



Reg. Charity No. 1098619

Paws 4 Thought



WINTER NEWSLETTER 2013/14

Paws 4 Thought is kindly supported by Natural Instinct

Accredited member since 2009



Saturday 5th & Sunday 6th ~April 2014

Spring Workshop for Clients and Trainers

Sponsored by Kennel Club Trust.

At

Stoke Mandeville Stadium. Aylesbury Bucks

Train not test, little by little progression is best!



Working in small groups with experienced trainers the weekend will be full and rewarding for all taking part.

Saturday am.

Teaching a behaviour, taking it step by step!

Applying this to all basic behaviours in Level's 1 and 2

Saturday pm.

Knowing when to move on with Distance, Distraction, Duration and Difficulty.

Sunday fun day!!

Using your new found skills in a fun morning with a combination of Rally 'O' and games designed to improve training.

The weekend is for clients and trainers. The venue has 50 fully accessible hotel rooms. Dog A.I.D. will cover 1 nights bed and breakfast, all other requirements to be covered by the client.

All application to Sandra@dogaid.org.uk in the first instance.

Please **do not** contact Stoke Mandeville Stadium direct.

Important Notice!

The clients monthly reports are few on the ground, *they are important*, even if you haven't seen your trainer that month or you are not well enough to do any training we need to know. Dog A.I.D.'s membership to the ADUK and ADEu recertification is due next year. *The reports form part of our Quality Assurance which is important to be able to evidence.* They just need to be sent by email to the office at the end of each month, put a reminder on your phone!

Trainers Workshop

Sunday February 9th 2014

At

Guide Dogs Leamington Spa, CV32 6AH

This workshop will be delivered by Samantha Dobson.
(see below for a biography of Samantha's achievements)

The workshop is open and free to all trainers, there will be limited numbers due to the size of the venue and there will be 6 spaces for trainers and their dog for demonstration purposes. All application in the first instance to
Sandra@dogaid.org.uk

"Working with protected contact captive wild animals means that being able to use target sticks effectively is an essential skill in order to keep the animals healthy. Ideally the training has to work first time, every time, especially if the animal becomes ill and needs veterinary attention. As the learning theories behind the application of practical animal training are equally applicable to zoo, farm, and domestic animals, it is not surprising that so many of these techniques are transferable when it comes to dog training".



Samantha has trained hundreds of different behaviours across a diverse range of species in four of the top zoos in England and Australia and won the 2008 *Significant Advances in Husbandry and Welfare* BIA-ZA award for her work with Californian sealions. In 2013 Samantha and the animal care team at Shuttleworth College won the 'Best Bird Welfare Management' award from the Blue Cross for their work with the parrots.

Passionate about using training to enhance animal welfare, Samantha promotes the use of positive reinforcement in animal training to advance the management of captive wild animals and companion animals alike.

In addition Samantha regularly appears as a guest speaker and has acted as an advisor for:

- local authorities and has produced numerous policies and procedures relating to animal health and welfare.
- media having coordinated the training for the Big Brother farm animal task in Australia and featured on live and pre-recorded television .
- the development of small animal wildlife theatre productions.
- the development of animal management qualifications to degree level.

Chairmans Report from A.G.M. year ending June 2013.

The year 2012 - 2013 has been a period of quiet progress. Being a perennial optimist I always feel that when one door closes another one opens. Many things have changed this year and continue to do so.

The period of time that we have had with our books closed to new clients has been used to review some of our processes and monitoring procedures. In January we asked clients to send monthly reports to the office via email so that we can assess the level of training that they are receiving and the progress they are making. This is beginning to help to see where we are using our resources to good effect and where we need to give additional help. We still rely on our trainers to send in their own reports to get a really clear picture of how the charity is meeting its objectives. Our Quality Assurance depends on our ability to monitor progress. We need to concentrate on quality not quantity!

Our revised process for taking on new trainers is now operating and is already showing that by asking for additional information in the form of visual evidence, we are able to recruit the calibre of trainer that is required by the charity.

For those trainers that have been with the charity for some time and taken clients to the full Assistance Level we are awarding them with a specially designed pin and a certificate. The pin says, 'Recognised Assistance Dog Trainer', we hope they will wear this with pride.

