

Newsletter
Spring 2016

Pawns for Thought



Reg.Charity No. 1098619

**Dog A.I.D. Trainer
wins KC
Trainer of the Year!**



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**Bella completes
Trick Challenge
raising £2631**



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**Who let
the Dogs out!**

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**Success at Crufts with a bigger stand
& Demo's by clients** Page 8 & 9

**Festival of Working
& Assistance Dogs**



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AGM
July 9th 2016
10.30am
Cannock
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**Dog Yoga!
at spring workhop**



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**Heidi is in the
spotlight**



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**Ruth & Seren
represent Dog A.I.D.**



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Kindly supported by

Natural Instinct
Dog & cat food as nature intended





Level 2
Advanced Good Companion

Jeanette Kennelly & Kane
Ann Page & Harry
Chloe Fuller & Teddy
Amanda Nelson & Dyson
Christine Sales & Lulu
Maxine Berry & Poppy
Loz Tilston-Brooks & Doris
Alison Tompsett & Jasper
Anna Phillips & Bumble
Jenny Prescott & Dolly
Helen Dyson & Amber



Level 1
Good Companion

Jill Doran & Minnie
Lorna Johnson & Jasmine
Stacey Poyner & Roxy
Jenny Prescott & Dolly
Christine Sales & Lulu
Anna Phillips & Bumble
Jenny Rowlands & Echo
Claire-Louise Geraerts & Megan
Bruce Heilmer & Saatchi
Tony McCabe & Archie
Janice Ormston & Pickles
Lise Marron & Daithi
Sarah Woolrich & Cwtch
Glynis Bell & Radley
Bekah Cook & Autie
Pam Weir & Sullivan
Megan Taylor & Ruby

Level 3
Final Certificate

Rachel Pattison & Teddy
Jeanette Kennelly & Kane
Karen Thomas & Teddy
Chloe Fuller & Ted
Sandra Crouch & Ella
Amanda Nelson & Dyson
Margaret Russell & Heidi
Hannah Rose & Mabel
Loz Tilston-Brooks & Doris
Alison Tompsett & Jasper



*Celebrating the success
of our clients, dogs & trainers*





Wags & Woofs from the Chair

Having our own office has made such a difference to the charity. The amount of progress that has taken place is amazing. We now have four part-time staff, who cover between them 40 hours a week, plus myself. Our fourth member is Katya who is doing the bookkeeping. Through having the staff we have been able to process more applications, progress and record more monthly reports and organise workshops. We have also had more clients and dogs reach full assistance level, last year we had a record 16, and 4 have already passed for this year!

Crufts was a huge success, thank you all of you that came to support the charity. Brilliant demos with brilliant

dogs, well done! Next year will be even better. I have asked Joanne Jackman, one of our trainers, to organise Crufts next year, so expect to receive contact from her in the near future.

The AGM is coming up on 9th July this will be held once again at Avon Business and Leisure Centre Cannock (thanks to Anita Castellina). The day will have a programme for you all to enjoy. See AGM notification.

There are many fundraising events planned for the summer months, do keep an eye on the website or Facebook to see if any are near enough for you to go along and support or help.

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Ed's Note ...

Welcome to the Spring 2016 newsletter.

WOW! Do we have a jam packed issue for you this time, thanks so much to everyone for contributing some great articles and stories to 'your' newsletter.

As well as our usual features there's lots of news about the wonderful fundraising that our clients & supporters have done, there's a round up of this years events at Crufts where one of our trainers, Jane Arden, won KC Trainer of the Year.

Read about our clients that have been doing a great job of representing Dog A.I.D. at various events, we also have details of this years AGM and this issue Heidi is in the 'spotlight'.

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



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Heidi in the spotlight



Dog Assistance in Disability

Hereby give notice of

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2016

10.30am
July 9th 2016

Avon Business & Leisure
Centre Cannock. Avon
Road, Cannock WS11 1LH

10.30 ~ Welcome & Coffee

11.00 ~ Keith Sleightholm from
ProTrainings.eu

First Aid for Dogs.

Understanding basic first aid for
your dog will give you the skills to
assist them before professional help
is given by your vet.

11.45 - 12.00 ~ Questions

12.00 - 1pm ~ Lunch

1pm - 2.15 ~ Kirsten Dillon. Trainer
and behavioural consultant.

Stretching and Yoga poses for
dogs. How to actively teach
relaxation.

2.15 - 2.30 ~ Tea break

2.30 - 3.15 ~ AGM

3.30 ~ Finish

If you wish to attend the AGM, please email the office on
general_admin@dogaid.org.uk

A list of local hotels will be sent to those wishing to stay over.

Announcement!

What's ON!

Dates for your diary

- 18th & 19th June 2016
DOGFEST
Arley Hall, Cheshire
- 25th & 26th June 2016
DOGFEST
Windsor Great Park
- 9th July 2016
AGM
Cannock
- 6th August 2016
DoodleFest
Catton park, Derbyshire
- 10th/11th Sept 2016
**Autumn Workshop
for clients/trainers**
Stoke Mandeville
- 8th & 9th Octobr 2016
**Trainers'
Workshop**
Stoke Mandeville

contact the office for more details
of events

Wags & Woofs from the Chair

cont ...

