

PAWS FOR THOUGHT

The Dog A.I.D. Newsletter - Winter 2024



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SEASON'S GREETINGS FROM DOG A.I.D.

A MESSAGE FROM DOG A.I.D. CEO, BEE JOHNSON

It's been an incredibly busy year for Dog A.I.D. and one which I reflect on with a huge amount of pride. Every day, our team sees the incredible impact that having a Dog A.I.D. trained Assistance Dog has for our clients. We have the immense privilege of sharing the journeys of our partnerships, celebrating the successes and supporting during the difficult days. We are also extremely fortunate to be working alongside the most incredible, dedicated team of volunteers and are so very thankful for the time and expertise that they bring to our charity.

We have been fortunate enough this year to have been able to grow our team with two fabulous additions, Beth and Soph. They join Tara and Susie in providing support to our partnerships and volunteers. I really couldn't wish to work with a more dedicated, hard-working team. I know I speak on behalf of them all by expressing our gratitude to our funders, volunteers, trustees and many supporters in communities across the U.K. who champion our work and are part of our wider "Team Dog A.I.D.".

May I take this opportunity to wish you and those dear to you a very "Happy Christmas". We look forward to seeing you in 2025!



WELCOME BETH AND SOPH!

**WE'RE THRILLED TO WELCOME TWO NEW MEMBERS TO OUR
TEAM - BETH KENT AND SOPH MAIDEN**

Beth, pictured right with her dog Luna, has joined Dog A.I.D. as our training advisor. Beth runs her own training business, Barking Buds, and is passionate about supporting our partnerships and volunteer trainers. She said, "Training owners and their dogs is an incredibly rewarding experience but when you train someone to be able to do the same, it just adds to the experience".



Soph has joined Dog A.I.D. as our programme support and engagement officer. Her role focuses on engaging both clients and volunteers and providing high quality programme support. Soph has previously worked in the education and charity sectors, supporting people with SEND. Outside of work, she enjoys spending time with friends and family - especially her dog! - and going to concerts and comedy shows.

OUR 'LEND A PAW' CAMPAIGN

Dog A.I.D. works with physically Disabled people to coach them to train their own pet dog, utilising the bond that already exists between the owner and their pet, to become an accredited Assistance Dog.

Our services are delivered by a U.K. wide network of incredible volunteer dog trainers. We receive no government funding and rely on the generosity of individuals, businesses and communities to fund our work.

We would love for you to "lend a paw" to support our work and ensure that we can continue to deliver our life-changing services. Any action you take, large or small, all adds up to create a huge impact, giving physically Disabled people more independence and choices in life.

You can "lend a paw" by:

Donating - We know that times are hard for everyone but even the smallest donation makes a massive difference! You can make a one-off donation or give a regular gift.

Volunteering - We couldn't deliver our work without the support of incredible volunteer dog trainers. By giving an hour a week, you could change the world for a physically Disabled person. In return for your knowledge and expertise, we provide full support and ongoing development opportunities for trainers.

Supporting - There are so many ways in which you could support Dog A.I.D.! You could host a collection tin at your place of work, follow us on social media and like and share our posts or deliver an awareness raising talk about Dog A.I.D. in your community. To find out more, go to <https://dogaid.org.uk/lend-a-paw-campaign>





ASSESSMENT SUCCESS!

Accredited (Level 3)

Kay & Teddy (trained by Rachel Nicholas)

Kay & Cooper (trained by Vicky Welsh)

Chris & Zeus (trained by Allyson Tohme)

Geneve & Pluto (trained by Anne Tucker)

Carl & Herbie (trained by Barbara Swarbrick)

Carol & Bailey (trained by Peta Brandwood)

Cassandra & Clover (trained by Keyna Mullany)

Joanne & Noodle (trained by Lorraine Benham and Megan Taylor)

Sharon & Layla (trained by Jodie Griffin)

Level Two

Ann & Maggie

Julie & Inca

Christine & Herbert

Jodie & Harmony

Nic & Esme

Carrie & Astrid

Georgina & Leo



ASSESSMENT SUCCESS!

Level One

Ann-Marie & Cree

Annual Assessments

Talya & Coby
Kate & Sam
Carrie & Arlo
Phil & Poppy
Brian & Lily
Sarah & Thor
Suzzie & Nala
Stephanie & Marley
Lillie & Iggy
Kathryn & Sammy
Ashleigh & Mia
Alexis & Finley
Ben & Phoebe
Anthony & Archie
Jenniffer & Ollie
Louise & Lottie

Kathie & Luska
Dorothy & Poppy
Gina & Paddy
Lisa & Senna
Kelly & Poppy
Ffion & Vera
Michelle & Nova
Lynne & Brodie
Rhiannon & Beany
Rob & Buster
Mary-Ann & Koda
Susan & Drum
Liz & Lady
Ryan & Logan
Jess & Darcy
Rebecca & Luna
Zoe-Ann & Theo

PARTNERSHIP STORIES

WE'RE PROUD TO SHARE WITH YOU THE SUCCESSES OF OUR
FABULOUS PARTNERSHIPS

Fabulous Mutz is top dog!