Goals and objectives

We have always had goals and objectives which we review annually, in the main they have been short and medium term and we have been pleased with the charity's progress in achieving many of them in the time scale given. This year greater importance has been given to these goals and objectives and the long term view for the charity. I was tasked to put together a Business Plan so that interested parties would be able to

assist in grant funding for Dog A.I.D. This was a bigger challenge than I thought it would be. Whilst putting the information together there was a great shift in the time scales in which things needed to be completed, as you will see later in this report. Business plans are often referred to as a living document or work in progress. This work in progress may take more time than I anticipated.

Sponsorship

Natural Instinct has confirmed their continued support and commitment to the charity. They are funding our next newsletter and are willing to enter into a dialogue about other ways in which they may be able to help Dog A.I.D in the future.

New Treasurer

We are delighted to announce the recruitment of Rachel Pattison as our new treasurer. Rachel was co-opted on to the committee earlier in the year. Rachel is a trainer with Dog A.I.D. and has taken on her new role with determination and zeal. Our grateful thanks to Rachel for taking on this role, she has already made her mark on the charity and we hope she will continue with us for some time to come.

Our annual income remains relatively strong particularly in the stagnant financial climate. However, the trustees have agreed that an increase in the membership fees to £25.00 will be implemented in July 2014 for those renewing. New clients will pay the increase at registration. Another volunteer joined the team a few months ago as Workshop Coordinator her name is Sarah Harray, she has been a great help in reducing some of the administration work that goes into getting the workshops organised, not an easy task, so thank you Sarah for your time

Fundraising

Despite not having a fundraising committee the charity has been supported by events all over the UK. There are so many to thank that I know I will miss some out, for that I really am sorry, but they should all be included in the newsletter.

Particular thanks must go to Midge Walster and her team in the South East, Anita Castellina and her group in Flyde, all those who organised a Strawberry Tea in July and those who give up their time to stand in draughty store foyers to promote the charity and collect money on our behalf, these include Ed and Belinda Williams, Caroline Lewis and Stephen Jordan. Peter Bond does a sterling job working on his own in Devon. All those who have collecting tins and others that raise funds through walks, dog shows, on line events and sponsored swims for the dogs. The charity cannot survive without your hard work and commitment. THANK YOU!

Crufts

Our third year at Crufts was as rewarding as the other years in that we made new contacts and raised our profile with the public. Grateful thanks must go to all those who helped on the stand, I hope we will see you again next year and perhaps some new faces to spread the load.

The Office

In January Erica Bennett left her post in the office unexpectedly due to long term illness. The king pin of all the administration, Erica is and will be sadly missed, her recovery will take some time, I'm sure you will all join me in wishing her well.

Wags and Woofs from the Chair



The move to the new office in Shrewsbury (see back page for new address) has been a great help. I am now able to do far more as there is less travelling to do! At present I am catching up on outstanding administration. There are a few people who have overlooked sending in their membership renewal. Is it you? Find the forms and get them to the new office *please*.

We will be recruiting 2 part-time staff to spread the work load and are still advertising other voluntary positions. Have a look on page 18 and see if you know anyone who would be willing to help us.

The Charity will be at Crufts again next year, this time in Hall 1. Your support is really appreciated, please let me know if you can attend either as a client or as a trainer on any of the 4 days. Tickets are provided. We will be sponsored in part by Natural Instinct.

Staffing levels have meant that we were not able to produce our calendar this year but if you keep taking photographs we can put one together for next year.

I wish each and every one a Happy New Year.

My fellow committee members and co-workers must be mentioned and thanked for the support they have given me and the charity in particular over the last 9 months, it's been a team effort and the team are Caroline Lewis and all her PA's, Stephen Jordan, Angela Woodhouse and Karen Jewhurst. Without these peoples' time and commitment Dog A.I.D would not survive!

In the Business plan that I began writing almost a year ago I noted that a move from the existing office was possibly needed after a period of 2 years. That situation has been forced upon us. The existing building and land are to be sold off and we need to be out by the end of November. Relocating to Shrewsbury seems to be a practical solution. Guide Dogs have a satellite unit in the town and they have agreed to rent the charity space for an initial 6 months. This will then give us time to make application for funding for a new office and staff. So, we are on the move both physically and metaphorically speaking as I see this as an opportunity to raise our profile and generate more volunteers. As I said at the beginning of the report, when one door closes another one opens. We are entering a new chapter in the story of Dog A.I.D.

