



Dog Assistance In Disability Charity Reg Number 1098619

Spring Newsletter May 2011



Our debut at Crufts 2011



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Accredited Member since 2009



Dog A.I.D. Notices and Information

New Office for Dog A.I.D

Dog A.I.D are pleased to announce that we now have a real office!! We 'moved in' in January and are still in the process of organising paperwork and procedures. The new address is;

Dog A.I.D Office, CVS Building, Arthur St, Chadsmoor, Cannock, Staffs. WS11 5HD
01543 899463 general_admin@dogaid.org.uk

Until now Dog A.I.D has been run from various homes linked by phones and computers. At last we have everything under one roof and getting help from volunteers in manning the office. There is still lots to do but a great sense of achievement is felt by all. Please bear in mind that there will be times when the office cannot be manned therefore you may have to leave a message on the answer phone.

Collection Boxes.

Collection boxes are now kept at the office and all enquiries and/or money is to be sent to the above address.

Community Transport.

Many areas of the country have community transport schemes which can provide accessible minibus transport for small groups. Bus size is usually 12 -16 seats with 2 seats lost for any wheelchair being anchored within the bus. Cost varies according to your needs and a driver can be provided. It's worth a look if a small group want to go out .

www.communitytransport.org is the web site then click on Minibus. There is a list of locations which will give you a contact number etc.

Support Dog AID in the future.

Your legacy to Dog A.I.D is significant to our future. We do not receive any financial assistance from the government and totally rely on fund raising, donations and legacies. A legacy gift will help us to continue our work and increase our national coverage.

If you or someone you know is in the position to leave a legacy gift we have a leaflet with information about our nominated solicitors who have a 'Discounted Will Rate'. Just get in touch with the office at the address above.

Regular giving.

A regular contribution no matter how small would make a huge difference to our finances. If you feel you are able to do this we have a donation form ready to send out or you can print one from the website on the fundraising page.

Design a Card.

Help wanted for more designs of cards for our Online Shop 'Email & Print A Card'.

Could you draw or create a design for a Dog A.I.D Birthday, Easter, Christmas or other occasion card.

Submit your ideas or design to
general_admin@dogaid.org.uk

Penny Pots.

We have official Dog A.I.D stickers to attach to any size jar or container for collecting pennies. The sticker is free to anyone wishing to help Dog A.I.D. Send in a stamped addressed envelope to the Dog A.I.D Office (address on back page). Friends Chris and Sue Wells collected £36.86 in their last pot so many thanks to them yet again.

EveryClick

Everyclick is another simple way for us to raise funds with no cost to Dog A.I.D. or our supporters. With Everyclick - 'give as you live' we raise funds every time someone **searches** and/or **shops on line** or **trades on eBay**. Everyclick is partnered with leading brands so that a commission on sales through their website is given back to registered charities; similarly, all searches through their search engine (powered by Yahoo) receive a commission. For Dog A.I.D. to benefit, people must first register with Everyclick and then be logged in to their site and use their facilities when conducting their search and/or purchase.

To register with 'Everyclick - give as you live' go to <https://fundraisers.everyclick.com/signup> and register.

Page 3 Girl Mia

My name is Mia, I was rescued from a horrible start in life when I was a young puppy by my mum who loves me dearly. She has a hearing impairment and a heart problem which I help her with. I know how to alert her to the door, phone &



warning signals like the fire alarm, but I also warn her before her heart goes into its arrhythmia. This is very important, as the arrhythmia can develop into ventricular fibrillation which is life threatening. I warn my mum minutes before this starts, so she can take her medicine to prevent an episode. I watch over my mum every hour of everyday, making her feel secure and confident.



Dog AID Summer Raffle



We hope you will support us once again by selling the enclosed raffle tickets. The stubs need to be returned by the end of August ready for the draw at the AGM in September. First prize is this pretty Royal Doulton 18 piece dinner set, other prizes include an original painting by Brian Laws, a Pet Photoshoot, a Bungee Jump and many more additional prizes.

'Dogs Do The Cleverest Things'

Thank you to all those that contributed to our DVD. Special thanks go to Richard Curtis for his clip showing him in action with 3 of his dogs. This is not a teaching DVD but a fun packed 40 minutes showing dogs doing tricks or working with clients. Something different for the children to watch or a stocking filler for birthdays or Christmas. If this sells well we will be doing a follow up DVD so keep those Camcorders handy and record anything new or funny your dog does.

Recycle for Dog A.I.D

Save your packaging and make money for Dog AID

TerraCycle
OUTSMART WASTE

Set up an account **FREE** and recycle your waste with funds going to Dog A.I.D. Packaging from Kenco, Johnsons Baby Wipes, Danone Yogurt and many other items will earn much needed money for us and at the same time you will be helping the environment. Look on the website www.terracycle.co.uk and learn more.



Autumn Workshop September 10th & 11th



Yarnfield Park Training and Conference Centre
Yarnfield, Stone, Staffs. ST15 0NL
www.yarnfieldpark.com

Saturday 10th

Rally Obedience for beginners open to all clients.
Sports Hall Yarnfield

To accommodate the increased interest in attending the workshops from clients with qualified dogs as well as those in training, we have decided to offer the Rally 'O' on the Saturday so that the day can be more of a social event and include the AGM at the end of the day.

Trainers will be welcome as usual to help and assist where needed.

