

Winter 2023



PAWS FOR THOUGHT

The Dog A.I.D. Newsletter



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CHRISTMAS GREETINGS FROM DOG A.I.D.!

As we fast approach the end of 2023, the Dog A.I.D. team have been reflecting on what an amazing year it has been for our charity. This year, we have had the pleasure of seeing **87 Assistance Dog partnerships pass assessments**, making this our most successful year yet. We are now supporting **83 partnerships in training** and **106 qualified Assistance Dog partnerships**, empowering physically Disabled people to live a more independent life.

All of this would not be possible without the incredible commitment and hard work of our clients and their dogs, and the dedication and expertise of their volunteer trainers. We cannot thank them enough. We are also incredibly grateful to all of our funders and the many members of the public who support us. We couldn't do what we do without you and we would like to send a heartfelt "Thank You" to you all.

We would like to wish you all a peaceful Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year.

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Natural Instinct[®]
Dog & Cat food as nature intended

Dog A.I.D.'s Christmas Campaign



Donate to Dog A.I.D. this Christmas and your generous gift will support more partnerships like Brian and Lily. Brian suffered life-changing spinal injuries whilst serving his community in the emergency services. With support from Dog A.I.D., and our team of hero volunteer dog trainers, he was able to train his devoted pet cockerpoo, Lily, to become his Assistance Dog. Brian describes Lily as his "lifeline".

Dog A.I.D. is a national Assistance Dog charity that coaches physically Disabled people to train their own pet dog to become an Assistance Dog. Our training works with the very special bond that exists between a dog owner and their pet, creating a unique partnership that changes a life. Our clients report that an Assistance Dog helps them to become more independent, confident and less socially isolated.

To donate to our Christmas campaign, go to:

<https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/celebratingpartnerships>

ASSESSMENT SUCCESS!

Congratulations to our partnerships who have qualified or passed assessments since October

Qualified

Ryan and Logan (trained by Joanne Jackman)

Richard and Odin (trained by Alan Rankin)

Level Two



Joanne and Noodle

Helen and Coco

Hilary and Loki



Level One

Evie and Luna

Jodie and Happy

Cassandra and Clover

Teresa and Spring

Beth and Beau

Tilly and Toby

Illinca and Blu

Daphne and Poppy

Jo and Ralph

Christina and Herbert

CELEBRATING PARTNERSHIPS

In our Winter newsletter, we're celebrating some of our incredible Dog A.I.D. trained Assistance Dog partnerships. We'd like to introduce you to **Hazel, Ben** and **Chloe**. We're so proud of everything that these three partnerships have achieved and the dedication and hard work that they have put into their training. Here, they talk about the impact that training their own pet dog to become an Assistance Dog has had on their life.

Hazel and Teddy

Hazel says, "Before Teddy, life was pretty isolating, both physically and emotionally. By training and qualifying with Dog A.I.D. we have been on one heck of a journey. There have been ups and downs, but ultimately Teddy gives me a purpose and helps me to be more 'me'. He brings me my migraine medication, helps me to undress, helps with the washing and picks things up for me".



"Through our journey we have made new friends, met wonderful people and conquered fears. Without him by my side, I wouldn't have accomplished these things. Our bond has grown incredibly and I can't imagine life without my little boy. A huge thank you to the Dog A.I.D. team for all that you do; without you this wouldn't have been possible".



CELEBRATING PARTNERSHIPS

Ben and Phoebe



Ben joined Dog A.I.D. as a client in 2020. He has trained his pet Labrador, Phoebe, to become an Assistance Dog with the support of volunteer dog trainer, Sarah. Ben and Phoebe qualified as an Assistance Dog partnership in July 2021.

Ben says that Phoebe has enabled him to “be part of society in a way I couldn’t before”.

Phoebe helps Ben with tasks that enable greater independence including helping him dress and undress, opening cupboard doors and bringing the post when it’s delivered.

Ben says “Phoebe comes out with me whenever I go out and about. In the supermarket, she will help put items into shopping bags, and will hand over items like a wallet to people on the till if I can’t reach. What this training has given me is a bond I haven’t experienced with a pet before and due to our connection, it’s safe to say me and Phoebe are true friends for life”.



CELEBRATING PARTNERSHIPS

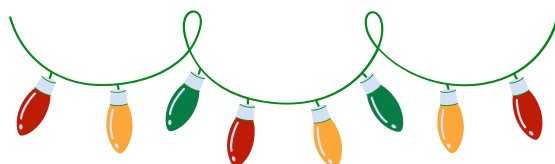
Chloe and Ocho



Chloe is the only wheelchair-using nurse in the U.K. who has an Assistance Dog at work. She says, "I couldn't be 'me' without my assistance dog, Ocho. He gives me the confidence, emotional support and physical assistance to shine in my role as a community lead nurse working in complex care...I can't thank Dog A.I.D. and my trainer Mark enough for helping me regain my independence".