Sandra Fraser



Another Reason I Love Dogs trainer by Kirsten Dillon



A couple of years ago I attended the US - APDT Annual Conference being held in San Diego, California. Whilst there I was fortunate enough to get the opportunity to shadow the animal trainers behind the scenes at San Diego's world famous zoo.

My favourite part had to be the cheetah enclosure because what I learnt on that day has stayed with me ever since and constantly reminds me of yet another reason why domestic dogs are so incredible!

Cheetah females only give birth to one cub at a time and if the female thinks that her cub has a less than excellent chance of survival she will more often than not abandon the cub in the hopes of conceiving another stronger one. Couple that with the fact that cheetahs are the original 'scaredy cats' (so much so that they often have trouble coming together to breed) and it becomes easy to see why they are climbing the endangered species ladder.

San Diego Zoo has developed a wonderful programme whereby they have begun pairing lone cheetah cubs with local rescue pups of a similar age obtained from the local shelter. As long as the introductions are done carefully, once the animals have accepted each other they

remain together for the rest of their natural lives (both species have very similar life expectancy).

Like many dog-dog pairings these work best with a male to female friendship, although the zoo does have successful same sex pairings also.

The logic behind this relationship is to provide the cheetahs with much needed confidence and security. They watch their doggy companion happily interacting with humans and are able to learn vicariously that this is a safe past time. It helps the cheetahs to accept a collar and lead which enables keepers to move the cheetahs around the zoo without the need for scary cages, crates or anaesthesia. The bond between the dog and cheetah becomes so strong that if the dog were to pass away another dog could never be introduced, instead keepers do everything they can to encourage and reassure the cheetah for the rest of its life.

This strange relationship also helps when it comes to breeding. A female cheetah only comes into heat when exposed to a male, so you can see how being shy is not conducive to this? The confidence both male and female cheetahs gain from being around their friendly canine companions also helps them accept a potential mate of the opposite sex.



Zoos across the world are adopting this practice, pairing dogs with not just cheetahs, but many kinds of other animals that benefit from the unique understanding that dogs have of us humans and our confusing ways.

Additionally, dogs aren't just helping cheetahs in zoos and safari parks either. The Cheetah Conservation Fund's Livestock Guarding Dog program is a successful, innovative program that has been helping to save the wild cheetah in Namibia since 1994. Using mostly Anatolian Shepherd dogs and working with local farmers and their livestock, this program is one of several non-lethal predator management strategies that CCF has developed to protect herds from cheetah attacks.

This programme not only saves cheetahs from the indiscriminate removal from the farmlands where they live, it also fosters goodwill between

CCF and the farmers, further improving the cheetah's chances for survival. www.cheetah.org

There are currently four different dog and cheetah companions living together as part of the Animal Ambassador program at San Diego Zoo;

Karoo, a female cheetah lives in a habitat with Sven Olof, a male golden retriever.

Kubali, a female cheetah shares her space with Bear, a male chow mix.

Bakari, a male cheetah and his female husky mix friend Miley live together.

Taraji, the zoo's youngest female cheetah and Duke, a male Anatolian Shepherd have the same residence.

I was very fortunate that I got to interact with these wonderful animals both canine and feline and see their devotion to one another first hand. The only thing they cannot do together is eat. The dogs take all of the cheetahs food!!



September Workshop 2013 *Mandy Holder*



When our Dog A.I.D. trainer first told me of the weekend workshop I completely dismissed it. I waited to the latest I thought could get away with hoping that all the spaces were full. It was a bad idea and I was truly terrified. I was scared of how much pain I would experience, how tired I would get and dealing with all those strangers but my worst fear was that they would decide my chocolate Labrador was just too excitable and ask us to leave the training.

We arrived at Hereward Lodge the night before after a horrendous journey in pouring rain and this was the first time Minnie had stayed away from home with us, and she doesn't normally sleep in our room. Everything was making her bark and unsettling her, we didn't sleep well, which was a shame as the accommodation was so clean and comfortable.

At breakfast we found a good few were already there and all were very friendly and the food enjoyable.

The meet and greet started at 9:15 with the trainers breaking us into smaller groups and assessing which groups would work together.