Angela Woodhouse will run a training session in the morning so that everyone can work with their dog, in the afternoon those that like the sport will be offered a little 'competition'.

For further information about this activity please go to the APDT website www.apdt.co.uk

Notice is hereby given that the Dog A.I.D Annual General Meeting, will take place on Saturday 10th September at Yarnfield Conference and Training Centre at 4.30 pm. All are welcome to attend.

Sunday 11th

Workshop for trainers and, *clients in training only*, due to space constrictions.
Howden Suite Yarnfield

This workshop will centre on the task work that clients need with their dogs. Targeting, picking up, finding items, opening and closing doors/drawers, etc. As always we will work on any other exercise that the client may require such as greeting behaviour or lead walking if asked for in advance.

Dog A.I.D will offer one nights B & B for *clients in training* and trainers. All other extras and additional nights' stays will need to be met by the client.

For registration please contact the office or e-mail Sandra Fraser clanfraser33@hotmail.com

Crufts Debut

Our attendance at CRUFTS was yet another milestone in the continuing growth of Dog A.I.D.



Our main aim of being at Crufts was to raise the awareness of our charity, it certainly was a success, with 27 potential Dog A.I.D. trainers showing interest at the show, and many more taking away information who will hopefully join us as trainers and fundraisers.

We noticed that when clients and their dogs were on the stand it created a great deal of interest. Clients dogs included Rossi the Rotty, Wolfie the GSD, Mia a miniature dachshund and Barney the Beagle – all of which demonstrated the fact that here at Dog A.I.D. we work with all sorts and sizes of pooch!

We were thrilled to be joined by Aidan Burley M.P.'s constituency manager, Claire Wixon, on the Saturday; her first visit to Crufts and she was totally overawed with the whole experience.

It is great to report that, thanks to many generous donations, more than £2000 was taken over the 4 days, which at least covered the cost of the stand.



Even though we all found it tiring, we will not hesitate to apply for a stand in 2012; do let us know if you feel that you would like to come along and join us, the more the merrier!

Thanks to everyone who helped on the stand; clients, committee members and volunteers, all of which helped to make the show a resounding success.

Lots of lessons have been learned, roll on Crufts 2012!!!

Thankyou Caroline.



Caroline Lewis has done a stalwart job as treasurer for Dog A.I.D. She has been doggedly determined to keep the finances rolling through adversity, both personally and with our ever growing charity. Many thanks for all the hard work over the last 6 years, we have really appreciated your efforts and input into Dog A.I.D. Caroline also keeps the website up to date so she hasn't entirely 'retired' from Dog A.I.D. and remains on the committee as a valued member.

Welcome to the new Treasurer.

Paul Mallatratt has taken over the role of treasurer so all expenses and money matters will now be directed to him at ;
17 Beech Court, Pocklington, York, East Yorkshire. YO42 2NE e-mail
paul.mallatratt@rsmtenon.com

The Subject of Access *Sandra Fraser*

As part of my role as chairperson I attend regular meetings of ADUK and the sub committees dealing with access and PR. A while ago at an ADUK meeting we were given a presentation by the Founder of Bio Life International Ltd www.bio-life.co.uk This extremely informative and interesting presentation gave scientific evidence about the nature of allergies and the part that dogs play in the causes of such allergies.

Surprisingly dogs are not top of the list as the causes of allergies. To put it in perspective Bio-Life give the following list of causes of allergic reactions

Printer and toner inks 27% , Paint 27%, Dust mite 22%, Cleaning products 27%, Dogs 10%
Pollen 10%.

At our last meeting Philip Biggs from Hearing Dogs gave a similar presentation that backed up the claims of Bio-Life. Hearing Dogs had done their own research on the effectiveness of the product and wanted to share their findings. They have run a trial themselves with very pleasing results.

The reason for this is that as Access and Inclusion Manager Mr Biggs is continually involved in processing access issues where clients have been refused access for one reason or another. At this time of year one of the most common is the refusal of an assistance dog into a hotel/B & B/Campsite, because of the chance of other people being 'allergic'.

Mr Biggs is continually striving to educate service providers and goes to great lengths to point out the law in relation to assistance dogs and how 'reasonable adjustment' can be made so that all parties are satisfied.

It will usually be against the law to refuse access to an assistance dog on the grounds of 'allergy' unless this can be objectively justified. Allowing assistance dog users access to service provision, employment and housing would be 'reasonable adjustment' unless an allergy issue can be objectively identified and refusal of access is proportionate and necessary. Refusal on the grounds that other people may be allergic is not likely to be reasonable or proportionate.



The Bio-Life products would seem to be a really good way of offering to be proactive in reducing any risk.

If you know you are going to stay in accommodation then it is helpful if you treat your dog with a suitable treatment such as Petal Cleanse for up to four weeks prior to the stay. This will ensure that your dog is up to 98% free of Canine allergens and will remain so with one treatment per week.

As a charity our access officer Janice Arthur would contact any service provider who has refused access to one of our clients and recommend that they use the Bio-Life product in order to reduce the risk to their users.

If a service provider 'identifies Canine allergen as a risk', then it would probably be 'reasonable adjustment' to treat the environment with a suitable allergen remover such as Air Cleanse by Bio-Life. This together with the client's use of Petal Cleanse would reduce the allergen load to a non reactive level for 97% of allergy sufferers.

