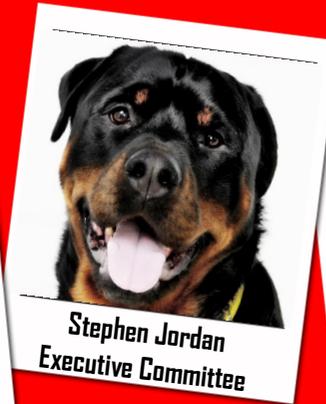


P^{AW}S for thought

AGM Report 2015

Assistance In Disability
Dog A.I.D.
Reg. Charity
No. 1098619



Meet the Team



Kindly supported by

Natural Instinct
Dog & cat food as nature intended



It's great when a plan comes together! In last years Chairmans' report I said that we would change the date of the AGM and include an opportunity to share fundraising ideas, and here we are! More on fundraising later.

The Office

Our reaccreditation went well in November, our renewal as members of ADI and subsequently ADUK are confirmed. This is a real boost to our confidence in that we are maintaining our standards.

The office is still at GD's but our move to a new office is in sight, there is a concerted effort to gain funding and we have already looked at a few places but so far they have not been suitable. If we find somewhere before gaining funding our friends at Natural Instinct have offered to bridge the gap, what wonderful supporters they are!

As in all businesses staff come and go. Lizzie is still with us but Helen has left, this has made an opening for another member of staff who has started this week, Ann will be settling in over the coming weeks then I'm sure you will see her on emails etc. Thanks must go to Helen for all the work she did for the charity, she is still involved as she is now a volunteer. Thanks to Lizzie for her continued support, the charity would not progress without her input. Many of you may now know who Andrea is; she has been taken on to keep the progress of the reports going and making a really good job of it and has now taken on the reassessments. All this work enables the charity to move forward and take on more clients.

Currently the office is working through over 100 enquiries for training this is due to the short opportunity for people to apply through our website. We have now had to close the books once again until we can work through this number.

In just six months we have gained 10 newly qualified teams and I can see that there will be more before the end of the year, this will be our most successful year so far! It just goes to show that with additional staff we can change more lives. We currently have 44

clients in training and 17 in application.

Finances

Since our last AGM The Kennel Club Charitable Trust awarded Dog A.I.D. the sum of £15,000 for the continued employment of part-time workers. This was a huge boost to the charity enabling us to keep moving forward.

We have been notified of a legacy for the charity, the sum of £3,000 should be made available to us in the next couple of months. This shows our work is beginning to be recognised and hopefully we will be lucky enough to be considered by more people in the future.

Thanks to Rachel our treasurer for her continued support and good accounting skills, keeping us all on track financially.

Fundraising

We are blessed with many determined clients, trainers and supporters who keep finding new and established ways to fundraise for the charity. There are always those who stand out such as Val Roessner who, after doing a half marathon last year went on to take part in this years London Marathon, she has raised so far in excess of £1,500.

Lynn Stacey has been training Bella to do a trick a day and posting on Youtube and facebook, so far her total is £1,600.00.

Not everyone is able to do such outstanding or demanding events, but everything each one of you does such as a coffee morning or strawberry tea, to support this charity is received with the same grateful thanks, it all adds up!

Some information just in this week is that one of our clients, Mo Aegerter, is planning a paragliding event jumping off Devils Dyke!!! She has called it 'Mo's moment of Madness' I'm sure you can all understand why! She will be seeking support through the website and on all forms of media to raise funds for Dog A.I.D. Good Luck Mo.

Fundraising Committee! Now you see it now you don't! This area of fundraising is a commitment that sometimes is too much for a small number of people to do, so after trying to establish one with only four people this was abandoned until we can find a sufficient number who have both experience and time to devote to this role. Those who were concerned in this venture have gone on to work individually on projects such as this AGM event put together by Jean. Jean assisted by Helen has produced the very professional fundraising pack which we hope will inspire all our clients and trainers to do just a small event during the coming year to boost our finances.

Ed's Note ...

Welcome to the 'mini' newsletter. The reason for this extra edition of our newsletter is so we can deliver a report on the AGM to those that could not attend.

Inside this issue we have the annual report from our Chairperson, Sandra Fraser and the treasurer's annual report, as well as a round up of the day and some photos.

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

Cont ...