Our charity Lottery is becoming a huge hit, how many more people can we get to sign up? Share the **Unity Lottery** with your friends and on social media, the application is easy and on the website. If you would like any leaflets for events or talks just let the office know. There is £25,000 to be won by someone, will it be you or someone you know? One client has already had a 'win'.

There will be a mid-year newsletter after the AGM, so

if you have anything you can contribute please send it to Lynn our editor.

Exciting news that I can now tell you about! Natural Instinct have sponsored a 'movie' about Dog A.I.D., it will be on social media early May, look out for it and share, share, share, to raise awareness and funds. If you haven't seen Natural Instinct's own 'movi advert', do go to their website and watch it, its great fun! Go to www.naturalinstinct.com then go to their 'News' page.

Sandra Fraser
Chairperson



DO YOU KNOW A PET HERO?



The Blue Cross medal celebrates remarkable hero pets and the difference they make to our lives.

If you have or know a pet who has done something amazing to change or save someone's life, the Blue Cross would love to hear from you.

To nominate a pet visit ...

www.bluecross.org.uk/medal

Deadline for entries

31st October 2016

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, targeting and picking up.
Open doors, pick up named items and remove
clothing.

Sunday

A course designed by the trainers to put all your new learned skills into practice.
Opportunity for 1.2.1 on any particular work you need help with.

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, Aylesbury 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

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 - 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.

Crufts



Lucas at Crufts!



I knew we were going somewhere special as I was wearing my new 'In Training' jacket and Sheila and John were in their uniforms. As we were walking towards a big building there were lots of people with dogs,

some on leads trying to talk to each other and some being pulled along in crates on wheels. " it must be a very, very big Dog Show, " I thought', " there in big letters is the name CRUFTS!"

Inside it was very noisy, I tried to stay close to Sheila's chair as we followed John through the crowds between stands selling dog- related goods (scents of mouth watering treats-- if I am very good, maybe they will buy me some!!) I was hit in the face by carrier bags and snapped at by little dogs but I looked up at Sheila, she told me I was a good boy and slipped me a treat! We finally arrived at a red dominated stand and were greeted by familiar faces.

We visited Crufts every day, sometimes I sat by Sheila's chair by the entrance to our Dog A.I.D. stand and people would stop and ask to speak to me, they liked to hear about what I do to help Sheila and would put some money in the collecting tin.

Sometimes we walked around looking at the

stands where they bought me a new red lead, a waterproof suit (I felt embarrassed because I had to try it on with everyone watching -- they say it is for me to wear when I need to stay clean and dry - - but I love being in water especially wallowing in big, muddy puddles!!). I also now have a new, red vet bed to sit on when we are doing a talk. After shopping we found places for coffee and snacks or we went outside to walk, explore the grassy areas and where I was happy to meet up with special friends like Elsa and Bella, and happily let anyone who asked to make a fuss of me.

On the Saturday I had a demonstrating spot (my first in public as I am still learning tasks). My trainer Gemma described to the audience how Dog A.I.D. trainer approaches meeting a new client and then described beginning training a task. I illustrated this with trainer Anna (who I had not met before) first she made friends with me and then she taught me how to shut the cupboard door with my paw (I can already open I with a tuggy).

We all went home very tired but with good memories. Next year I hope I will be at Crufts as a fully qualified Assistance Dog!



Sheila & Lucas

Loki at Crufts!

Well I never thought my first ever visit to Crufts would see me stripping! In fact not something I ever thought I would do other than in the privacy of my own home, never mind in front of the hoards at Crufts!

It was therefore with some trepidation that Loki and I found ourselves first up with our demonstration on the Dog A.I.D. stand on the Thursday morning. Having never been to Crufts before and Loki never having worked in that kind of environment, or having had time to acclimatise, I really didn't know how this was going to pan out? Anything was possible?



So with the security of Sandra on the microphone we began our routine. Loki removed my socks and then my jacket, so far so good! I

glanced up at this point to see we had gathered quite a crowd and just hoped none of them would be easily shocked as Loki began to pull my trousers off! He pulled



and tugged and gradually the trousers came off to reveal me in a most fetching pair of red and black spotted bloomers, just like Granny used to wear! The things I do for our charity!

So far so good, Loki was working well, so now it was onto the other things he does for me. Starting with him opening a drawer and bringing my Epipen to me. Then it was on



to a cupboard for my shoe bag. I think Loki's favourite part of these particular tasks is shutting the drawer and cupboard door which he does with such gusto using both paws. This obviously amused our audiences as it seemed to bring a laugh and applause. Well he is only small! After that it was time for him to bring me my wheelie bag from across the stand, this sometimes took a couple of attempts to get it close enough to me, or he would empty it first and then bring it, but he never gave up!



That was the end of the formal part of our demonstration, if you can call it that. However every demonstration was an opportunity to raise funds, so our audience were asked to throw coins onto the stand to show their appreciation. As the coins rained in, the audiences loved to see this, Loki picked them up and deposited them into a Dog A.I.D. collection box, as did most of the other dogs who were demonstrating.

