



Seasons Greetings
Everyone



Dog Assistance In Disability Charity Register Number 1098619

Winter Newsletter November 2010



Katie

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Accredited Member since 2009



Dog A.I.D. Notices and Information

Dog A.I.D. are committed to maintain a good quality assurance system, and have been delighted to accept a very kind offer from Bev Molloy at Chase CVS. CVS has donated a copy of the 'Quality First' folder which has been developed by Tony Farley in partnership with Birmingham Voluntary Service Council. It is a workbook to help voluntary, community-based organisations set up an effective quality assurance system, and will be the first stage towards Dog A.I.D. instigating our own systems. The value of the folder is thought to be around £125, and sincere thanks are given to Bev Molloy for this opportunity to move our charity forward. Further books have also been given by Bev, notably Good Governance (A Code for the Voluntary and Community Sector); The Essential Trustee; and also Voluntary but not Amateur (A guide to the law for voluntary organisations and community groups), this last one has a value of £35.00. Our thanks again for these, all of which will be very useful during this period of rapid growth and beyond.

Minutes of AGM held Saturday 11th September 2010 at Kennel Club Building, Stoneleigh

1. **Those present:** Trainers: Hazel Reynolds, Pam Simpson, Midge Walster, Carol Court, Angela Woodhouse. Clients: Michelle Evans, Kate Ring, Caroline Edwards, Gina Ayling, Tamara Hancock, Mandy Ireland, Janice Arthur, Amanda Coleman, Caroline Lewis. Others: Jenny Edwards, Victoria Evans, Dawn Dunn, James Gillday, Erica Bennett, Alan Bennett.
2. **Apologies** were received from Rosie Pocock, Sue Line and Debbie Abbott
3. **Minutes of 2009 AGM** – accepted, proposed by Janice Arthur, seconded by Dave Marter
4. **Chairman's Report** was read out by Sandra Fraser, accepted, proposed by Janice Arthur and seconded by Dave Marter. Document attached
5. **Treasurers Report** was read out by Angela Woodhouse on behalf of Caroline Lewis. Report attached. No questions raised
6. **Election of Officers** – All existing committee members agreed to stand again, this was agreed unanimously. Caroline Lewis stated that she would like to resign as Treasurer in a month or so. She will continue to work on the website. Amanda Coleman now becomes a full committee member (previously co-opted). Angela Woodhouse will still stand as acting secretary, until a new officer is elected. As we are currently unable to take nominations from the floor and no postal votes were received, it is proposed to change the constitution to allow nominations from the floor next year
7. **Election of Committee Members** – 2 new committee members are expected to be co-opted to the committee at the next meeting. James Gillday, Erica Bennett (secretary). Mr George Waddell may also be joining to take over the Treasurer vacancy.
8. **Any Other Business** –
 - Carol Court suggested that she could do a press release on the Isle of Wight where she lives, in collaboration with her client Tamara Hancock. This would be to raise the profile of Dog A.I.D. She asked if we had a press release which she could use. SF stated that as we do not have one, CC may like to do her own and submit it to us for approval. It is recognised that one needs to be available and this should be worked on.
 - Some discussion was given to a Facebook page as members would like to discuss training issues etc. It was felt that the forum is the place to air these things, as it is moderated by a Dog A.I.D. trainer. Any Facebook page should only be used to promote event awareness and fundraising ideas.
 - Caroline Edwards has offered to attend Chiswick Dog Show to promote our charity. Midge Walster offered to go along to support.
 - Dave Marter wished to raise the issue of the fundraising committee possibly not being compliant with the constitution, as it states '*The Executive Committee may appoint one or more sub-committees consisting of three or more members of the Executive Committee for the purpose of making any inquiry or supervising or performing any function or duty which in the opinion of the Executive Committee would be more conveniently undertaken or carried out by a sub-committee*'. Currently the FRC has one such member. Sandra Fraser asked that this be an agenda item for the next meeting.

Date of next meeting – Monday 18th October, 10.30am. Venue; Chase room, Avon Business and Leisure Centre, Cannock

The meeting closed at 4.25pm

Page 3 Girl Mischka

"My name is Mischka and I will be two on October 2nd. I love teasing my mentor Max who has been training me to take over from him, with the help of my master Mike and mistress Sheena. As you can see I am a true poser and love to chew my favourite bone. I also love going away with my family in the caravan. My favourite task at the moment, is taking Mike back to the car if he is feeling tired. All he has to do is ask me to find the car. Mind you the best bit is getting a reward for getting it right".



Spring Workshop April 16th&17th 2011



Avon Business & Leisure Centre, Avon Rd, Cannock, Staffs. WS11 1LH

Off Lead Control.



The weekend will be based around;

Recall with distractions.

Down at a distance.

Long stay down off lead with distractions.