It was a balance between friendly and unsure dogs avoiding putting dogs under stress, they wanted dog groups where all would be able to concentrate on the tasks.

Minnie was picking up all of my fears, (I had used rescue remedy but didn't give her any, idiot !)
She was stressed, licking her lips, vocalising her excitement and had extensive stomach upsets. My poor husband spent the morning carrying around poo bags and a toilet roll.

It took time to get the dogs sorted but we were finally all in the hall in our groups and ready to get started. There were four areas, each with a trainer and a different task. Each group spent about 20 mins at each task. It was starting small to see what each dog would happily do, beginning with learning to use a clicker, not Minnie but me.

It was hard to get comfortable and found myself clicking at all sorts of odd times. It was simple things to start with like would the dog put it's head into a basket or bucket, tug, leave, touch were all gone through with a break for coffee

I felt conspicuous in doing it and I headed for the room and my bed at every opportunity but nobody minded. It was so important that you relaxed and did what you and your dog needed. Lunch was lovely and with a longer gap Minnie and I curled up and had a sleep too.

Afterwards we took the morning tasks on further and we also did lead walking, how to problem solve when dogs were reacting on lead, give to hand and leaving food when being thrown on floor. Everything was extending basics.

Following the afternoon sessions the AGM was held in the conference room. I learnt so much about the charity and how it works but was so tired I found myself volunteering to write this for the newsletter just so the meeting would end and I could collapse!

Even as I write this I can't believe my hand went up.

A corner of the conference room had tables with Dog A.I.D. items for sale. I can strongly recommend the soft clicker.

I can't comment on dinner because I slept through it and apart from a brief trip outside slept through the night.

Min and I were shattered.

A slight hiccup in the college organisation meant we spent the rest of the time working in the conference room and a seating area, the dogs were closer but amazingly Min stayed focused on what we were doing.

These sessions were all about taking the previous days work and grouping them together to make a task. So tug was developed into taking clothes off, Minnie was new to this but she happily took a sock off the trainers hand by the end of this session. We then concentrated on 'give' where Minnie was asked to put items into hand properly as I sat comfortably rather than my hand going under her mouth to receive the item.

Our final session in this room was touch/hit a target where a nose or paw can be used to turn on a light switch. This started with a game element which said "that was easy" when hit correctly. The challenge with the light switch was not to allow pawing repeatedly as in real terms this could mean a light being turned off again. It is all about clicking at the right point.

It was then our turn to move out of the room to the seating area for the cupboard and washing machine, here the dogs were opening the door using tug, putting their head in the washing machine, taking things out and bringing to hand and putting things in. It was for me the moment when so many smaller elements came together.



We relaxed with a video which showed in detail the subtle behaviours which our dogs use to convey their feelings to each other and which we can interpret to improve our understanding, and therefore our relationship. It was well worth watching and finished with a general chat and question and answer session.

So did it hurt, yes more than I can explain, but we survived, indeed we enjoyed ourselves. The experience was such a positive one, everybody so wonderful and kind, Sandra, Midge and all the trainers and I look forward to doing it again. So yes Kirsten you were right !

Complexities of training while in a wheelchair

River by Adrienne Winters

River is lovely, calm and large Labradoodle, (about the size of a standard poodle) who likes our night time cuddle just before she settles to sleep. She likes mental games so she has several wooden ones where treats are hidden under sliders and pegs but her favourite activity when she is off the lead outside is rolling in various substances - needing my carer to give her a shower on our return!

We realised that I needed an assistance dog when our old collie died and I was completely bereft. We hadn't realised just how much he had helped me in lots of little ways. We chose River from the litter because she showed no fear of (and automatically followed) my scooter when I moved round her garden and was already used to hearing musical instruments (I play several plus am being trained in Voice). River is very intelligent and like lots of labradoodles (and very unlike the collie), she doesn't like me focussing on any one thing for too long. (River says "I've shown you I can do it so why are we repeating it?") So, we have lots of variety in each training session.

At first I was worried about the amount of work needed to train her as an assistance dog but I've found I can switch indoor/outdoor training around to cope when I have more to do with my studies or have less energy and my carers and my mum help train her too. My electric vehicles are unsafe on snow and ice so then my carers take her out for me and I focus on indoor training. River's excellent at picking things up (passing them to me with a toss of her head). I've found 'hit' and 'touch' are useful commands (the former opens the front door once I've turned the key and she uses the latter to tell me when she wants to go out into the garden).