Crufts and other events

Crufts is an important part of our calendar. Thanks to all who supported the charity in March, didn't our stand look impressive with our new popup banner! Having dogs attend is a great attraction, and brings people to the stand which raises our profile. Although financially it is a drain on our resources to exhibit at Crufts, it is a major opportunity to promote what wonderful work the charity does and I feel we need to speculate to accumulate. The Trustees have agreed to try to find extra funding for this to reduce the financial impact on the charity.

We attended the Shrewsbury Flower show last August and will be there again this year, if anyone is close enough and would like to attend please let the office know.

There is an event planned by ADUK which will be named National Assistance Dog Day, the date is January 20th 2016. Do put this in your diary as we will be part of this and may need people to attend in some areas. More details in the autumn/winter newsletter.

PR

Hannah Newberry continues to provide promotional support and has gained Dog A.I.D. several opportunities in the media.

Good Morning Britain was a bit of a coup for Lynn Stacey and Bella, they also appeared on local TV and radio and featured in local and national newspapers and magazines.

Newsletter

This is the 3rd occasion to mention Lynn as she is now the editor of our newsletter. She is doing a sterling job. Don't forget to send in your stories, experiences and photos so that they can be included.

Trainers

We now have an amazing 70 trainers, thanks to all those who currently have clients for the great job you are doing. Those who have not got a client yet, don't worry; with over 100 enquiries I'm sure it won't be long before you have contact from the office with the opportunity to take on a client.

Lizzie is now able to supply a credit card size ID, so if you would like one contact the office.

Business Plan

Our Business Plan remains much the same with focus on a new office, retaining staff and providing workshops. Next year may see the start of a few intensive courses for clients who we are not able to pair with a trainer.

Sponsors

Natural Instinct continues to support the charity and have been very generous over the last year. They continue to sponsor the newsletter and trainers polo shirts and will be covering the production costs of our new dog jackets, which will be used initially for new teams or those doing talks or publicity events until our old stock is exhausted.

It was great to see so many of the Natural Instinct team at Crufts last year and thanks must go to them for the help they gave us there.

Trustees

My prayers have been answered, we have 4 people who have put themselves forward to join the trustees, this will bring our number up to our limit of 10 as prescribed by our constitution. The mix of experience these people bring will be invaluable so I hope you will all vote for their acceptance.

I would just like to mention Jean who last year took a place as a trustee, but quickly found that she needed to change the arrangement as she became engaged and was married just 2 weeks ago, congratulations to her and Martin. Jean is working individually on her own fundraising events.

Finally I need to thank my fellow trustees who contribute wherever they can by attending events, proof reading and making jackets.

News just in; we now have our first patron, Mathew Henderson-Rood, do look him up on Google to see his profile.

Next Years AGM

Thank you to all who are attending the AGM. I hope that you will spread the word of how successful the day has been. Next year we will do a similar day so that people can attend and meet one another, give an account of their fundraising efforts and make new pledges for the following year. We can have another speaker and include an event that will be of interest to all concerned bringing even more members of the charity together.

Sandra Fraser July 2015



Trainers' one day workshop

Sunday October 18th 2015 - Stoke Mandeville Stadium, Aylesbury.

An opportunity for CPD for both experienced and new trainers working with their own dogs.

The day will consist of;

'In their shoes' a session to include role playing with resources that will give you some idea of what our clients have to cope with when trying to train their dog. Session leader - Sandra Fraser

'Scent work' You will see how scent work can be used by the clients to relax their dogs and how it can be used to aid task training. Session leader - Angela Woodhouse

The day will end with a roundup of all that has been covered through a Q & A session.

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 are now in a position to subsidise one night's stay for those who have to travel over 2 hours and 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 sandra@dogaid.org.uk

Minutes of Dog A.I.D. AGM held on Saturday 4th July at 2.30pm At Avon Business & Leisure Centre, Cannock

1. Those Present: Marye Arnett-Clark, Anita Castellina, Larry Castellina, Lizzie Charlton, Sandra Crouch, Sandra Fraser (Chair), Carolyn Greenhalgh, Jo Jackman, Caroline Lewis, Rachel Pattison, Margaret Russell, Sheila Sadler, John Sadler, Vivienne Sleightholm, Ian Sleightholm, Lesley Smith, Lynn Stacey, Alison Tompsett, Derek Tompsett, Anne Tucker, Bel Williams, Ed Williams, Angela Woodhouse.