I am pleased to say that on every occasion we demonstrated throughout the four days, Loki never let me down, coping admirably with the audiences. The crowds and the general hullabaloo that are part and parcel of Crufts posed no problems for him either, although it was harder for me as my crutch was regularly kicked from under me, as we went around and talked to literally hundreds of people, spreading the word about our great charity. I am very proud and amazed at just how well my little boy did with everything, it was a brilliant experience for both Loki and I. We returned to the hotel each day shattered, but in a good way with a great sense of achievement. However, there was no rest for the wicked, as Loki still had work to do. He had to undress me yet again!



Carolyn & Loki

Mummy and I went to Crufts for all 4 days and I loved it. I got lots of cuddles from people and they thought I was clever and cute. At the hotel the waitress gave me a sausage for breakfast each morning yum! Mummy says we are going again next year.



Heidi x



more
from **Crufts**



A Festival of Working and Assistance Dogs

Dog A.I.D. were invited to attend 'Dogs Unite, A Festival of Working and Assistance Dogs' hosted by Guide Dogs for the Blind' and to do a demonstration.

A tombola was put together by Anita Castellina (supported by Larry Castellina, Sheila and John Sadler) with all members of the local training group approaching local businesses and shops collecting prizes, together they raised a creditable £165.90 on the day.

Thank you to those that manned the stand on the day (Sandra Fraser, Jo Jackman, Caroline Haji, Andy & Mac, Chantelle Rea Bradley and Ruby, Elaine Fairhurst and Kathie Ward & Luska) Just short of £110.00 was raised from sales and donations. Great considering the general footfall for the event was not good.

Carolyn Greenhalgh designed some new banners, printed tablecloths and pop up banners. To cover the cost of the new banners, Deborah Cornwall managed to get sponsorship from Bullen Healthcare and Irwin Mitchell Solicitors who sponsored our new equipment in full. We owe them a huge thank you.

Carolyn and Chloe Fuller put together a video loop to play throughout the event (this has been so successful, it is used at other events including Crufts!)

A demonstration was also put together by trainer Elaine Fairhurst, to show the general public lots of different tasks to highlight the importance of Assistance Dogs to their owners.

Volunteer teams demonstrating on the day, were Deborah Cornwall with her 5 month old puppy Dillon and Carolyn Greenhalgh with 2yr old Loki along with trainer Elaine Fairhurst. Originally there were 7 partnerships training for the demo but with life happening, that drifted down to two. They trained very hard for the demonstration for months before the event, with twice weekly training sessions, plus home training. Along with trainer Elaine they created a mock-up in the training hall, arranging it so that it allowed as many people as possible to see the dogs working.

As a trial run the volunteers gave demonstrations to the Spinal Unit at the hospital where Deborah works, to Bullen (one of the

sponsors based in Liverpool), to the Southport Brownie pack and finally to a retirement complex in Ormskirk.

The props and equipment were being transported each training session by Carolyn who says her vehicle resembled a 'Pickfords' removal van and was notching up between 400-500 miles a week!!

A lot of hard work was put in and it wasn't easy, Deborah had the additional work of a young puppy to contend with (and we all know what hard work that can be!) and Loki was being trained to do tasks that he would never normally have done, so a HUGE well done to you both.

The event was hosted by the Winter Gardens, two demonstrations were performed over the day and the props for the demonstrations were put in place by John, Deborah's husband. Both dogs performed remarkably well, starting with heel work then Dillon went on to demonstrate very nice recall, tidy up the toys, pick up dropped articles, finding the phone when asked and also without a command when it rang. A great performance for such a young dog. Loki Helped Carolyn to take off socks and jacket, brought the crutch, opened a drawer to bring medication, brought her bag and opened a cupboard to bring her slippers.

The crowd really appreciated the performance and the volunteers received a good round of applause with people congratulating them at the end and asking questions about Assistance Dogs and Dog A.I.D.

A LOT of work went in to this event, so a HUGE well done to all involved, you pulled it off!



Bella completes Trick Challenge

So we finally did it!! 365 tricks!!
Phew!

I have loved the challenge ... I have loved working so closely with Bella ... I have loved the way tricks make people smile... but boy has it been hard work. Thinking up the tricks, the daily task of doing videos, editing and posting online and it was no plain sailing either, we endured broken computers, moving house, illness, a family tragedy and I sadly lost my best friend but we battled on and finally did it!!



The highs definitely outweighed the lows, we have been proud to represent Dog A.I.D. appearing on Good Morning Britain and local news,

featuring in several magazines and national newspapers and on Radio. We have had some great opportunities come our way and been offered lots of exciting projects.

But its not about the fame & fortune for us, in the end all that matters is that we have raised funds and awareness for Dog A.I.D.

The whole process has brought Bella & I closer and the time I have spent with her has meant I could bring



out the best in her.

I have to say a huge thank you to Natural Instinct for supporting Bella during the challenge, by feeding her the best food possible, has meant she has been in tip top shape both physically and mentally.