If you would like more information about these products please visit Bio-Life's website, or phone 01608 686626

If you have been refused access to holiday accommodation on the grounds that the dog may have an effect on another, or any other access refusal, please let Janice know. We need to keep records of access refusal; we may also be able to educate the service provider with helpful information. Janice will have a special 'Dog A.I.D access' e-mail address shortly but in the meantime if you have any issues please put it in writing and send it to the office c/o Janice Arthur .

Dog Control Orders

Clean Neighbourhood and Environment Act 2005 (1)

Many council's are now putting in place Dog Control Orders, these replace local bylaws and will often mean that certain public areas, previously used for dog walking, are no longer available. You should be aware that if you have a full assistance dog you are exempt from certain parts of this, however, it would be useful for you to be aware of the areas affected by DCO by going to your local council website.

Defra have issued a document; Dog Control Orders , Guidance on Sections 55 to 67 of the Clean Neighbourhood and Environment Act 2005, under general principles, the prescribed offences are;

- a) failing to remove dog faeces;
- b) not keeping a dog on a lead;
- c) not putting, and keeping, a dog on a lead when directed to do so by an authorised officer;
- d) permitting a dog to enter land from which dogs are excluded;
- e) taking more that a specified number of dogs onto land.

Under item number 15 of this document it describes those who are exempt and from which parts of the DCO's, they are registered blind, and deaf people and other people with disabilities who make use of trained assistance dogs, they are exempt from offence (d) and similarly from offence (a) the exemptions are not relevant to the other three offences.

If you do exercise your dog in one of the affected areas make sure you have your ID on you in case you are challenged.



Great gifts for everyone...

Mugs & Money Boxes



Great for Grandparents, Birthdays or just for fun.

Jigsaw Puzzles



Ideal Christmas presents.

T-Shirts



For the kids & fun nights out

Calendars



For the family or just for fun.

Coasters & Mats



Great gifts for great memories.

...and many more!

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Tel. 01244 351 505
Email. digiprint@chester.kallkwick.co.uk
10% of the value of your order will be donated to DOG AID

Our First Workshop

by Niki Smith



Finally Holly & I were able to attend a Dog A.I.D. workshop. It was held at Yarnfield Park Training & Conference Centre. As I do not drive (I haven't been banned, its all for health reasons!!) I had never been able to go before. This year was different though, Mark was not in work that weekend so I quickly `booked` the weekend on my Dog A.I.D. calendar. I had met Mandy & Wolfie and Michelle, Victoria & little (but he doesn't know it) Amos previously in Cannock when we went to collect rosettes from Mandy. She had kindly collected them to go towards a show I am organising to raise money for Dog A.I.D. I said then that I would see them in April.

We travelled up on the Friday. Bags were packed, Holly had more than us (as always), last check on the house and we were off. Holly is now nine and near the end of her `career` but I think that you can never stop learning where dogs are concerned and it is always good to go back to kindergarten, so to speak.

Saturday morning we all met in the foyer at 9am for registration. One by one we were sent up to the room that was being used for training so that it would be calmer for the dogs. The qualified dogs went up last. We were placed around the room with space enough between each dog so as not to put any stress on them. On the Saturday we covered recall training, starting with the basics and leading up to recall with distraction. It was lovely to watch all the other dogs (dog watching is my hobby!) as Sandra talked us through it all.



As it was a lovely weekend, after lunch we went outside to work. A recall indoors with little distraction is easy but the same dog could behave very differently outside. A long line was used for this exercise (as a precaution) as there were many wild rabbits running around the grounds. We covered the way we all recall our dogs, words that we use & the amount that we repeat those words. Also, the

possible use of a whistle, Sandra used two peeps as a recall. The day ended at 4pm & we all went back to our rooms for a well earned rest, dogs included.

A big thing for me on the weekend was that I met up with my original trainer from before we joined Dog A.I.D. Kate was the first person to put me in touch with clicker training. She had shown me how to work with Holly (as a pup) and train her to fetch my mobile phone. We had started with a piece of newspaper that she had to touch. I hadn't seen Kate for about 5yrs, since we moved and Holly finished Flyball, so it was lovely to meet up again.



Sunday morning started bright & early, sun was shining and the birds were singing. As with Saturday we met in the foyer and made our way up for a 9.30 start. Today the things we were to cover were down at a distance, with & without distraction and walking with a dropped lead. Sandra showed us that there were a few ways in teaching a down at a distance, explaining to break up the exercise into smaller sections as to not to confuse the dog. She used a few of the dogs as demo dogs, Bliss & Rossi to name just two.

Sandra also showed us how a whistle can be used to stop your dog in his path by using a different amount of peeps (this time she used one peep).



At around 12 midday we broke for lunch.

There was a table with Dog A.I.D. goodies for sale. I could have bought lots of things but stopped myself. I did buy a lovely shopping bag however that I now keep in my back pack for when we go to town. Now I can say `no thanks` if someone asks if I want a polythene carrier.

I do not know how the afternoon went as we left early. Holly was really worn out so I thought it best to call it a day. I am sure I missed a great afternoon. In the last newsletter Caz (with Asha) said that if anyone has a chance that they should go to a workshop. I second what she said. Even if you can only manage a day, no one would judge you. They would just be pleased to see you. Great weekend, lovely people and extra special dogs.....perfect.



