon were filled with joy and gave Jake much praise. Training continued.

Through 2004 Claire & Simon were interviewed by Habinteg Housing Association to be re-housed to a wheelchair accessible flat. One problem arose-- JAKE! Claire and Simon's beloved dog may not be able to be re-housed with them as there was a policy about no pets allowed. Simon explained that Jake wasn't just a pet he was going to be trained to become a working dog for Claire as an assistance dog and he was registered with the charitable organisation "Dog A.I.D.". The interviewer Rosie Rogers told Claire & Simon that she understood and would phone headquarters to see if it would be alright to proceed with the application.

Hours went by and Simon & Claire were getting more and more anxious and worried, then finally the call came, it was Rosie Rogers. She put them both at ease and informed them to get a letter from "Dog A.I.D." to confirm that Jake was registered with them and that he was being trained to become an Assistance Dog. It was agreed that Jake would be re-housed with the couple on the terms that Jake would become a qualified Assistance Dog for Claire. 31st May 2004 Simon and Claire with Jake (now 3 years old) moved to their new wheelchair accessible two bedroom flat.

Training continued and a trainer was found who lived in the local area. The trainer was David Marter and although he was a qualified dog trainer, he was still in training himself to become a qualified "Dog A.I.D." trainer.



Claire felt that Jake was ready to become qualified, she contacted "Dog A.I.D." and was given a date when the assessor Dolores Palmer, along with Jake's trainer Dave Marter would carry out the assessment. Claire received the copies of the task papers that the exam would be concentrated on.

Simon and Claire trained with Jake daily to prepare for his big day. The night before the exam Claire was nervous and stressing about the event and how Jake would perform on the day and if he would be having a good day, and she found difficulty sleeping.

The day came and Simon left the flat as Claire waited with Jake for the examiner and his trainer to arrive. Early afternoon they arrived and after being given a briefing and some reassuring words from the examiner, the assessment began.

At the end of the assessment Dolores Palmer the "Dog A.I.D." examiner announced the most important news that EVERYONE wanted to hear. JAKE PASSED!!!!!!

6th July 2006 Jake O'Brien-Ellington qualified as an official Assistance Dog. He was now in the possession of a new jacket. A photograph of Jake and myself was put on a license letting others know that he was an Assistance Dog and he had the same rights as a Guide Dog.

Jake qualifying and becoming an Assistance Dog wouldn't have been possible without the help of the following people :

First of all I need to thank "Dog A.I.D." and Dolores Palmer for accepting my initial application registering Jake, also for supplying the details of my local trainer.

This brings me on to the next person that I wish to give my gratitude to and that is David Marter who even though he was still training to qualify to become an official "Dog A.I.D." trainer he was still willing to help me with Jake providing techniques to help with his training.

Secondly Rosie Rogers and Habinteg Housing Association. If it wasn't for Rosie explaining to H.Q about Jake, then we wouldn't have been able to either move or worse even keep him, I can't say thank you enough to you and for your understanding and acceptance of Jake himself.

I have to give my husband Simon a mention who without his agreement to getting a dog in the first place we wouldn't have Jake, I have to thank him for accepting Jake, the love he gives and for the patience he has shown through our years of marriage, my illnesses and stages of training with Jake especially when we both went through hard times when it got difficult. Through all the thick of it he is there to take me down the tunnel to get to the light.

I love and thank him from the bottom of my heart for being Jake's dad. Last but not least I have to say thank you to the star of it all, Jake. He has been there for me and stayed with me whenever I have been upset or ill and he has taught both myself and Simon a few things himself.

I thank him for being like a son and best friend to us.



Claire and her husband run a wheelchair football team and Jake was their mascot, always at Claire's side. He will be sorely missed.

Dog Assistance In Disability

Providing access to dog training for people with physical disabilities, enabling them to train their pets in general obedience and in specialised tasks which will help them lead a fuller and more independent life.

Trainer Application Packs.

Sandra Fraser: Chairperson, Senior Trainer & Trainer Co-ordinator. 01743 891314

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E-mail aw012h4554@blueyonder.co.uk

Lyn Fleet Forum Moderator

lynfleet@msn.com

Web address <http://www.Dogaid.org.uk/>

The Aims of the Charity *The training and instruction of dogs to act as efficient and safe companions and assistance dogs for people with physical disabilities. To train and educate people with physical disabilities in the proper and safe use of dogs. To provide such additional services and facilities for the relief of people with physical disabilities as the organisation shall from time to time deem fit.*

Objectives

- 1. To provide access to dog training for people with physical disabilities.*
- 2. To educate people with physical disabilities how they can best care for their dog in relation to their disabilities.*
- 3. To educate people with disabilities how they can create the best bond between themselves and their dog.*
- 4. To ensure the dog is well socialised in relation to the environment it is to live and work in.*
- 5. To help people with disabilities to train their dogs in basic control both inside and outside the home.*
- 6. To help people with disabilities train their dogs to carry out specialised tasks in order to assist them to manage their disability in everyday life.*
- 7. Where it is required to seek rights of access to individual shops and institutions.*



Oscar our Sports Boy *by Rosie Pocock*

Oscar shared a very loving partnership with Iona my friend, a linguist with a fantastic soprano singing voice, when she sang her scales Oscar would join in and continue up the scale! Oscar attended Iona's evening classes as a puppy, he came in a cage but with full view of proceedings, taking it all in quietly. Oscar knew Iona had delicate skin so was very gentle in handing items. Iona couldn't bend so Oscar accommodated by standing on rear legs to put things directly into her hand or simply to be stroked, leaning lovingly into her making eye contact always. Both Iona and Oscar were house and garden bound but Oscar had a dog walker Tony for country walks each day.

When Iona unexpectedly died after an operation in 2008, Oscar came to stay with me, I had heard of Dog AID and knew Oscar had all the skills, he is not phased by anything, listens and watches all the time totally attentive and worked well with my wheelchair out and about, which he absolutely loves. Oscar so enjoys being by my side and handing things I drop, credit card, pen, keys, table napkin, purse or hat. I was worried Oscar was a little old to apply to Dog AID for training but I applied and Dog AID recognised he was a special dog. We were matched with local volunteer trainer and we soon passed levels one and two and his mock final in February and await a date for Oscar's final assessment to gain his Assistance status. Iona would have been so pleased as I am so impressed with my Dog A.I.D. partner.