One of the earliest things we did with River was to take her to the local fire station where they kindly put on different types of gear and had every siren blaring. She was fantastic and is brilliant whenever any rescue vehicles go by.

Training a dog when you use electric vehicles is quite complex - she needed to learn a set of instructions to start with so that she could keep safe when working with the very heavy chair. A person can turn in a narrow space but you can't do that in a chair or a scooter and so River had to learn the 'back up' command early on (where she walks backwards keeping in line with the chair). We also taught her 'position' so she knew exactly where to be in relation to the chair (so that her paws would not get caught when the wheels turn). If a person wants to turn around to face the other way on a path its easy enough to do but in the wheelchair its very different. Due to the large turning circle of the vehicles she had to learn 'come round left' (where she has to virtually trot on the spot) as my vehicle does a 90 degree or 180 degree turn to the left.

Now we are on the home stretch - training for Level 3. Indoors, 'carry' and 'go to' (and then the person's name)' are useful commands for when she takes messages/things from me to my various carers. Outdoors my trainer is working with me, my carers and my mum on the routines and commands needed for when River is going round shops including going in lifts. (Not so easy when you have a large vehicle, large dog plus trainer in the lift and need to reverse out of it and there are people blocking the entrance when the doors open.) When I go into town people often come and talk to me because River seems to fascinate them - she is very regal loping beside me. I am really looking forward to when she gains her Level 3 and she can come with me everywhere.

Charities working hand in hand.

Dogs for the Disabled 25th Anniversary Summer Spectacular 2013

At The Kennel Club Building Stoneleigh by Mo Aegeter



I was asked by Dogs for the Disabled to demonstrate Wheelwork To Music and then a 'Have a Go' session for people to try the sport. This was a very large and varied show catering for non doggy people too.

Organisation of the whole event was excellent with everybody's needs well catered for and parking was organised using every possible area of shade. We had our own ring stewards just to look after us, imagine!

Bit of a hiccup with music system! We had the main ring, about 60 x 40 ft so great space for routines (did five in all) plus have a go! Very warm inside but had use of two air conditioned rooms for Topaz and Breeze and I was also able to take small groups in there as needed for 'Have a Go' too.

As the day wore on I asked to borrow a dog so that Breeze and Topaz could have a decent undisturbed rest and was given a choice of, very small, medium or large dog! I chose a large two year old male called Oakley who is part of an experimental team of dogs for autistic people. He looked at me with complete disinterest when handed over and never made any eye contact until I took him into the arena. I had to work really hard to gain his attention with voice, touch and treats and I willed him to cooperate. Suddenly like a light going on he tuned into me and became a joy to handle. His 'On Button' was praise for sure on that occasion. A chunky lad,

sleek jet black but slightly fluffy around the head, deep brown eyes, he is lab x golden retriever. Once I found the right speed to match his trot his head was up, his tail wagged and he displayed a lovely active outline. When he was taken away back to his 'day job' I felt a real pang I would have loved to bring him home to follow on when Breeze retires Sigh!

Actually a very huge sigh....

The Hook Norton Brewery had their Shire Horses on display, there were loads of craft stalls, Paralympian Mark Colbourne MBE, Have a Go Sports such as fencing, basketball and football and loads more. Oh Yes, a Hog Roast and Ice Cream to die for. The Spitfire fly past turned into a Dakota and was very low indeed, spectacular and somehow moving too. Later in the day the 25th Anniversary Cake was cut, oops! More yummy calories.

I met some wonderfully talented owners and handlers and some who needed a little more help to bring out the best in their partnership. I look forward to seeing more Wheelworkers to Music at the shows especially a young lady called Danielle with her super Goldie type and lovely parents. You will know if you meet them why I think they are so special!

Breeze and Topaz snoozed the whole way home as they always do. Topaz had only had a couple of mini routines to do with music medleys from her Earls Court and Crufts Main Ring performances many moons ago, designed to show the potential of small dogs, fun and with the Ahh' factor. She retired at ten and now at thirteen still wants to join in, but, that was definitely the last event for her. She has never had quite so many photos taken at one event and could turn into a Diva, they both behaved brilliantly and I'm so proud of them (and secretly Oakley).