Walking with a dropped lead.

Clients requests If any client wishes to address a particular training issue we will work on this to the benefit of all attending. Please let us know in advance so that we can prepare. Any training exercise considered.

Training for Dog AID clients and trainers is free. Non Dog A.I.D. Members are welcome at the cost of £30 per workshop day.

Contact Sandra Fraser on e-mail clanfraser33@hotmail.com phone 01743 891314.

Chairperson's Report 2010.



Welcome to the DOG A.I.D's chairman's report. This has been my first full year as chairperson. I know they say that as you grow older time seems to speed up, I just can't believe how fast this year has gone, but I suppose that is because we seem to have packed so much into it! We have achieved many of the things we set out to do at last year's AGM, those that have not been achieved are a work in progress.

I have had tremendous support from a growing team. The committee has increased by one, Amanda Coleman was co-opted earlier on in the year, and her IT knowledge has been invaluable. More changes and additions are in the pipeline, so we will be stronger in number and in skills. Janice Arthur who is a client from Barrow in Furness took on the role of Access coordinator and has attended a meeting of the ADUK access committee. Many thanks to Janice for relieving me of this task. If you have ANY access issues or good accounts to mention let Janice know, she will keep a record of these so that statistics can be used for further education of certain service industries. She will also deal with individual problems and make sure that where access should be allowed it is not refused. For those of you who would like to give a door sticker to those shops and services who welcome you and your dog please contact Janice.

The Fund Raising Committee have been hard at work all year with different events, most of these will be reported in the next DOG A.I.D newsletter, but I must just mention 2 of the events, the Variety Show last November which was a huge success Erica and a team of people including her husband Alan and a friend Helen Tindall spent months on organising the show; and all the hard work that went into the DOG A.I.D summer fair in August, most of this work was done by Erica Bennett, not only did she organise the fair she got our new patron Steve Leonard of Wild life programmes on television, to open the fair. We also had the local mayor visit us on the Day who was very interested in what we do. All of which was reported in the local newspaper after a visit from a reporter. So a big thank you Erica and of course her husband Alan and all those who gave their help and support For forthcoming events please see the flyers in the hall.

We haven't finished with Erica yet, we also have to thank her for getting our first ever funding. This was for our workshop in April, and was funded by Staffordshire County Council, Closing the Gaps for Communities Fund 2009/10, then more money was allocated to DOG A.I.D for another project that I will mention later, and this came from Staffordshire County Council, Community Wellbeing Fund. So well done Erica!

The FRC South East have been working just as hard, they had an Autumn walk last September, they have had stands at local fairs and fetes, almost one a month, talks to various women's guilds, dog club raffles and one of the committee members Carol Beaman had a garden party in July, the most recent event was a 5K challenge in Hyde Park London which Midge Walster, Carol Beaman and another friend took part in, the money for this is still being collected, but so far there is at least £600 to come. In all they have raised almost £2000 for Dog Aid throughout the year for which we thank them most gratefully.

Last September I talked about the need to improve our assessment process. Since then we have had an Assessors workshop for trainers, this produced 7 more assessors to support Angela and I. We hope that in the future we will be able to meet the assessment needs with less delay. Other areas of improvement have been in some of our paperwork, we have introduced workbooks for both levels 1 and 2, and these seem to be working well. A lot of time and effort has gone into these workbooks and I would like to thank those who have been involved, especially Midge whose idea it was in the first place! We want to make more improvement in many other areas so we hope you will be patient as we address these issues.

Training.

We have approximately 60 clients in training at present, some of which are attending our new class at Avon Road in Cannock, this pilot scheme has been funded from a local grant obtained by Erica. It means that between 2 and 4 people have been able to access training that otherwise would have been put on the waiting list for an available trainer. The success of this has meant that we can offer another 2 – 4 places this October if funding is obtained, (Erica is on the job!)

Patron.

As mentioned earlier we have a new and pro active patron Steve Leonard who is a celebrity Vet and TV presenter for the BBC, he is very interested in what DOG A.I.D do. We thank him for his contribution so far and look forward to meeting him at more of our events. You will be able to see him yourself if you book a ticket to the ‘Meet Steve Leonard’ evening on 20th November in Cannock.

Media.

DOG A.I.D had some great coverage in the Your Dog magazine in July, we appeared on 3 pages with some wonderful photos depicting the work of some of those dogs in training. Thanks to those of you who gave your permission for that to take place. Our next coverage should be in Dogs Today in a month or so time.

Dog AID would like to thank all our clients who tirelessly promote DOG A.I.D at every opportunity.

In the year to come we are hoping to get funding enough to open our own office. This will bring all paperwork under one roof. With the admin taken care of Angela and I will be able to concentrate more on training. You will of course be kept up date when we move.