Training Weekend at Yarnfield Park, by Peggy Knowles



Have been looking forward to this for some time, weeks now. Me and Zanti to go away, just the two of us. Arrived around 3pm on Friday

After a phone call to reception, Sean arrived promptly to take the bags to my room. Zanti was a bit stressed, so we went exploring. Vast expanse of grounds, she had a good run in safety, never went far from me, and loved every minute of it. Met some dogs with their owners, great excitement all round.

Bedrooms rather small, couldn't get the buggy in, had to leave it in the entrance area, plug there for charging the battery

Saturday morning, talk by Sandra, plenty of helpers all with smart red tops. Lead work, all dogs showing off what they could do.

Saturday afternoon, recall, all dogs working well, everyone enjoying the day.

Sunday morning, downs, not Zanti's strong area. She behaved beautifully as all dogs did.

Sunday afternoon, stays, again all dogs performed to perfection, Zanti excelled herself.

Sandra and her band of helpers all worked very hard to make this a memorable weekend, many thanks to them all.



The food was excellent, bedrooms on the small side, some doorways rather narrow. Plenty of exercise areas, the weather was very kind to us.

Many thanks to Mandy, who was in the right place at the right time, when Zanti managed to get her lead tangled round the rear wheel of my buggy. This could have been disastrous, Mandy managed with great difficulty to untangle the mess. Thanks Mandy!

We met lots of lovely people and their gorgeous dogs. Zanti and I had a super time. Once again, thanks to Sandra and her team.

Amos pulling out the winning ticket for the raffle, with Victorias help. The Raffle raised £50.30.

The sales table was looking fuller than ever with Dog A.I.D. merchandise and raised £265.70.



Fund Raising Staffordshire

One of our clients, Jodie, suggested that we try getting some bag packing sessions at local supermarkets as she had found in the past that they were very good fundraisers.

So as it was Jodie's idea, Jodie was put on the trail of getting all the addresses! The letter was written and off it went to all major supermarkets in the area; we were not sure how many replies we would get.

So far, we have been offered 2 dates by Morrisons supermarket, one which was Saturday 2nd April in Rugeley, Staffordshire and the next one is Saturday 30th July at Burntwood, Staffordshire.

We tried valiantly to get many helpers as we had 14 tills to cover. Unfortunately, we struggled with helpers but what a good day we had! Sandie a recently qualified assistance dog came along with Sue her owner, what a star she was! Her favourite trick is to pick up tiny coins, even 5ps and 1ps, and put them into the collecting bucket. The children had such fun getting money off their parents for Sandie to pick up.

After a very busy day, we headed off home just after 6pm, with very heavy buckets. Sunday dawned and we could not leave it any longer; the money had to be counted. Over £550 taken!!! What a magnificent amount, we are all thrilled to bits. Every single penny counts with Dog A.I.D. as it is run entirely by volunteers; amounts such as this make a big difference to us.

We are looking forward to our next bag pack event on July 30th, and hope to have many more helpers and assistance dogs on that day. Should you be interested in organising a similar event, please contact the office for further details

Well Done Victoria



Pictured above is Victoria Evans with Amos presenting a cheque to Sandra Fraser for £401-26 which she raised on a sponsored 10k walk organised by Arnold Hill Secondary School. Victoria developed huge blisters about 4k from the finish but battled on determined to complete the walk. It resulted in 2 days off school as she had taken off several layers of skin. She received her medal which was engraved with her name, not that she will ever forget that particular walk!! Thanks go to Penny Lavericks Dog Club, Hazel Reynolds Dog Club, Councillor Metcalf of Lincoln Council, schoolfriends and teachers, family and Dog A.I.D. clients.

Thank you Rachel

Rachel Pattinson did a talk at Wooten Basset Rotary Club. 'It was a pleasure to hear Rachel speak with such passion about your charity' said a club spokesman. The Rotary Club raised £100 which was used to pay for the new Dog A.I.D. badges that are sewn on the dogs jackets, so many thanks to Rachel and her Rotarian friends..

Thank you Avon Business Centre.

Thanks to all the people in Cannock and Avon Business Centre who supported our Table-top and Jumble sale in February. We raised the sum of £233.15 and are very grateful to everyone who came along.

Many of those who came were lucky enough to meet two of our qualified assistance dogs, Rossi the Rottweiler and Sandie a small terrier cross who recently appeared on Channel 5 news.

Thank you Soul'd Out

What a fabulous evening we had when local soul and motown party band performed for us in Cannock

There are 14 members of the band and each have their own excellence; they created a real party atmosphere which went on until midnight. Everyone was up dancing the night away and a really good time was had by all as well as raising £300!

We certainly hope that they offer to do another evening for us before too long.

'In 2 the Unknown'

No-one knew what to expect when Paranormal Investigation Team 'In 2 the Unknown' agreed to set up a professional investigation to prove there is an afterlife.

The event was held on Saturday 9th April at Avon Business and Leisure Centre in Cannock between 8pm and 1am.

Without giving too much away, we can tell you that it was very interesting indeed and was all captured on camera, for further analysis.

'In 2 the Unknown' is a Paranormal Investigation Society for the Fylde and has previously carried out investigations around the North West, such as the Grand Theatre in Blackpool and Blackpool Tower. The evening in Cannock was a great success and raised £100.

An Evening with Steve Leonard

"What a fabulous evening we had"

"Well worth the effort of going out on a cold Saturday night"

"What an amazing speaker, when is he coming again?"