Chloe says "Ocho helps me every day with things like getting undressed, carrying the shopping, loading and unloading the washing machine, getting my shoes, finding the TV remote, fetching the post, opening and closing doors and so much more. At work he is able to support not just me but my patients too. Everyone loves him and you only have to look into his big brown eyes to see why".

Chloe and Ocho have become incredible ambassadors for Dog A.I.D. Assistance Dog partnerships. Together they have won multiple awards including the amazing "Lifetime Achievement" at the Animal Star awards and "Exceptional Home Care Nurse" at the Stars of Social Care awards. We are so proud of everything they have achieved.



thank you

to our incredible volunteer trainers

Dog A.I.D. could not deliver its life-changing work without the dedication and expertise of its expert volunteer dog trainers.

We're so grateful to every volunteer who gives their time to coach our clients to train their own pet dog to become an Assistance Dog.

We wish you all a very happy Christmas and look forward to working in partnership with you in 2024!



OUR SUPER SUP-PAWTERS!

Dog A.I.D. is so fortunate to have many incredible people and organisations supporting our mission and ensuring that we can coach more physically Disabled people across the U.K. to train their own pet dog to become an Assistance Dog. We're so grateful to every one of our supporters. In our Winter newsletter, we are featuring some of them and saying a huge "thank you" for raising funds and awareness for Dog A.I.D.

Jill and Paddy dash for Dog A.I.D.

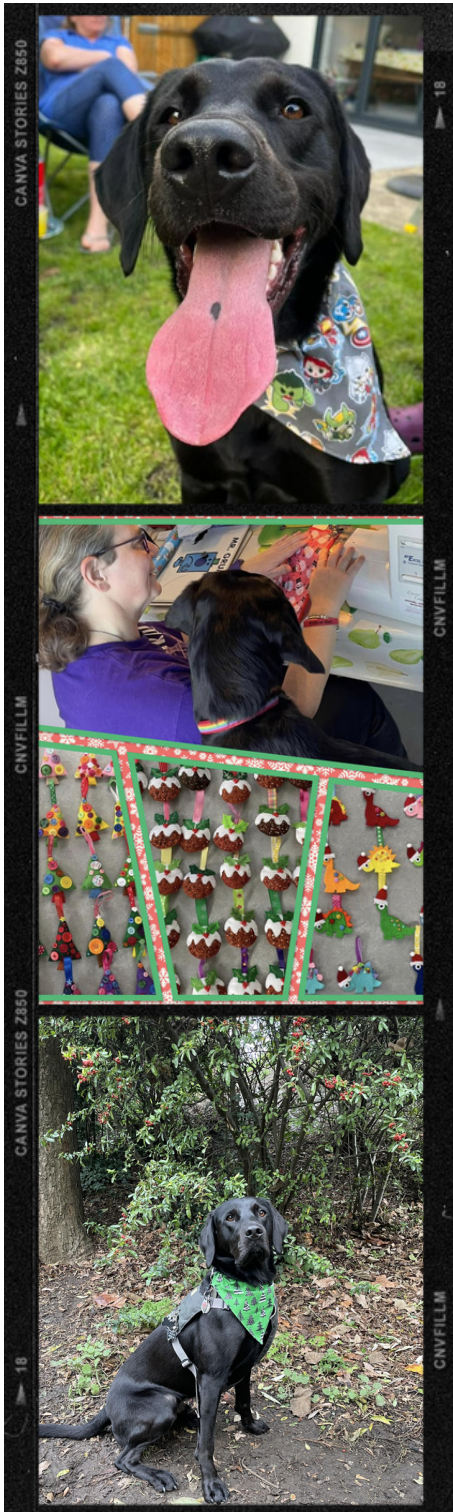


Dog A.I.D. client, **Jill**, and her **Assistance Dog Paddy** raised an incredible £510 for Dog A.I.D. by completing the 3 kilometre Warrington Santa Dash. Jill said afterwards, "Paddy loved the Santa Dash, in fact ducks would have too as the weather was dreadful but it still got 150 Santas out early on a Sunday morning". Jill and Paddy are pictured above drying out and warming up with a very well deserved Puppacino. Thank you both for your amazing efforts!



OUR SUPER SUP-PAWTERS!

Mo and Charlie's beautiful bandanas!



Dog A.I.D. client **Mo and Assistance Dog Charlie**, have been raising funds for Dog A.I.D. by selling hand crafted bandanas and Christmas decorations. Pictured left is the handsome supermodel Charlie rocking some of the beautiful products!

Charlie's support of Mo has had the most incredible impact on her life. Mo says, "Although not fully trained, Charlie is already changing my life... he's helping my confidence so much - I was at home for almost 18 months, totally unable to leave the house unless I was with another adult... now I can go for short walks as I have Charlie alongside me...I am really living again now I have him and am working with a lovely trainer to get him up to full Assistance Dog standard...already he can fetch my hypo kit and medication and he will pick up things that I can't reach or that I drop. He is such a clever boy and together we are learning so much".