There will be more events to increase funds and raise our profile, this may include a stand at Cruft’s where we can promote the charity and the work we do.

It’s been a hectic first year; I don’t expect the next one to be any less busy. But I have to say that the charity now seems to have a ‘family’ feel about it, clients are in touch with one another, more trainers are attending workshops and getting to know one another, clients send us their photos with pride and share their successes and achievements and are always willing to help wherever they can.

Thank you for your continued support which makes our job worthwhile.

Sandra Fraser September 2010



Summer Raffle **Drawn after the AGM 11th September 2010**

Our Summer Draw 2010 was a resounding success.

The prizes on offer included a holiday for 4 to Spain, Bungee Jump, Pet Portrait, theatre tickets, pen set, jewellery and a whole variety of vouchers for admission to many different attractions.

All 16 prizes were generously donated to us, to enable us to raise as much money as we could.

All prizes have now been claimed, and a full list of prize winners is available from the office upon receipt of a stamped addressed envelope.

We would like to thank all of you who bought tickets to support our very worthy cause.

The total collected will be revealed at a later date.

September 11 & 12th 2010 Workshop Report

The September Workshop was the biggest so far with 8 clients and 10 trainers. This is the first client and trainer workshop held at Stoneleigh and facilities for the dogs were excellent. Covered secure car park, fenced off areas for off lead play and lots of space. On Saturday morning, after introducing the dogs to the new environment and to each other the workshop began with basic lead walking. During the weekend behaviours such as 'down at a distance' and food refusal was demonstrated and practised.

On Sunday afternoon Angela led Rally 'O', this is becoming a regular fun way to end the workshop. It incorporates behaviours that have been addressed during the weekend and shows clients that there are sports that they can compete in with their dogs if they so wish.



Greeting behaviour, although not on the agenda was requested by some of the clients and true to our promise when the workshop is advertised, this was addressed.

Moya pictured left and right, learning that the sit position is more rewarding.



Left; the 'Amos Team' at work.

Right; Kate and Dillon concentrating on the next move.



Left; Barney with that look that we all recognise! 'what do you want me to do next mum'

Right; Amanda and Sheba on the Rally O circuit achieving a 'sit in front'



Left; Bramwell, Right; Wolfie.

Showing an excellent 'long stay'



About Asha And I

How we become part of Dog A.I.D plus the wonderful people we have met so far..



I am a newbie to Dog A.I.D. I had been given homework by my CPN (Who is also known as my nutty nurse as she said “being nuts helps in life along with a good sense of humour”!). My homework was to find out about getting a service dog, when I got home I put the laptop on and typed in service dogs. There seemed to be around five main ones I think. So I began to phone them up, I explained to each one that due to having spinal injury I am on crutches and after being mugged On the Saturday of the Easter bank holiday this year, then mugged again on the Friday after that, plus some very personal allegations that were made against my hubby and daughter which once the police got involved the person who made the allegation's told the police it was all made up as a joke. So things just got too much. I had reached the point that I couldn't even get out the house without getting panic attacks. One day my neighbours came out to see what all the commotion was. Me!! I was on the floor rocking, crying, screaming and couldn't even lock my front door. My neighbour phoned the doctors and hubby and I was then under the mental health.

So as I explained to them my disabilities I was told by one “*I was not disabled enough*”, I was told by another that they “*don't deal with my type*”! Another said that there are “*no trainers in my area*”, the next one said that “*there's a waiting list and they are no taking anyone else on and that they weren't sure if I would be suitable for a service dog as I use crutches*”. By this time I thought is it really worth calling Dog A.I.D??

Sooo with baited breath and waiting to hear “*No your unsuitable*”. I then phoned and spoke to the lovely Midge Walster. WOW.....What a difference there was. Yes I am suitable but again there was a problem. My Westie was too old at seven and that Dog A.I.D don't want people to get a dog just so they can join Dog A.I.D. I explained that this is what is going to stop me. I also explained that as a family we were going to get another dog once our Westie got to eight. Midge suggested to call the Labradoodle Trust so after lots of calls to Auntie Barb, emails, form filling and travel, Asha and I were paired up. I also phoned my old dog trainer Clair Wellstead. Explained what was going on and would she join Dog A.I.D with me. Guess what, she is. So Claire came on board.

As I was given this chance through Dog A.I.D I felt that I wanted to give back all that I could so when ever the Labradoodle Trust have a show or stand I try to promote Dog A.I.D. This meant that I was now in a lot more contact with Midge. When I was returning the Dog A.I.D stand from promoting awareness at the Labradoodle Annual Show. Midge told me there was going to be a workshop in September, to call Sandra Fraser. I phoned Sandra straight away when I got back home so I could book a place.