These are just some of the comments received by Dog A.I.D. after their 'Evening with Steve Leonard' event held on 20th November at Avon Leisure Centre.

Steve, who is Patron of Dog A.I.D. is well known for his TV Wildlife programmes with Kate Humble and Michaela Strachan, and is also the handsome guy everyone remembers from TV's Vet School and Vets in Practice. He also finds the time to run a very busy vet practice with his brother in Whitchurch, Shropshire. The evening raised £723 so a big thankyou to Steve.

There was more to come!!

A cheque for £867.94 was presented to Dog A.I.D. by Yvonne Cox and Darren Young of the locally held 'Twilly Memorial Show'.

In 2006, following the early death to cancer of their beloved Dobermann Twilly at just 4 years of age, Yvonne and Darren decided to celebrate her life each year by holding a dog show and distributing the profits to 2 charities, one being the Animal Health Trust and a second one which changes each year; this year they approached Dog A.I.D. and asked if they could raise funds for them.

The event was held at Shareshill on a sunny August Bank Holiday Monday with a wonderful band of helpers assisting Yvonne and Darren in their efforts to create a fabulous day for all.

Dog A.I.D. volunteers Erica and Alan Bennett, went along with a table of goodies to sell on behalf of the charity and raised £130 on the day.

Yvonne and Darren said they would not know how much they had raised for the 2 charities for some weeks, as further funds would be raised from the sale of photographs of the competing dogs taken on the day, but they would be happy to go along to one of their future events to hand over a cheque.

When Yvonne and Darren heard about the evening with Steve Leonard, they quietly bought 2 tickets and mentioned that they would be bringing along their donation on the night.

A huge thank you to you both for choosing Dog A.I.D. as one of your charities and for all the hard work you put in to make this event so special.

Coming events.

June 19th Quarry Bank Dog Show, venue TBA.

July 2nd Hanbury and District Horse Show, Park Hall Farm Hanbury Redditch B96 6RD

August 21st Netherend Fun Dog Show, Woolaston Memorial Hall, Lydney, GL15 6NL

From Sue Line and Chris Titley

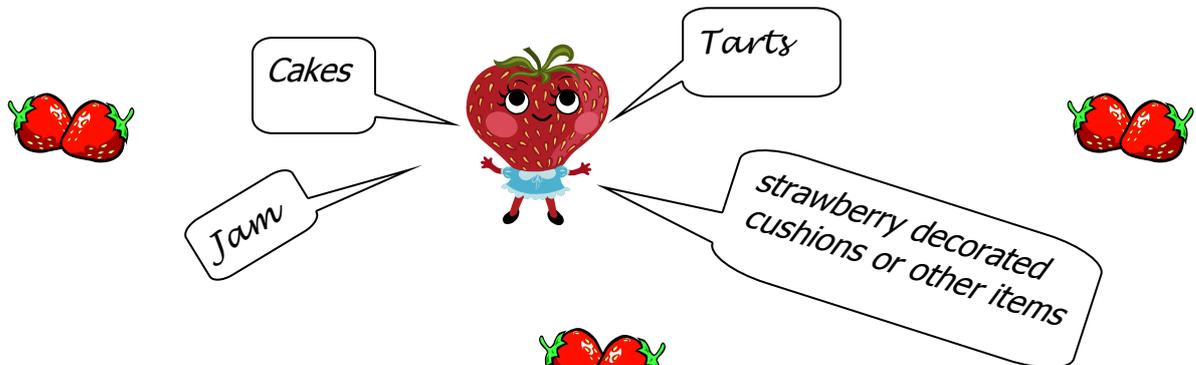
We thought you would like to hear about our event which we held on Thursday 1st July 2010. The weather was kind to us and we had a Strawberry Tea in the back garden. Friends and Neighbours' had been given invites and many turned up during the afternoon. The tea flowed (so did the cream on the strawberries) with a few pounds going on the waist as well as in the kitty. Thanks to everyone who supported us, either coming or a donation. We managed to raise £48 and have a really good time into the bargain. We have been asked to make it a regular feature!



Remember it is our National **Strawberry & Cream Tea** week

2nd - 8th July

Hold a strawberry themed fund raising event by making items to sell such as:-



Dip strawberries in melted chocolate for an extra special treat -the children will love 'choccy dipping'

*Calling all gardeners!!
Did you grow any strawberries?
What a great opportunity to have a strawberry tea!!*



Too busy to organise an event!
Why not take a strawberry decorated cake/ cakes (or just strawberries for the weight watchers) to work and sell to colleagues at tea break.



A poster to advertise your event is on the website.

Fund raising in the South East

Mary's House Party

Mary Peasley held a 'House Party' 23rd October 2010.

Tea and cakes were served in the kitchen with cakes and preserves for sale too. Donations from local shops were on sale as well as Marys beautiful hand made cards. The day raised almost £500 and a good time was had by all.

Mason's Donation

Thanks go to Sue & Terry Clifford for nominating Dog A.I.D. at the Atlas Lodge where Terry is Grand Master this term. The Lodge raised £1120. A further £200 was raised on 'Ladies' night as Sue said she would rather donate the money that would normally be used for a present for the Master's lady. We wish to thank all those that contributed.

Beckenham Dog Club

March 10th Midge and Mary did a talk at Beckenham Dog Club. They raised £50 during the evening and a further £15 was raised in sales of Dog A.I.D. merchandise.