Thank you also to everyone who sponsored Bella and had the faith she could do it! All the encouragement really did help.

Our final total raised is £2631.00.

We have both had a well earned rest but now time for a new challenge!! So watch this space in the coming months to see what Bella will be up to next!

 *Lynn & Bella*



Who let the dogs out!

The title given to an event hosted by Barclays at Knutsford, showcasing the work of Assistance

Dogs to raise awareness amongst their staff. All the ADUK charities were there including Dog A.I.D. A small group of clients demonstrated just some of the things the dogs do for clients, as well as having a stand there. Barclays staff had events to raise money which Barclays then matched. This was then divided between the 7 charities that were present, Dog A.I.D. received £337.16. Thank You Barclays!

From left to right:- Support Dogs, Guide Dogs for the Blind, the Dog A.I.D. Contingent consisting of Jess Walker and Amber, plus Mum Karen, Peta Brandwood, Lizzie Charlton, Lorna Johnson and Jasmine, Sandra Fraser and Carolyn Greenhalgh with Loki, Canine Partners, Dogs for Good, Hearing Dogs and Medical Detection Dogs.



We need YOU...

Would you like to volunteer?

Do you have any FUNdraising ideas?

We would love to hear from you so get in touch



Marye & Tilly,
Bel, Ed & Ebony raised
£263 over Easter
weekend at Asda,
Cannock



Thank You!



Orla Bee Handmade hits the festivals



Orla raised £57.30 for Dog A.I.D. running craft workshops from her 'Orla Bee Handmade' tie-dye clothing, accessories and homewares stall at Northern Green Gathering festival, summer 2015. Rizzo, her Jack Russell x Lakeland trainee Assistance Dog, accompanied her to most of the festivals she traded at last year. "Rizzo is a great help to me at festivals, her main tasks are picking things up that I've dropped and retrieving items I struggle to reach in the stall and in the campervan" says Orla.

"When booking festivals, we are careful to explain that Rizzo is an Assistance Dog in training and festival organisers have no legal obligation to allow her to attend. However, we also point out that festivals are a great training opportunity so a big thank you to Wychwood Festival, Womad Charlton Park Festival, Green Gathering and Northern Green Gathering for allowing Rizzo to come with me. We appreciate it a lot!"

For any festival goers amongst the Dog A.I.D. community, look out for the Orla Bee Handmade stall at summer 2016 festivals or follow the amazing tie-dye adventures of Rizzo and Orla on Facebook and Instagram.

Orla & Rizzo

WELL DONE!

A total of £275.90 was raised at the Festival of Working & Assistance Dogs

Dog A.I.D. Chosen as 'Charity of the Year' by Riddings Community Centre, Somercotes.



THANK YOU

Bella received a cheque for £50 from Asda, Ryhope Sunderland.



Dog A.I.D. were nominated as part of the Asda community token awards.



If you have a fundraising story please get in touch, we would love to give you a HIGH FIVE and tell everyone about your good work send to editor@dogaid.org.uk

ROLL OF HONOUR...

- * £12,000 - Roger & Jean Jefcoate Trust
- * £2,631 - Bella's 365 Trick Challenge
- * £200 - Snodland Town Council
- * £150 - Shrove Tuesday Beatle Drive at Wood St Methodist Church, Ripley
- * £263 - Easter collection at Asda Cannock superstore
- * £600 - Bella's Online Petshow
- * £780 - John Lewis, Tamworth
- * £50 - Asda, Tamworth
- * £200 - Asda, Cannock
- * £50 - Asda, Ryhope
- * £57.30 - 'Orla Bee Handmade'
- * £38 - Ruby the 'Superdog' Artwork
- * £126.37 - Jessica Collett
- * £165.33 - Kay Group Petrol Station & Spa
- * £54.33 - Spa Station Rawtenstall
- * £45 - St Johns Ladies
- * £73.68 - Vanilla Ice, ice cream shop, Ironbridge
- * £63.33 - The Sankey Seniors
- * £151 - Avon Business & Leisure
- * £500 - Whitchurch Dog Display Team
- * £155 - Vivienne Sleightholm Craft Group
- * £150 - The Members of Doodlemania
- * £100 - Stagecoach Buses
- * £30 - Take Time Together
- * £150 - Ripley Methodist Church
- * £204 - House of Hugo
- * £30 - Beacon Hill Methodist M Y Group
- * £8,000 - The Harebell Centenary Fund
- * £800 - Newport Rotary Club
- * £80 - Mr & Mrs Godden
- * £50 - Norton Canes Dancers
- * £40 - Brickhouse Cottages, Lancashire
- * £50 - Great Sankey Parish Council
- * £25 per month - Susan Godwin
- * £2,500 - The Hawthorne Charitable Trust
- * £3,000 - Marcia Crawford Legacy
- * £2,500 - RSM UK Group
- * £337.16 - Barclays Bank, Knutsford - Access Awareness Day - Barclays matched money raised from the event £168.68 - total £337.16
- * A printed Dog A.I.D. banner - Future Homescape Limited
- * £102 - Ruby the 'Superdog' dog show
- * £602 - Have a Good Dog Xmas fundraiser

High Five to all who have raised their paws to support us



Did you know... YOU CAN NOW FUNDRAISE **ONLINE** ...