Well-dogs sponsored swim 2013 *Lorna Colley Registered Canine Hydrotherapist*



Clients with dogs which could not swim on the day used their regular session to carry out their timed swims achieving 5 minutes to 25 minutes dependant on ability.

All dogs enjoyed their swim with a follow up treat from the doggie cake stall, whilst the sunshine and setting encouraged everyone to spend time having a chat with other dog owners and relax with home made scones with fresh cream, short-bread and cupcakes all made by our supporters.

The day was a wonderful success with clients and their dogs raising a fantastic £1963.

Many thanks to everyone including clients, family and friends for making our first sponsored swim such a success.

The morning of Sat June 8th promised to be a glorious sunny day. The stalls, gazebos, tables and chairs were all in place; tea, coffee and home made cakes were prepared and the pool ready for action!

Well-dogs sponsored dog swim was about to take place. The swim had been organised to raise funds for two charities with which clients of the pool were involved:

Dog A.I.D' and the local rescue, 'Alsager Animals In Need'.

Owners of dogs already attending the pool for hydrotherapy sessions or fun swims had raised sponsorship for their dogs to swim for a recorded number of minutes.

Swimming started at 10am and continued until 5pm with a wide range of breeds of all ages represented from the seventeen year old Labrador to the ten month old Collie, alongside Terriers, German Shepherds, Lurchers, Spaniels, and many more including Poppy our three legged Staffordshire Bull Terrier patient.



Natural Instinct

Dog and Cat food as nature intended

Thankyou to Natural Instinct for continuing to support Dog A.I.D.

Dog A.I.D. is very pleased to announce that leading Camberley based pet food company Natural Instinct Ltd is continuing their sponsorship of our newsletter and will also be proudly supporting Caroline Lewis and her new puppy Sera who is now in training with Dog A.I.D.

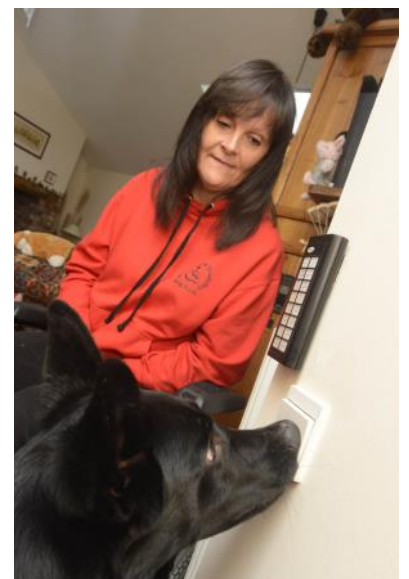
Natural Instinct provides premium cat and dog food based on the Biologically Appropriate Raw Food (BARF) diet. They were one of the first brands in the UK to make the BARF diet easier and more convenient for the customers by developing a range of complete recipes which contain all the vitamins and minerals that a cat and dog would need for a healthy and naturally balanced diet. Within the product ranges there is a wide choice to suit the individual tastes and requirements, using only the best human grade, DEFRA approved raw meat with bones, vegetables and fruit. Natural Instinct pride themselves on outstanding levels of customer support and delivering the very best quality. The team have a wealth of experience to share with you and extensive knowledge about feeding and introducing the diet. Between them all collectively own over 50 beloved dogs and cats of various breeds and ages, each and everyone thriving on the Natural Instinct diet.



A good diet generally leads to a more balanced behaviour in dogs, which is incredibly important when they are in training of any kind. With this in mind, natural Instinct have generously agreed to sponsor Caroline Lewis's German Shepherd dog Sera, by providing her food for the next six months. Caroline from Shropshire is 49 and a tetraplegic as a result of a car accident in 1988. Having already trained her late dog Jade through the Dog A.I.D. charity, she is now putting her new dog through its paces.

Caroline says, I am hoping that as well as the tasks Jade was trained to carry out for me, I will also be able to train Sera to retrieve named objects. This is particularly important with items such as the telephone so that if I or my carer get into difficulties Sera can bring me the phone to get help.