Thank you for inviting us and supporting Dog A.I.D.

Hextable Dog Club

Hextable Dog Club Fun Evening raised £81. Many thanks to Trish and Sarah who gave club members a display of Heelwork to Music, tricks and fun agility with their own dogs. The children spectators were invited to 'work' some of the dogs giving them an insight into what they could achieve with their own dogs.

Bexleyheath Quilters Group

May 6th Midge and Mary did a talk at the Bexleyheath Quilters Group and raised £79.40. These ladies have elected Dog A.I.D. as their charity of the year and will all be working towards November when they put on a display and sale of their exquisite needlework. All the proceeds of the entrance and afternoon tea sales will be donated to Dog A.I.D. We will be attending with our own stand. In the meantime all the ladies were given a 'smartie box' with the instructions to eat the smarties and then fill the box with coins. The lady that collects the most will have her 'subs' free for the year. Many thanks to tutor Carol who runs the group and organises these events. What a super group of ladies. I for one am looking forward to November!!

Coming Events

June 11th RSPCA Fun Day at Leybourne Kent.

June 26th Teston Bridge Country Park, Teston Kent. Fun Dog Day.

July 10th Foal Farm Animal Recue Centre Biggin Hill Kent Foal Farm Fun Day.

August 4th W.I. Talk Cuxton Kent.

September Crystal Palace Dog Walk. Date to be arranged

October 15th Marys House Party. Erith Kent Dog A.I.D. South East Fund raising group
'10th Anniversary'

November 12th Bexleyheath Quilters Group Exhibition

November Table Top and Craft Sale at Hextable Scout Hall. Date to be arranged.

Dog A.I.D. Merchandise

All occasion, 4 card packs

Blank inside, two of each design as shown below.

Pack A



Pack B



Pack C



Pack D



Pack E



Pack F



Pack G



Pack H



Pack I



Pack J



Pack K



Pack L



The Road Refresher non-spill dog bowl



The Road Refresher is an ingenious **non-spill dog bowl** that eliminates spills both in the car and at home. It has also been shown to reduce your pet's slobber by up to 90%.

This product was originally shown on TV's Dragons Den when the inventor Natalie Ellis showcased her product. The dragons rejected her product but this turned out to be a mistake on their part as she is now turning over millions of pounds a year!

The Road Refresher has been found to be of great benefit to wheelchair users; even when toppling off a foot plate it did not spill.

The bowl has a Velcro pads on the base so fixes easily to carpets, and additional Velcro fixing pads are supplied for fixing the water bowl to most other surfaces.

The bowl is available in 2 sizes. Small bowl £9.99 Large bowl £11.95

Achievements

Level 1 Good Companion

Jane Butland and Sky. Debbie Carsberg and Megan.

Christine Corps and Bliss. Jane Cuthbert and Bailey.

Katherine Quirico and Crystal. Kate Ring and Dillon.



Caroline Edwards and Asha. Ted Cox and Max.



Holly Onslow and Crumble. Jyana Steel and Layla.

Adrienne Winters and River. Becky Troke and Poppy.

Level 2 Advanced Good Companion.

Stephen Jordan and Rossi. Shahid Rashid and Teddy.

Deborah Cornwall and Basil. Elizabeth Vanstone and King.

Level Three Assistance Dog Final Certificate.

Anita Castellina and George. Emilie Clack and Mia.

Deborah Cornwall and Basil. Michelle Evans and Amos.

Stephen Jordan and Rossi. Sue Line and Sandie.

Elizabeth Vanstone and King. Shahid Rashid and Teddy.



Sandie in Daily Mail and on Channel 5.

Sue Line and Sandie had a few weeks of fame when they caught the eye of the media. First the Daily Mail and then various other papers resulting in an interview on Channel 5. Well done to them both for being such great ambassadors for Dog A.I.D.



Meet Barney

Assistance dog Barney was one of the runner-ups in a Dogs Monthly competition to find the 'Burgess Pet Care Supadog 2010'.

When Janice Arthur from Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria, nominated her assistance dog Barney, a five-year-old Beagle, she never imagined that just a few weeks later she and Barney would be taking part in a Dogs Monthly cover shoot session. On why she entered the competition, Janice explains: "Barney is very special. He qualified as my assistance dog in October 2009 and helps me greatly with everyday tasks."

Former physiotherapist Janice suffers mobility problems and has difficulty bending as she wears a spinal brace.

Says Janice: "I got Barney when he was seven months old. We had a special bond from the beginning and when I started training classes with him it was suggested he had the potential to do more if I wanted him to. We set out to find help with training and found Dog A.I.D. a charity that will help you train your pet up to assistance dog level if their temperament is suitable.

"Barney is gentle and placid and takes things in his stride. Some people said Beagles were difficult to train and that we would not reach assistance dog level, but we were not put off – and have, happily, proved these people wrong. Mind you, Barney is a Beagle with a big heart – he's one in a million!"



A special bond.



As well as helping Janice around the house – emptying the washing machine, bringing her items she needs and so forth – Barney has also helped several children to overcome their fear of dogs at one of the many social groups Janice now attends on a regular basis.

Says Janice: "We both enjoy our walks and playtime. Going out with Barney has meant I have got to know many people I otherwise wouldn't have. He makes me laugh each day and causes many people to smile.