Everyclick is a Fundraising website and charity search engine.

www.everyclick.com



Give as you Live is a shopping and price comparison website, every time you shop—the charity of your choice gets a percentage without costing you a penny.



Give as you Live®

Why not TEXT your donations

JustTextGiving™

by **vodafone**

To Donate to Dog A.I.D. Send DOGA10 £1 to 70070 to make a £1 donation or £2, £3, £4, £5 or £10.

Ruby in the news with her FUNdraising



Ruby the 'Superdog' has made the local and national news with her latest fundraising efforts for Dog A.I.D. Ruby is a 5 year old cross breed (border collie cross kelpie), who is currently working towards Level 2 and hopes to become an Assistance Dog with Dog A.I.D in the future.

Ruby created a masterpiece using a stencil to create the phrase 'My ability is stronger than my disability' by holding a paint brush in her mouth and moving it across the canvas.

The artwork can be purchased online and so far has raised £38 for Dog A.I.D.

The story caught the attention of the media and Ruby featured in several news outlets. Megan, Ruby's owner, said "I am so glad that Ruby was able to raise awareness of this fantastic charity through her artwork, and hopefully will continue to raise funds"

If you would like to purchase a copy of Ruby's artwork you can do so on her website:

www.rubythesuperdog.weebly.com

Ruby the Superdog also ran an online dog show in support of Dog A.I.D, which raised a total of £102. Thank you to everyone who entered.

Megan & Ruby



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

We try to include everyone's fundraising; we apologise if we have omitted anyone's efforts. Please give us a nudge so we can include it next time ☺

Workshop April 2016



Dillon, my 7 month old miniature labradoodle's first workshop was a great success, albeit a tiring one, for us both. In spite of him being rather vocal, telling Kirsten all about his food preferences, she quietly and calmly worked

with him presenting the tasks in such a way that he made the right decision and could be duly rewarded, a positive, stress free approach. In Peta's recall group he ignored flying carrots, wriggling rabbits, bouncing balls and 'Team Amber' to hurtle back to me. Be more interesting and exciting than anyone/anything was my lesson here. Dillon kidded Sandra into thinking he'd never heard the word down before, distance control is something to work on, but my boy was getting tired by this time.

For me it was great to watch the other partnerships and listen and learn from the trainers' comments

On Sunday we did a circuit which included all aspects of the tasks learnt the previous day. For me it was great to watch the other partnerships and listen and learn from the trainers' comments, for Dillon it was time to say, 'Hey, I may be young but I'm learning fast!' His recall was entertaining as he stopped to bring me a ball, but I was proud as he left the food strategically placed around and then he looked to see if Sandra was watching as he did a down on the mat. We then had a great 1-1 with

Sandra on Meet and Greet, loads to take away and practice. A fantastic 2 days and we've begun putting everything into practice and are already looking forward to the next

one. Thanks to everyone who made training fun, interesting and informative.



Deborah & Dillon



Do you know
a hero?

UNSUNG HEROES

...nominate
them
for a
HERO award

Do you know a hero? Is there someone you think should be recognised for what they do for the charity? It could be someone who works hard at fundraising, a supportive friend or family member, or your trainer

Send in your nominations to the office and we will feature them in the next issue of the Newsletter.

This issue Orla & Rizzo are nominating Orla's grandparents for a HERO award

Orla and Rizzo nominate grandparents, Judy and Alan Speight as 'unsung heroes' for their amazing support and generosity. Instead of presents for their Golden Wedding Anniversary, they requested that their friends and family make a donation to Dog A.I.D. Alan and Judy have seen the huge amount of joy, fulfilment and companionship that training Rizzo with Dog A.I.D. trainer Joanne Jackman has brought to Orla, and they are delighted to give their support to Dog A.I.D. in celebration of 50 years of marriage. Pictured are the golden couple on their big day in the snowy April of 1966!

JUDY & ALAN



Judy & Alan Speight ... you're our Hero

YOU'RE OUR HERO

To nominate a HERO send in their name, a photo and the reason why you are nominating to editor@dogaid.org.uk

Well Done Jane!



Jane Ardern from Manchester has won the prestigious KCAI Trainer of the Year award at Crufts.

Jane is a Dog A.I.D. Trainer and runs her own Canine College as well as training dogs for TV, advertising and film.

Jane began her dog training journey in the early nineties after rescuing a St Bernard/Rottweiler cross, and in 2004 decided to start training classes of her own. Six years later she opened her own training college called Wagga Wuffins Canine College in Bury, Manchester.

Jane was nominated by her clients for the KCAI Trainer of the Year award, which recognises inspirational trainers who have made a positive difference to the lives of dog owners and their dogs.

There were five finalists and the winner was decided by the public through an online voting system. Thousands of votes came in from dog owners for the finalists.