Michelle Machin-Jeffries, Acting Manager Director at Natural Instinct says, "We are absolutely delighted to be sponsoring such a worthy cause. A good healthy diet and successful training go hand in hand and therefore it is very fitting that we should be associated with Dog A.I.D.. We look forward to continuing our support and seeing the progress that Sera makes."



Sera learning to use her nose

Call Natural Instinct on 01276 608500 or go on line and order today or for more information: www.naturalinstinct.com

Drum Roll Please !

This is the section of our newsletter where we celebrate the success of our clients, dogs and trainers.

Level 1 Good Companion

Lynn Stacey with Bella Trainer Victoria Welsh

Denise Gilbey with Spikey Trainer Dianne Keohane

Level 2 Advanced Good Companion

Lorna Brooksbank with Lola trainer Keith Warwick

Helen Petley with Teddy Trainer Chantal

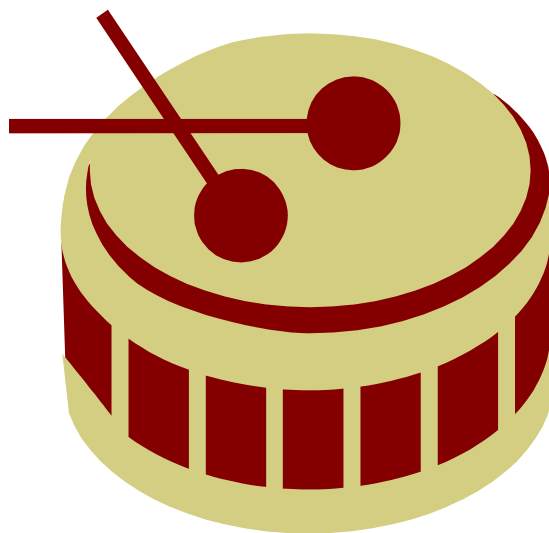
Level 3 Final Certificate

Eluned Plack with Merlin Trainer Angela Pitman

Sue Alcar with Rolo Trainer Elaine Fairhurst

Caroline Haji with Mac. Trainer Elaine Fairhurst.

Kate Ring and Dylan, Trainer Hannah Crook



Raffle Prize Winners

1st prize, Samsung tablet = Janice Arthur Barrow in Furness

2nd prize, Digital camera = E Brown Diss, Norfolk

3rd prize, Subscription to Dog's Today Magazine = Victor Young Sunderland

4th prize, Pets at Home voucher = Helene Barton Garstang Lancs

5th prize, Wilkinson's voucher = Nikki and Adrian Gibbs Crayford Kent

Thankyou for your Support



Dog A.I.D. Bumper Bundles



5 wristbands with a
free Dog A.I.D. Pen
£10 plus 69p P&P

Bumper Bundle consists of a wristband,
keyreel, badge, car sticker and 2 pens.
£10 plus 69p P&P



Send order and cheque made payable to Dog A.I.D. to the new office address (on back page)
or order on line from our Dog A.I.D. Website shop. www.dogaid.org.uk

Meet our new fundraising recruit (he? ...she? You decide!)



For a £1 donation via the Dog A.I.D. shop
www.dogaid.org.uk/shop please email up to
5 suggestions to edward@dogaid.org.uk.

The favourite selection will be entered into a poll on
the website where **YOU** can have the final say.

Entries received up to January 31st 2014



Dog A.I.D. Merchandise

NEW! for 2014 Red silicone wristband.

Wording; *Dog A.I.D. Training pet dogs to change lives*



Retractable
key ring
£3.00



Enamel
Supporters
Badge
£2.00



Cosy clicker
£4.50



Squiggle Pen £1.50



Road Refresher
Bowls.

Large £11.95

Small £9.99

Crate brackets for
bowls.

Large £5.99

Small £4.99



Car Sticker (wording is Dog
A.I.D. Supporter) £2.00

**For limited period 2 shopping bags for £7
Free Postage & Packing.**



Canvas shopping bag
(18insX15ins) £3.99

Collars and leads are a new edition to Dog A.I.D. merchandise. They are hand made from best quality English bridle leather tanned by JE Sedgwick of Walsall. These are made 100% in house, from cutting the strap from the butt of leather to preparing, finishing and burnishing.