"I have a confidence when he is with me that I don't have when alone, and I feel so privileged to have such a special companion and friend."

This article originally appeared in the January 2011 issue of Dogs Monthly.

www.dogsmoonthly.co.uk

40th Anniversary at Westminster Abbey by Sue Line



I and my sister Chris were privileged to be asked to attend the Chronic Sick and Disabled Act 40th Anniversary service in Westminster Abbey as a Trustee of Crossroads Coventry and Warwickshire. I felt that it was an opportunity to be there as a representative of all the organisations we belong to, including Dog A.I.D. Of course Sandie was in attendance too and behaved very well - she wasn't the only assistance dog there, and as some of you know that is quite a challenge for Sandie!

There was a full string orchestra near to our seats and as we left the Abbey a peel of bells rang out. We could just imagine what it would be like on 29th April.

What happened when Buddy bounced into Jodie Griffin's life!!

My story starts in January 2008. I was a student at Keele university, living it up, having a laugh and loving it, in my first year of studies. One night I went out to a party and collapsed, I woke up feeling very ill. The mystery symptoms I woke up with only got worse until I was forced to quit university. I spent over a year unable to go out, walk, spend time with friends. All my time was spent stuck in bed feeling sorry for myself. I was eventually diagnosed with Ehlers Danlos Syndrome, Postural Orthostatic Tachycardia and Reflex Mediated Syncope. It was rough, I lost all my friends, my life time plans and dreams and all my confidence.

February 2010... well along comes Buddy! I always wanted a dog but my Mum wasn't a fan! 'You're not having a dog whilst your under my roof!' We soon found out my conditions were chronic, I wasn't going to get a job, learn to drive and move out anytime soon! I was very lonely and needed something positive to concentrate on. So my parents gave up.

Buddy bounced into my life at 9 weeks old, a big cream fluff ball, a crazy labradoodle! And well he still is! At first I had a shock. Didn't realise how much like hard work energetic puppies could be! But he soon became my best Bud just as planned. I started walking and my symptoms got much better, it was hard work but I soon could walk for a good 10-15 minutes compared to struggling to walk across my bedroom a few months earlier. My mood had definitely lifted, I had a friend to share my life with, share my troubles with, to cuddle through pain.



June 2010, my cute, teeny puppy is now a huge 6 month old clumsy, hyper, big boy. But having invested every minute of my day training, playing, grooming him etc he was a very good boy (most of the time!). He would always follow me everywhere, sit and stay with me if I fell, stayed with me on a walk if I had to stop and didn't feel well (that soon changed as he got older though!). My mom walked in one day with a newspaper article in her hand, 'A dog charity Dog A.I.D (Assistance in Disability) is celebrating after receiving a £1,000 windfall...And the money has already been spent. Members used it to fund a training workshop at Cannock's Avon Road Business

and Leisure Centre.' Assistance dogs? In Cannock?! HUH?! But that's where I live!!! Within minutes I found the website and typed up an email about me and Buds. A week later I was sat in Avon Centre at my first training class! Within the first 10 minutes Buddy had managed to terrorise everyone in class by jumping at them and tried to eat his level one work book...some things never change!

It's April 2011 and I'm sat here now writing this article. Well talk about meant to be! I still to this day cannot believe that Dog A.I.D. started their first training workshop in the little known place called Cannock where I lived! Only 6 months after I get my first puppy, just a couple of years after I became ill. I feel so lucky to have gotten involved with Dog A.I.D! It really has changed my life. I now have a brilliantly trained dog thanks to Sandra and Erica, he is still a typical puppy but growing up fast! Buddy will be a great assistance dog one day! I also have my little job in the Dog A.I.D. office, I love going to work on a Tuesday and last week Buddy got to come and be the office dog too!! He loved that! I also enjoy helping out with fundraising events, like this weekend's successful bag pack and the jumble sale last month. With Dog A.I.D. I have made new friends, some very special to me (thanks for everything Erica!). I have my beautiful doodle helping me to manage my symptoms and be more confident about going out alone. And even a job! In two weeks time me and Buddy are off to our first training weekend with Dog A.I.D. and can't wait to meet some new friends. I have lots of things to look forward to in life now and can't wait to see how Dog A.I.D. grows as a charity in the future and would love to be a part of it! Thank you Dog A.I.D. for making everything seem much brighter for me! *By Jodie*

Mini Fun Agility.



It was something I had been thinking about for awhile but my two Dog A.I.D. clients spurred me into action – fun agility training. It would be great to introduce my clients to an activity that would both benefit and enhance their skills as handlers and be perfect opportunity for them and their dogs to socialise and have some fun.

Agility is an ideal way of gaining confidence, control, coordination and trust to both dogs and owners as it is a collaborative activity – the dog and owner working as a team so perfect for Dog A.I.D. clients.

Although good classes were already available on the Fylde Coast many were geared towards competition level and most importantly none were held at venues that were wheelchair/scooter friendly.

What I required was a large indoor hall with easy disabled access and facilities, suitable flooring and that was prepared to allow dogs. Eventually a venue was found at Lytham with heating, storage, a kitchen, toilets and easy access, plus a decent sized hall for mini agility. In pet dog classes I use all the same agility obstacles that are used in competitions plus a few additional things and nothing is taught that may be detrimental to future Crufts appearances!