2. Apologies: Karen Thomas, Shah Rashid, Sue Line, Burnie Clutton, Andrea Barrett, Caroline Edwards, Ruth Piggott, Deborah Duncan, Beryl Rounsley, Loz Tilston-Brooks, Mo Aegerter, Jess Walker, Mandy Holder, Stephen Jordan, Midge Walseter, Kathie & Tony Ward, Heather Stevens, Kate Morgan-Lloyd, Lucy Parkin, Keith Warwick, Val Harvey, Debs Sutton, Barbara Ellis, Helen Bull, Anna Nussey, Mike Grantham, Carol Court, Leona Clark, Angela Pitman, Julie Wassall.

3. Minutes of last AGM: Sandra welcomed and thanked everyone for coming. Acceptance of the minutes was proposed by Mary Arnett-Clark; Seconded by Vivienne Sleightholm.

4. Matters Arising: None.

5. Chairman's Report - attached.

6. Treasurer's Report - attached.

7. Election of Officers - All current officers are prepared to be re-elected. Chairman - Sandra Fraser, proposer Caroline Lewis, seconded by Carolyn Greenhalgh. Sandra proposed the re-election on block of the Committee; Lynn Stacey proposed; Margaret Russell seconded.

Sandra commented that she would be looking at being replaced as Chair in the next year or so.

The Executive Committee is: Caroline Lewis, Rachel Pattison, Ed Williams, Bel Williams, Stephen Jordan.

New Executive Committee members were proposed:

Sheila Sadler - proposed by John Sadler, Seconded by Gemma Palmer, all agreed.

Lesley Smith - proposed by Rachel Pattison, seconded by Sandra Fraser, all agreed.

Anita Castellina - proposed by Sandra Fraser, seconded by Jo Jackman, all agreed.

Laurence Castellina - proposed by Sandra Fraser, seconded by Rachel Pattison, all agreed.

8. Any Other Business:

There was a short presentation to Val Roessner of a photograph of her finishing the London Marathon, which she took part in in March this year. Her total so far is over £1,500 for Dog A.I.D. Really well done Val!

Sandra reported that we have 49 qualified teams at present. This number does not always rise, as dogs retire as well. But the numbers should rise this year as we have so many doing so well!

Through Jo Jackman we have a new Patron in Matt Henderson Rood of House of Hugo. He and his partner are the new faces of CBBC.

Hannah, our publicity lady followed this up very quickly and he has accepted the invitation. Thank you Jo.

Larry Castellina asked how risks were assessed for outside events. They had not had a good time at Arley Hall as it was really difficult for wheelchairs. He specifically asked about the facilities at Shrewsbury Flower Show which him and Anita are attending. Sandra agreed to look into it.

Alison Tompsett asked about the new dog jackets. Thanks to Stephen for designing the new jackets. She felt that they should have "do not distract" on them instead of "do not stroke". She said that "do not distract" covered everything instead of one specific action. It would also be in keeping with all the other charities dog jackets that say "do not distract". Sandra agreed to carry out a survey to see what other clients think. Sandra mentioned qualified clients having a small card, Marye Arnett-Clark had designed one, to hand to people who were interested, informing people a bit more about Dog A.I.D. More discussion took place and it was agreed to put jackets and cards on the next meeting agenda

It was agreed that the new jackets would initially be for newly qualified teams and those who did extensive fundraising. Caroline explained that we still hold hundreds of pounds worth of stock in the all red jackets which must be utilised first for replacement jackets for existing clients depending on sizes available.

Stephen now has a machine which will put an eyelet in the jacket for a harness. Clients will be able to send the jackets to Stephen to have the eyelet put in, at their own expense.

Carolyn Greenhalgh said that in training, something she was practising with Loki was instead of reacting to a distraction, for Loki to look at her for instruction. This would mean that there was still interaction with the public essential for good PR. Sandra referred to the training book to ignore distractions whilst training.

Lead sleeves were talked about. Sandra Crouch said that "do not pet" was the most successful in her opinion.

Alison Tompsett asked what happened with retiring dogs in multi dog households, i.e. if you have one retired dog and one qualified dog, and gaining access to places. Sandra said that they can have a jacket with "retired dog" on, but would look at the policy for retired dogs and consult ADUK. **

Derek Tompsett mentioned having "Trainer of the Year" in the Newsletter, for clients to write in to nominate their trainer, and that it might encourage new trainers to apply. Sandra commented that it was difficult because all our trainers are special!

Jo Jackman asked if there could be a workshop specifically to train for assessments. Sandra said she would look into it and thought it might be possible to include it in the next trainers' workshop.