Jane said: "It is an honour to win and I am over the moon. I will definitely be celebrating with my customers – it is down to them that I won. I would just like to say thank you for the support and votes I received from the Dog A.I.D. members"



PARTY TIME WITH LUCAS...



As they were leaving our "Doggy Playtime" fundraising event in August, the dog owning residents on our Residential Park requested we repeat something similar as it had proved to be a most enjoyable social get together for adults and 14 dogs. So, would I make the effort to organise a "Doggy Christmas Party".

Aware that December would have many organised events, social get togethers etc. we took the opportunity at the Park Residents Christmas Lunch to check and found there was quite an enthusiastic response.

Preparations involved wrapping dog presents for two sacks one for small and one for large breeds; our daughter decorated our lounge/diner with a dedicated "Santa's Grotto" corner. She also (with the skill of the younger generation and modern technology) reproduced all the cartoon/famous dogs in our 'Who am I?' competition, with festive hats.

There were locally made dog treats to buy, a book sale and young spider plants.

Our neighbour, Marilyn, took charge of adult refreshments, mulled wine, mince pies and cakes – this was by way of our Christmas celebration with



neighbours, but it was a Doggy Party, so there had to be a Father Christmas. John had fulfilled this role before at a puppy training group two years ago in Somerset so had the costume. We all looked on, several people took photos as each dog went to get a parcel from the sack, some sat on Father Christmas' lap, one sat and gave a paw, some didn't know what to make of it but they all appeared to know what to do with a parcel, so would find a space, tear off the paper and show us what they had. Fortunately there were no "quarrels", it was all amicable!!

We also had two little girls who came straight from school and there were appropriate gifts for them in a lucky dip tub.

We raised £110, fewer people because of other Christmas commitments but it was an enjoyable and social occasion.



Sheila & Lucas

Tilly relaxes with a massage

Sunday 29th Nov saw Tilly and I travel up to Birdwell, Barnsley where we had booked on a dog massage workshop organised by Joanne Jackman.

Never one to miss an opportunity I took my Dog A.I.D. items with me along with some snuffle mats, tuggies, collars and leads and zip pulls that I had made to sell. We sold a few of the Charity items, had orders for some collars, sold some of the tuggies and zip pulls and Joanne has since sold 4 of the snuffle mats so although it was not a 'selling event' it was very worthwhile taking it with us. And yes Tilly is grateful that I have learnt the basics to be able to give her a massage!!

Thanks to all involved.



Marye & Tilly

Remi swims with dolphins



Last summer I swam with a dolphin called Kendal. He was 40 years old! It was amazing, and I loved it. Kendal was a bit like Marley because he watched for hand gestures and waited for a treat! He loved a fish so much he kept doing things for me so that he could have another fish! It was really funny! He was just like Marley!



Remi Capel

Success at Christmas fundraiser

Vicky Welsh, of Have A Good Dog, and Leonie Zacharias raised £602 for Dog A.I.D. at a Christmas fundraiser. Leonie wanted to raise money for Dog A.I.D. as her partner, Barry, is a client with his dog Alex.

Leonie said: "After being a bus driver for so many years, a job he loved, Barry unfortunately developed peripheral neuropathy which meant he had to give up his job. To help maintain his independence, we took on a black Labrador puppy and decided to train him to help Barry around the house and out in the community. Alex has achieved his Level 1 and amongst other things is able to pick up Barry's walking stick or keys, and even open the door for him. Alex is making such a difference to Barry's quality of life I wanted to give something back, so I worked with Vicky and Dog



A.I.D. to help organise a fundraising day, with workshops to help dog owners teach their beloved pets new skills, and selling tickets and collecting raffle prizes and gifts for the tombola stall."



Vicky said "As a trainer for Dog A.I.D. I see first-hand how dogs in training progress to become fully qualified Assistance Dogs and the difference this makes to clients day-to-day lives. I just want to say a huge thank you to everyone who donated and gave their support to make the event successful."

Support for the event was provided by Stagecoach who donated £100, The Stables pub, which donated two lunch vouchers, The Bridge Hair studio donated a free cut and blow dry treatment and Sunderland United Football Club donated a signed football.



Dog A.I.D. goes South!

With Head Office in Shrewsbury, events naturally spread out from that location. This event presented itself as an opportunity to 'spread the word' in the South of the Country.

Matt Henderson-Rood is one of Dog A.I.D.'s newer Patrons, he and Leon own 'House of Hugo' at Shoreham-on-Sea and their Open Day on February 20th was for Dog A.I.D.

Despite a few access hiccups, Vivienne & Elsa, Sandra & Ella, Lucas & I, plus trainer Kathleen, husbands Ian & John (who put together and dismantled our stand) along with supporter Rohan had a tiring, noisy but enjoyable and productive day. Surrounded by "doggy people" (many of them clients of the Day Care Centre)



and dogs of all shapes/sizes there was genuine interest in talking with us, keen to learn more about how our dogs enrich our lives. We participated in some of the competitions and toured the other



stands. After fond farewells and an invitation to one again next year we were all delighted with the result. £207 from House of Hugo which with our sales of merchandise and our Lucky Dip amounted to £336 on the day for Dog A.I.D.