My client Anita Castellina with her dog George kindly loaned me her husband Larry to be chief obstacle maker. Although many obstacles were bought from specialist companies such as tunnels, Larry has made all the jumps, a table and a fabulous dog walk.

Anita cruised the internet for me and discovered a company that has supplied some non-slip rubber matting which has been invaluable. My other client Sarah Whelan with her dog Lottie came to the initial course last September to inspect and ensure that everything was satisfactory.

I decided that the class would be non competitive which seems to encourage dog owners who just want to have some fun with their pets and it keeps the classes informal. In fact the classes are so relaxed that we all stop for coffee and cake halfway through! Anita and I bake cakes, biscuits and buns which are then sold and all proceeds go to Dog A.I.D. Sometimes other owners donate cakes and Sarah's homemade blackcurrant jam is a top seller!!

So far I think we have raised well over £400. It also increases the awareness of the work Dog AID does which is so important. It's interesting for all the other pupils at classes to see how a Dog AID client can be helped by an assistance dog in every day life. George and Lottie with their mums are great ambassadors for Dog A.I.D.

To celebrate the success of the classes a Christmas Party was held for all past and present pupils. It was great fun. We held a 'clear round' competition with rosettes as prizes plus we had a couple of silent auctions, a 'Guess how many dog biscuits in the jar and of course a cake stall. The party raised another £78 for Dog A.I.D. George and Lottie both won rosettes and had a marvellous time catching up with their friends.

Word has spread and the courses are getting booked up well in advance. I can't thank my Dog A.I.D. clients enough for their support that continues on a weekly basis. So for any Dog A.I.D. clients or trainers who fancy a fun and social way of training, give it a whirl!!! Billie Jenkinson

Thank you Dog AID for introducing us to Rally O

Wolfie and I did our first Rally O trial today, having been inspired after seeing it at a Dog A.I.D. workshop. Wolfie and I both enjoyed the trial and I thought we did ok'ish.

There are 3 levels of rosettes Green= good Purple = outstanding Red =Ace

After our trial I was hopeful of a green - good rosette, but when the results were called we were not amongst the greens, my heart half hoped we had a purple but my brain said not a chance!!

My brain was right we didnt get a purple either, I was disappointed but more than happy with the round we had for our first ever rally trial,.

The reds were called out and we all applauded, then they called someone called Andy, they called him again and in the back of my mind I was thinking 'blimey he's got an ace and he's not even bothering to collect it, the judge then called Andy for the third time and finished it with Mandy with Wolfie! You could have knocked me down with a feather we had got an ace, it wasn't Andy at all it was Mandy the judge was calling!! Needless to say I collected our rosette gave Wolfie a big hug then burst into tears, I was so proud of him.



An excerpt from a letter sent to Ikea from Sue and Chris Line

Dear Lotta

We thought your readers might like to see how we transformed our small bedroom.

Living in a bungalow, storage space is at a premium. Needing to create more storage but still have a guest room that looked inviting, we visited the local IKEA in Coventry. There were many inspiring ideas but the versatility of the Besta range won.

When it came to assembly, it was really easy. The instructions were very clear and our assistance dog also helped. She soon got to know the difference between a furniture key and hammer, which we were really proud of as my sister and I are her trainers. Dog A.I.D. (Dog Assistance in Disability) are helping us by sending one of their trainers to give advice, and monitor our progress towards full assistance dog accreditation



Another award for Niki and Holly.

Niki and Holly came second as Best Canine Carer at the Companion Dog Club Show at Discover Dogs November 2010 On the right is Caroline Menteith who writes for Dogs Today On the left is Sarah Fisher of Tellington Touch fame and is a big fan of Dog A.I.D..



Dog Assistance In Disability

Providing access to dog training for people with physical disabilities, enabling them to train their pets in general obedience and in specialised tasks which will help them lead a fuller and more independent life.

Trainer Application Packs.

Sandra Fraser: Chairperson, Senior Trainer & Trainer Co-ordinator. 01743 891314
E-mail clanfraser33@hotmail.com

Client Application Pack.

Midge Walster 01322 667058
E-mail midgenal@btinternet.com

Treasurer Paul Malatratt

E-mail paul.mallatratt@rsmtenton.com

Dog A.I.D. Office.

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The Aims of the Charity *The training and instruction of dogs to act as efficient and safe companions and assistance dogs for people with physical disabilities. To train and educate people with physical disabilities in the proper and safe use of dogs. To provide such additional services and facilities for the relief of people with physical disabilities as the organisation shall from time to time deem fit.*

Objectives

1. To provide access to dog training for people with physical disabilities.
2. To educate people with physical disabilities how they can best care for their dog in relation to their disabilities.
3. To educate people with disabilities how they can create the best bond between themselves and their dog.
4. To ensure the dog is well socialised in relation to the environment it is to live and work in.
5. To help people with disabilities to train their dogs in basic control both inside and outside the home.
6. To help people with disabilities train their dogs to carry out specialised tasks in order to assist them to manage their disability in everyday life.
7. Where it is required to seek rights of access to individual shops and institutions.

Sports Girl Breeze 'In the Ring'

Mo and Breeze compete in Heelwork to Music. They are well known on the HTM circuit travelling to various venues, have competed at Crufts and been interviewed by TV on several occasions.



Am I keeping in time to the music mum?



Round I go, I like this bit.

This is tricky but I can do it.



Now I can really show off, a ride on mums chair.