Larry Castellina suggested that the names of all the Trustees should be on the website. Perhaps have a feature on them in the Newsletter so clients and trainers can put faces to names.

Lynn Stacey is going to produce a short newsletter of only 2 pages on the AGM and with information on up coming workshops, before the main newsletter which will come out in October.

**** At present Dog A.I.D.'s policy is to return the retired dog's jacket embroidered as such. N.B. these are sent back as a gesture of goodwill, as a souvenir and not to gain access to areas where pet dogs are not allowed, especially to food areas.**

Treasurer's Report

Figures in banks at 2.7.15:

* CAF Current	£5426.00
* CAF Gold	£41,161.00
* Lloyds Fundraiser account	£4181.00
* Pay Pal	£1005.00
* Petty cash	£55.00
Total	£51,828.00

Year end:

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

The Charity continues to grow

Although the EOY accounts have not yet been finalised, I feel that this year has been a good year for Dog A.I.D.

The Kennel Club granted us £15000.00 which is reflected in the Gold account above. It will be used to pay office wages for 12 months. Grant applications are being written all the time, and we are currently seeking funding for office space as the offices we use are only contracted to us 6 months at a time.

We are also seeking funding for Crufts for next year so that we can continue to promote the charity without the cost to us.

ADEu:

We were re-accredited this year by ADEu. One of their comments to the treasurer was to ensure that we have a financial contingency plan – i.e. there should always be a certain amount of money in the bank. This contingency plan is currently covered in the figures above.

Thanks:

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

Thanks also to all of our volunteers who continue to do a great job for Dog A.I.D. Fundraisers have been working particularly hard this year it seems, and fundraising is on the increase. We have set up a new Lloyds account for fundraisers – paying in should be much easier with a high street bank. Please email treasurer@dogaid.org.uk if you would like details for paying in.

We should also thank our brand new patron Matthew Henderson-Rood, who is the co-owner of House of Hugo (www.houseofhugo.com) – a centre which offers all things dog related including day care, spa, training, hydrotherapy and much more.

There are some committee members who work non-stop to keep the charity going – Caroline, Stephen, Ed, Bel, Jean, and the new people who have agreed to be on the team. Thanks to all of you who give your time to the charity.

And last, but definitely not least, thanks to Sandra who works non-stop for the charity on a voluntary basis. It is often difficult to be 'the chair', and I would like to recognise the tireless work she does for the charity.

We now have a high street bank account to make paying money to Dog A.I.D. even easier

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

Autumn Workshop for Clients and Trainers

Saturday 26th and Sunday 27th September 2015

at Stoke Mandeville Stadium, Aylesbury Bucks

Early Learning

Following on the success of the Spring Workshop we shall once again be working in small groups to maximise the training time for clients and dogs.

The workshop will be based on and around the early learning and progression of basic obedience and skills

Saturday

Lead walking and greeting behaviour.
Not greeting all dogs, recalls and/or downs and stays

Other behaviours will be considered if requested.

The day will be divided into 4 sessions around

comfort breaks and lunch giving each client the opportunity to try or improve each behaviour.

Sunday

Basic skills for tasks. Relaxing massage for dogs.

Handling and grooming to maintain standards expected of an Assistance Dog.

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 occupant.

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

Please do not contact Stoke Mandeville Stadium direct.

Dog A.I.D. Times

BREAKING NEWS ... ROUND UP FROM THE AGM
BY LYNN STACEY

This year the Annual General Meeting took on a brand new format ... and what a great success.

Historically the AGM has been held on the same weekend as the Autumn workshop, at the end of the weekends training. Having the AGM as a totally separate day now means that there can be guest speakers, other useful events and hopefully more clients and trainers are able to attend.

The venue was super, lots of parking, good disabled facilities and lots of room. The morning started with greeting everyone, having a chat and getting to know each other.

The day kicked off with a guest speaker, Rory McCann, who gave a great presentation. Rory speaks from experience about overcoming great physical and emotional challenges in life and about seizing opportunities that come your way.



Then it was time for a lovely buffet lunch with plenty of choice, also a good opportunity to give the dogs a comfort break and stretch their legs.

There were four fundraising areas set up that you could browse and get ideas...



* Sheila Sadler had very impressive information boards with lots of photos of various events she has ran in the past plus lots of ideas.



* Lynn Stacey was on hand with an information pack and details of what you can do to raise funds online.