The first Leonberger Assistance Dog?

On 30th May 2013 a new litter came into the world, to mum Tulip and dad Henry, 8 wonderful puppies for me to choose from, but how on earth do you choose a puppy that has what it takes to become an Assistance Dog?

Now I know a little about dogs but I am a very very long way from being an expert in selecting a future Assistance Dog, thankfully Celia knew someone who just might be able to help me out. He was sat there watching all the girls just doing their thing and every now and then he would say 'not that one'. After a while there were just 2 girls left, a slightly leggy one and a slightly chunkier one and it was down to me to pick between them!! I am 6ft tall so could be classed as leggy but I am also of the chunkier build, the chunkier one was the one for me and was from then on known as Doris! Being ex WRAF I wanted a name with an Air Force connection but just couldn't come up with one, so I opened a poll in a facebook group of over 2000 ex and serving WRAF members and the winning girls name was Doris.

Doris came to me at the end of July and was greeted by my other leonberger girls Magic and Poppy, Poppy took the little baby under her wing and really mothered her, Magic on the other hand looked at her as though she were a bad smell under her nose, those of you who knew Magic know just the look I mean! Sadly 10 weeks after Doris came to live with us I lost Magic to bone cancer.

Dog A.I.D. took us on for training but from the very start I was already training Doris. We attended Capel Dog Training, run by my friend Sarah Stirling-Ash, where Doris took the Kennel Clubs Puppy Foundation course.



We were doing really well and Doris was really coming on, then disaster happened, Doris had broken her a toe on a back paw and it

had to be pinned, which meant total create rest! Sadly it did put our training right back, so it was back to the beginning.

In the Autumn of 2014 we attended our first training workshop weekend held at Stoke Mandeville, I was a little worried how Doris would be where our meals were served but after a while she even lay quietly on the floor while we ate, although I think it might actually have been because she was exhausted after all the work she had done, I think we both slept for about 12 hours that night.



On 18th November 2014 we passed our level one I was so proud of my baby girl and we were on our way.

In September 2015 we attended our second training weekend at Stoke Mandeville, meeting up with clients and trainers from our previous one and new clients too, the other clients were wonderful in giving me the encouragement to carry on, every time I saw that someone else had qualified my heart would sink, they had started training after us yet were already qualifying, I really lost the will to carry on at times, but it was me who had insisted on a leonberger, a non-retrieving breed, a breed that visibly thinks before doing anything asked of it, a breed that does everything in their own sweet time, so what did I expect

Then the big day arrived, Sunday 21st February 2016, we were to take our level two assessment, we were to be assessed at the same time as another client, who was going to be assessed for levels two and three at the same time, after talking with the assessor and then my trainer it was agreed that Doris and I could also be assessed for both levels. Someone was looking down on us that day and not only did we pass level two but level three as well, Doris was, after two and a half years of training, a fully registered Assistance Dog!

So now the real work starts.



Loz & Doris

LOZ RECOMMENDS...

A friend suggested something when I was talking about making Doris' settle mat non-slip and it worked so thought I would share it. I got a pet bed from Pets at Home, one side fleece and the other cotton, I then used this spray as directed on the bottle (3 applications allowing drying between each) it really has made the mat non slip, the mat can be washed a couple of times without the need to reapply too, but if needed can also easily be re-applied.



Thanks to Loz Tilston-Brookes for this tip

A 'tip' from Marye

I found these in Tesco and tried them out on Tilly's jacket. The purple labelled one is for washing outdoor clothing either by hand or machine and the green labelled one is to spray on afterwards as a water proofer. It states that they 'maintain fabric breathability' and are suitable for use on Gore-Tex'. After spraying you are advised to tumble dry but I don't have a tumble dryer so just put it on the radiator. Both jacket and leads washed up nicely.



Thanks to Marye Arnett-Clark for this tip

Dog A.I.D. does not endorse or guarantee any products featured, any products and opinions given are sent in from readers and not necessarily that of Dog A.I.D.




DON'T FORGET ...

From April 2016 don't forget it is now a legal requirement for all dogs to be microchipped

 **Trainers**
 there is a closed Dog A.I.D. trainers page. Trainers need to email Caroline@dogaid.org.uk with their email address to be added.

 Visit us at .. www.facebook.com/Dog.A.I.D

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www.facebook.com/groups/298342190358301/



Dog A.I.D. Website

For information, latest news, events and shop ...

www.dogaid.org.uk



Ruth & Seren represent Dog A.I.D.

Until December the only trains Seren and I had been on were the Brecon Mountain Railway and a miniature steam train in a park. However this was about to change. I was contacted by Sandra and asked if Seren and I could represent Dog A.I.D. at a photo opportunity for Arriva trains in Cardiff. I was excited to agree but, as the time approached, somewhat nervous. On the day Seren was an absolute star and handled everything in her stride. She leapt onto the train at Newport as soon as she was asked, despite the rather scary gap that I struggled to navigate. It was a brilliant experience to be in a group of dog / human partnerships representing all the ADUK charities and I really enjoyed chatting about how our dogs helped us



in different ways – but how they were all vital to our wellbeing. Seren thought the photographer was wonderful so we had no trouble getting her to look at the camera with those appealing eyes whenever she was asked. She also rather liked the CP golden retriever but was quite subtle about that as she was working!