We're so grateful to Mo and to Charlie for their incredible fundraising!



OUR SUPER SUP-PAWTERS!

Creating funds for Dog A.I.D.



Huge thanks go to Dog A.I.D. client **Dawn**, retired **Assistance Dog Skylah** and Dawn's mum, **Pauline**, for their fabulous fundraising through selling their hand-made crafts and cards.



The terrific trio have been at numerous craft fairs and events throughout the year, raising awareness by talking to interested members of the public about our work. Skylah (pictured above) is the perfect Ambassa-dog! A proportion of all of Dawn's sales through her DJ Creations business is donated to Dog A.I.D. A huge "thank you" goes to Dawn, Pauline and Skylah for their hard work.



OUR SUPER SUP-PAWTERS!

Thank you to Verso!



Dog A.I.D. has been very fortunate to have been chosen as a charity partner of **Verso Lounge, Stafford**. Verso became aware of Dog A.I.D. thanks to our lovely **client Yvonne and her trainer Maurice Millington** championing our cause. The fabulous team at Verso have been busy holding a number of events to raise money for Dog A.I.D.



The team have been hosting cake sales, a "Breakfast with Santa" event and Monday night quizzes with donations being made to Dog A.I.D. We're incredibly grateful to Connor, Christabel and the team for working so hard on our behalf. We wish them all a very happy and restful Christmas after all of their efforts!



OUR SUPER SUP-PAWTERS!

Co-op supporting partnerships



Dog A.I.D. team members and client **Abby with Assistance Dog Pepper** were delighted to attend Co-op Sturchley in November to say "thank you" for the support of their members who have raised an incredible £2083.74 for Dog A.I.D. through the Co-op Local Community Fund. We want to send our thanks to all of the Co-op members who shopped in store and nominated Dog A.I.D. as their chosen charity to benefit from the Fund.



Dog A.I.D. CEO Belinda Johnson said, "We're so grateful to Co-op for supporting Dog A.I.D. through the Local Community Fund. The money raised will go towards funding activities that benefit our Dog A.I.D. community. We would like to extend special thanks to Co-op Community Pioneer, Sam, for her help and support".





Upcoming Events

Client Coffee and Chat Sessions

Join us for our online client Coffee and Chat sessions hosted by the Dog A.I.D. Team

Friday 12th January, 11am - midday

Thursday 1st February, 11am - midday (as part of Time to Talk Day 2024)

Monday 18th March, 4-5pm



To register, email admin@dogaid.org.uk

Our next webinar

Our next webinar for clients and trainers, hosted by our trainer representative Fran, focuses on recognising the signs of discomfort in dogs and the impact this has on wellbeing and behaviour. To register, email admin@dogaid.org.uk

Pain... Can You See It?

Recognising subtle signs of pain in dogs

hosted by

Fran Murtaugh

ISCP Adv. Canine Behav. Practitioner,
Qualified Canine Hydrotherapist



**17th Jan
6:30pm**

DOG A.I.D. IN THE NEWS

Gillian and Rhoda



Gillian and Assistance Dog Rhoda have been featured in the Standard Poodle Club Newsletter. In the article, Gillian talked about training Rhoda with the support of Dog A.I.D. She said, "I am so proud of Rhoda, she is amazing". Gillian also praised trainer Sarah saying, "Sarah has become a real friend".



Jess and Darcy



Assistance Dog Darcy has been voted Benyfit Natural's Service Dog of the Year. Darcy supports owner Jess by carrying out tasks including fetching food and drinks and picking up dropped items. Jess works at a university and takes Darcy into work with her. Jess said "Darcy is very popular around campus...she loves coming into the office and making everyone smile".



Christmas Word Search

Festive fun for our younger fans!



M	T	R	D	B	Y	B	A	A	S	T	A	R	T
R	U	L	E	R	J	L	A	N	G	E	L	O	M
U	R	B	I	K	N	R	A	H	D	O	D	L	Q
T	K	F	W	G	I	F	T	S	W	E	N	H	I
R	E	S	L	E	I	G	H	T	S	R	S	A	M
X	Y	Z	D	U	L	O	R	H	A	U	A	G	E
H	O	L	I	D	A	Y	F	R	C	E	N	D	R
U	X	G	B	R	A	E	T	Y	K	R	T	A	R
C	H	R	I	S	T	M	A	S	P	E	A	L	Y
P	G	O	R	I	B	B	O	N	T	O	N	T	U
K	T	Y	O	L	B	E	C	A	N	D	Y	L	M

- sleigh
- star
- sack
- turkey
- gifts
- angel
- holiday
- merry
- candy
- christmas
- santa
- ribbon



Christmas Greetings from Dog A.I.D.

**All of the staff and trustees of Dog A.I.D.
would like to wish all of our supporters a
very happy and peaceful Christmas.**

**Thank you all for the incredible support
you've shown us throughout the year.**