* Marye Arnett-Clark had made lots of tuggies and snuffle mats to sell and was happy to show people some ideas.



* Jean Heiron was available to show off the new fundraising pack.

After lunch Jean also did a very informative presentation on organising fundraising events, she also introduced the new fundraising pack now available.

Last but certainly not least was the AGM itself, you can find the minutes of the AGM on page 4.

A special presentation was made to Val Roessner who raised over £1500.00 by running the London Marathon.

In the evening Anita Castellina had arranged a 3 course meal at the venue for those that wanted, it was lovely to socialise with friends and a nice way to let the dogs relax too as they had the chance to play freely in a secure room.

So all in all I would say a very successful day and it's definitely a day for your diary and not to be missed next year.





We need YOU...

THE AGM THAT STARTED WITH A BANG

Everyone was ready and all set to go.
 What lay ahead, little did we know
 In the early wee hours of the 4th July
 The lord in his wisdom decided to cry
 The heavens did open in it's entire wrath
 To awake all the people who lay in it's path
 God was not done with us for now
 He then sent thunder and lightning to take it's bow
 Windows groaned and building trembled
 All those in its wake sat up and listened
 That is all except one who still snored with gusto
 One final massive bank and flashing of lights
 We were all allowed to sleep for the rest of the night
 Or so we thought
 Fire alarm bells rang at the premier inn
 Everyone out that slept within
 We go to extremes for our family at Dog A.I.D.
 For that is just how this big family is made
 At the meeting that day
 All bleary eyed, what can we say?
 Nothing was going to stop us enjoying the day
 Our dogs on the day did us all so proud
 Some comical tricks and approval out loud
 What a laugh we had on the night
 Someone crept into my motor home for a rest
 The long day was taking its toll
 But through it all friendships were formed
 Laughter aloud
 Our family is here to stay
 Growing stronger and stronger day by day
 We left quietly in the knowledge we know
 That all our family do care for each other so
 One final word to all trainers, wherever they be
 Our sincere gratitude to you all
 For without your time and patience
 Where would we be?

Anita Castellina

FUNdraising Inspirations



*Jean at her
fundraising
event*

In February, this year, Sandra Fraser, Helen Jaundrell , Anita Castellina, Lizzie Charlton and myself met as a 'Fundraising Committee' to discuss a plan of action for the coming year to raise the profile for fundraising

The aim was to encourage and support our clients, trainers, volunteers and supporters to raise much needed funds. Our main focus was to have a Fundraising 'Pack' ready for the AGM.

Helen and I worked together on the 'Pack' and we hope it will assist everyone in their fundraising efforts. I also gave a short presentation at the AGM to suggest we have a target for the year (July 2015 – July 2016) and with those present we agreed that **£25,000** was a realistic target.

I had given myself a target in March, to raise £250 in three months. I did a Book Sale, a Table Top Sale and an 'Event' in the local village hall. It was made easier as I was moving house and had to have a big 'clearout'! I raised over £600!

I was able to give some advice and ideas at the AGM but it was clear that there is a wealth of expertise amongst our members. The question is **How?** we now share that expertise. Good communication links will be key to giving that support. We already have links through Twitter and Facebook but will be looking at other support strategies.

In the meantime, we hope the Fundraising Pack will give you the inspiration to 'Have a Go'!

Jean Heiron (Volunteer Fundraiser)

If anyone would like a new Fundraising Pack contact the office.

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Dog & Cat food as nature intended



Mr Murphy

"I get almost daily comments (including from our Vet!) on Mr Murphy's condition and have introduced many people to the benefits of Natural Instinct, not only for their dogs health and condition but also for the convenience on the owner's part. The packs are easily divided into meals and store very well in the freezer and fridge once thawed."

SUZANNE GARVEY

- ✓ **Biologically Appropriate Raw Food (BARF) made using only the best, DEFRA approved, human grade ingredients.**
- ✓ **Free from artificial additives, colour, preservatives and fillers.**
- ✓ **Wide variety of recipes available in both complete balanced meals and complementary raw food for dogs and cats.**
- ✓ **Delivered frozen to your door also available at local stockists.**
- ✓ **Free, friendly and professional advice on raw feeding.**
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A member of:



**For more information about us and what we do contact:
Dog A.I.D. Office, Suite A, Ground Floor, New Zealand House,
160-162 Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, Shropshire SY2 6FD
01743 588469 www.dogaid.org.uk**