It was a very successful and enjoyable day and I would encourage anyone who has the opportunity to represent Dog A.I.D. to go for it ... look out for us if you are in a Welsh station – we may be on a booklet or poster!



What do you like most about being an Assistance Dog?

I go out everywhere with Mummy and into places where I haven't been able to before. I don't get left at home or in the car and that is fun.

What is your favourite task?

I love getting washing out of the machine. Mummy sits on her stool, I climb up and pull something out and put it in the basket. I have to remind Mummy I need a reward as she doesn't always give one to me. I do this by looking at the basket, then at the treat then at her. It works.

Are you going on holiday this year?

Next month we are going away on a Church weekend where dogs don't go, so that will be good, I won't have to stay behind at a friends. Mummy says we will be going to Scotland later in the year and I can come too. I won't have to stay in a car while she visits places, and she says we may even fly up and hire a car.

Do you have a favourite toy?

Yes, Tiger toy is my most favourite toy, I have had him for ever and he is looking a bit worn in places, mummy has replaced its tail and face several times. I get him after my supper and I give him to mummy to say thank you. Then I lie down and suck him. I love that it sends me to sleep.

What food do you eat?

I love food!! When I was at my first training weekend Sandra suggested Mummy feed me raw. Well, she ordered food from Natural Instinct and I love it. I could eat a whole tray. My favourite is the Chicken and lamb flavour.

Do you have any advice for other trainee Assistance Dogs?

Don't give up. You may not be good at everything; I certainly am not! But if you listen to Mummy or Daddy, concentrate and enjoy doing things you will get there. Believe in yourself and in Mummy or Daddy

Tell us a bit about yourself Heidi?

I am a West Highland Terrier, I am 8 and I have lived with mummy since I was 6 months old. I wasn't happy where I lived as I wasn't allowed to go out or play and they didn't look after me very well so Mummy came and took me with her in her car. I was so scared I kept trying to hide under the seat so Mummy called me Heidi.

Congratulations, you qualified as a full Assistance Dog on 2nd Feb 2016

Mummy took me to a place called Highworth to the Golf Course. Rachel was there. It was so cold and windy but I did all the things Mummy asked and she said she was pleased with me. I got so many pieces of liver! We went to a supermarket, then into the coffee area. The tables were so low and it was hard not to pinch a piece of cake but I didn't. I was stroked by a little girl and a lady. Then I was told I was a clever girl and had passed. Mummy cried in the car when Rachel had got out.

You and your mummy have worked very hard, what did you like most about training?

I enjoyed meeting my trainers, they were nice to me and if I did something well I got a treat.

Have you been anywhere exciting since qualifying ?

We went to Crufts again, I quite enjoyed Crufts this year, people wanted to talk to me and admire me and my new jacket, I met lots of other dogs there and I was able to show how I picked up things and got the washing out of the machine. It was noisy and busy but somehow with my jacket on I wasn't upset or stressed I just got on with things.

What's your favourite treat?

Liver cake is my bestest but sweet potato is good as well.

Assistance In Disability Dog A.I.D.

DO YOU LIVE SOUTH OF THE M4?
 East or West Sussex--Hampshire--Dorset--Devon--
 Cornwall--Surrey
 Berkshire--Wiltshire--Avon--Gloucs.--South Wales

Are you a Dog A.I.D Client, Volunteer, Trainer or Supporter
 who would like to help with raising awareness and funds?

If so we have equipment for you to borrow:-
 pop-up Dog A.I.D poster -- a table banner -- red tablecloths -- merchandise selection (in baskets with prices) -- information leaflets
 games & competitions -- a 10' x 10' gazebo -- tables

Vivienne & Elsa , Sheila & Lucas, Sandra & Ella enjoyed our first successful event in the South with a stand at House of Hugo Open Day, near Brighton. We are keen to follow this by helping others participate/organise/research events in their own areas, plus arrange occasional get-togethers in suitable areas for exchange of ideas.

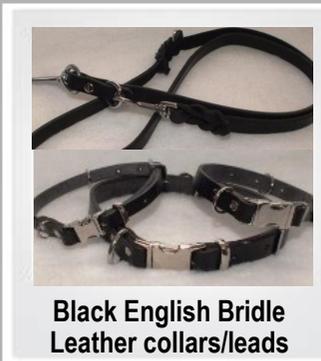
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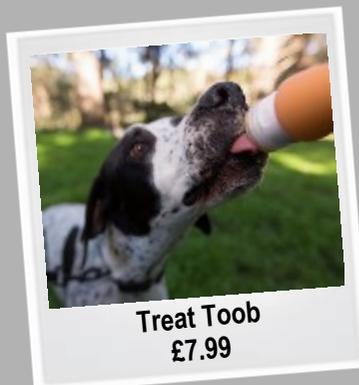
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