Huge congratulations go to handsome Assistance Dog Mutz. Mutz was entered into his annual local Lions Dog show by mum Susanne and walked away with two prizes!

Mutz and Susanne worked hard at the show, promoting Dog A.I.D. and raising very welcome funds for our charity. Superstar Mutz was the perfect Ambassa-dog. Thank you Susanne and Mutz!

Logan's superpower

Ryan credits Assistance Dog Logan with giving him more independence. He describes Logan's ability to pick up dropped items, such as keys and wallets, as his 'superpower.'

Ryan no longer has to rely on others to retrieve items he has dropped; Logan steps in to help automatically, without needing to be asked. Ryan says that this support has been invaluable to his daily life.





PARTNERSHIP STORIES

Cassi and Clover's incredible year

We're so proud of Cassi and Clover who have become an accredited Assistance Dog partnership in less than a year. What an incredible achievement - congratulations to them both!

Cassi gives huge credit to her trainer, Keyna Mullany, for her success. She said, "To say our trainer, Keyna, is amazing would be such an understatement. She has empowered me through every step of our Dog A.I.D journey. When we first met, I thought Keyna would just teach me how to train my dog but she did so much more than that. She listened to me when I was worried Clover wasn't ever going to understand something, and when I worried I wasn't good enough to teach her. We wouldn't have achieved Assistance Dog accreditation without Keyna. She'll say it was all me but she is far too modest!"

"When we were preparing for our Level 2 assessment, I remember saying to Keyna, 'the bond Clover and I have developed is far beyond what I'd hoped we'd achieve, so it doesn't matter if we fail'. Aside from all the benefits of having her as my Assistance Dog, the bond we built is the greatest gift we've been given through this whole process".

"I became a wheelchair user almost 10 years ago, and with that I lost my independence. Having Clover by my side has given me some of that back. Next year I am going to have my first holiday to America, something which would've been impossible without Clover."



"I became a wheelchair user almost 10 years ago and with that, I lost my independence. Having Clover by my side has given some of that back" - Dog A.I.D. client, Cassi

PARTNERSHIP STORIES

Partnerships on their travels

Dog A.I.D. client Emma, took a trip to Dubai for work earlier in the year with Assistance Dog Luna. Emma and Luna were welcomed by the lovely cabin crew of Emirates (pictured below). Look out for our blog post on Emma and Luna in the New Year!



Dog A.I.D. client Rosanne was supported by Assistance Dog, Bosco, on a trip to Ireland to visit friends. They flew from London City airport to Belfast. Rosanne said that lovely Bosco took the new experience all in his stride. Whilst in Ireland, Rosanne and Bosco stayed on a farm. Having been born on a farm in Jersey, Bosco enjoyed the smells and sights of his youth! Look out for our blog post on Rosanne and Bosco in the New Year!



PARTNERSHIP STORIES

Christmas fun raises funds for Dog A.I.D.!



Once again, our fabulous supporters in Northern Ireland have been out in force raising funds for Dog A.I.D.! As part of our "Lend a Paw" campaign, volunteer Hazel and client Richard, with Assistance Dog Odin, hosted a charity Christmas Fair with stalls, live music and Santa's grotto. Huge Dog A.I.D. thanks go to all of the volunteers (elves!) involved and everyone who attended and donated.



OUR AMAZING VOLUNTEERS

Fran, Gillian and Rhoda show off their skills



Dog A.I.D. was lucky enough to be a charity partner at PACT's DogX event in Winchester back in October. Our trainer representative, Fran, delivered a talk about Dog A.I.D.'s unique work, supported by volunteer Gillian and Assistance Dog, Rhoda. They delivered a demonstration of the skills that they have learned through the Dog A.I.D. programme. Thank you to Corrin and the PACT team for hosting us and raising awareness of our work.

Train the Trainer workshops

Dog A.I.D. delivered two Train the Trainer workshops this Autumn in Northallerton and Gloucester to support the professional development of our amazing volunteer dog trainers. The workshops focused on understanding the needs and challenges of clients, determining when dogs are ready for assessment and looking after volunteer mental wellbeing. Volunteers were able to use mobility aids to gain a greater understanding of how to adapt training to suit the mobility needs of clients.





OUR AMAZING VOLUNTEERS

We're delighted to bring you all of our Trainer of the Month award winners for 2024 - Congratulations to them all!

January - Jodie Griffin

February - Paul Kelly

March - Keyna Mullany

April - Peta Brandwood

May - Caroline Penistone

June - Lillie Abbott

July - Mallory Bergman

August - Karen Henley

September - Maurice Millington

October - Tracy Pilsbury

November - Vicky Welsh

December - Allyson Tohme





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.**