Many thanks to David Williamson of Joseph Dixon Ltd of Walsall West Midlands, www.josephdixon.co.uk who provided the leather, working and cutting tools free of charge. As an example of his generosity a simple splitter costs nearly £400! He has provided everything needed to cut and produce these leads and collars so all proceeds of the sales go to Dog A.I.D.



Fundraising Manager: to lead and direct our Regional Fundraising Co-ordinators. The manager will be accountable to the trustees for the budget and business objectives as set by the trustees. Whilst fundraising experience is not essential a good team player with communication, inter-personnel skills and some spreadsheet knowledge would be an advantage. The role will involve some travel for which expenses will be covered. *Voluntary position preferably for someone from the West Midlands.*

Fundraising committee members: Previous experience helpful but not necessary: Need to be forward thinking with good communication skills and have the time to attend meetings possibly once a month and the ability to be part of a core of helpers who are able to attend functions such as bag packing and fairs, shows and dog related events. *Voluntary positions*

Public Relations officer: Promoting the charity through the media and events, providing suitable and timely press releases. Keeping a 'scrapbook' of all coverage and assisting with promotions and collaborating on leaflet updates. *Voluntary position working from home.*

Access Assistant: Attending access meetings on behalf of Dog A.I.D. at the ADUK meetings, reporting to the Access manager on developments and assisting in educating places where access has been denied for Dog A.I.D. clients. Keeping a record of Access issues and providing reports on these. *Voluntary position best location South of Birmingham.*

Event's organiser: Working closely with the Fundraising Manager to organise events such as Crufts and any other large events that Dog A.I.D. may run. *Voluntary position working from home.*

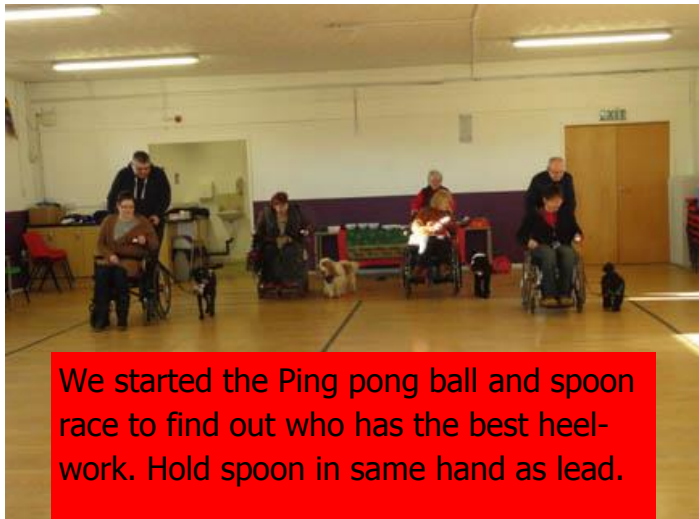
**To join our team or for more information contact Sandra by emailing
Sandra@dogaid.org.uk**

Alternatively please contact the office on 01743 588469

And finally ...

Christmas Party ideas from trainer Elaine Fairhurst and her clients.

We rented the local scout hut and all brought a basket.



We started the Ping pong ball and spoon race to find out who has the best heel-work. Hold spoon in same hand as lead.



The weave race involved weaving through cones – dogs carrying an unfamiliar article. Points off for dropped article.



Toss the poop – Dough in a pooh bag to be thrown into a tub. Dog in a stay between tub and handler, 3 goes each – last one with eyes shut. 1 point for each 'poop' in the bin, - 1point if dog breaks stay. Hysterical! Deborah won on 'Nil point' all other dogs



Treat Race.....Walk your dog past lines of treats – dogs to ignore food. First one over the line wins but points off for every treat eaten. As I was laying them all out, my dog was following me eating them! !!

Everyone did their bit to make it a great afternoon and owners and dogs went home tired but happy.

Happy New Year from all at Dog A.I.D.



Reg. Charity No. 1098619

Paws

Thought



The main difference between Dog A.I.D. and many other assistance dog groups is that the physically disabled owner learns how to train their own pet dog. Generally all the training is carried out by the owner with supervision from a specially trained instructor.

Dog A.I.D. training is designed to give a measure of independence and provide owners with the knowledge to train other tasks. This allows them to adapt the training to their own needs with an instructor, who is able to give advice as required.

For more information about us and what we do contact:

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