On the 6th August the email came through for the Dog A.I.D Workshop that was being held on 11th & 12th September 2010 at The Kennel Club Building, Stoneleigh, Coventry. We also had a list for accommodation local to the venue, itinerary and consent forms. At first I was so excited as this meant the beginning for me to start regaining my life back, with the help from Dog A.I.D, Claire and Asha of course. The days went by and it was suddenly a week and half away EEEEEK!! I hadn't even booked somewhere to stay. My trainer sadly could not make the course so it meant I had to go on my own. The thought of staying in a hotel on my own was just too much to bare. So I put a thread on the Labradoodle Forum., “Can anyone help us please”? As the days went on there were no replies of yes, but lots of good luck wishes then on the 6th September I got a personal message come through from someone who lived about 25 minutes drive away. I will call him Mr Doodley, Yes I am saved. That was how it felt to me.

So the car was packed and Asha and I were all ready to go. Hubby was held back a work and I could feel myself going to the panic state. As soon as he walked through the door we were off. I got to our good friend Mr Doodley who was great he played with Asha.

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The next day we left early so I could allow enough time for Asha's morning walk before we started. I typed the post code into the sat nav, followed the direction and got lost due to having the wrong post code. So I then flashed down some poor delivery van asking if he could tell me where I should be, his reply "NOT HERE" he laughed at his own joke and then gave me very vague directions. I finally found the place and poor Asha never got her walk as we got there just in time.

Asha has a seat-belt harness so sits next to me. As we were instructed to leave the dogs in the car to start with I got Asha to sit in her cage in the boot. I opened the windows but felt uneasy leaving her in the car, even though the car park was covered, so the car was in the shade and it was still early in the morning I didn't feel good about it. I saw a lovely lady and her hubby who asked if I was there for Dog A.I.D and did I know where to go. Answer yes for the first but not sure for the second. So we all walked together to the BIG building in-front of us, and we were in the right place. The gentleman asked if I found it OK, I laughed and said no, he said that he looked up the address before hand and realised last night the post code given was incorrect. I have to say that looking back on that I am pleased that it was as it was a great ice breaker to get us all chatting. So thank you.



Once it seemed that most of us were there we were asked to bring our dogs in one at a time. Starting with me.(Gulp) Just as I was on my way out a lady who had just arrived was coming in, She had a wonderful Golden-doodle. So on my return with Asha the two met. The trainer there thought that it would be best to keep the doodles separate as they done the typical dood meet. Stretched out front paws, bottoms in air waggy tail then act like Zebedee bouncing up and down. Other dogs sniff each others bottoms doodles don't. So Asha and I moved places to restore the calm.

Then the training began. I had done clicker training before but I was stunned at how quickly all the dogs grasped what to do. Sandra was instructing us how to do things, she didn't just say do this and do that but she talked us through step by step whilst demonstrating with a dog. Another great aspect that really hit home to me was more the instructions of what NOT to do and why. It really helped me to understand why you shouldn't do things. For example don't use a head collar as people may see it as a muzzle and think dangerous dog. This has resulted in me throwing out the Halti (Head Collar) plus how to walk the dog by your side with no pulling. I was amazed at how much I have learned over this weekend.

The exercises that we covered was lead work, down at a distance, food refusal, targeting and stopping the dog jumping up. We had coffee breaks so we could talk to each other, cooked lunch on both days which was scrummy. I am now addicted to apple crumble but it is not as good as the one we had on this weekend.

The weekend went so fast, and I learned so much. I feel so privileged to meet so many fantastic people. The trainers that came with their clients all shared their knowledge as well, clients including myself felt at ease, everyone respected each others views. There was also a sale stand there which had really fab items, Midge's clickers are WOW!! Mine is on me at all times apart from bath and in bed.

On Sunday phone numbers and emails were exchanged between us, one lady said at the next training weekend we can share a room with her so I am not in the same situation as I was in this time. I actually got in my car and drove down the road parked up and cried. Why? Because I had met incredibly sincere people who made a weekend of dreaded fear, so enjoyable, it has left me feeling more confident, more knowledgeable and more hopeful. I now realise that there are others who don't feel sorry for me and they don't want others to feel sorry for them, but we all shared one great thing in the world understanding of what we are all faced with and sharing how we deal with things.

I personally want to say a BIG THANK-YOU to Dog A.I.D how would I rate the weekend out of 10 I can't! There is no number high enough!. So if you hear about a workshop and are thinking I can't do this. Please please do, they are indescribable even though I have tried. *By Caz (Caroline) Edwards*

Achievements

Level One Good Companion

**Alison Tompsett and Millie. Amanda Coleman and Sheba.
Shah Rashid and Teddy. Emilie Clack and Mia.
Catherine Parmenter and Blake. Remini Capel and Marley.**

Level Two Advanced Good Companions

**Michelle Evans and Amos. Anita Castellini and George.
Emilie Clack and Mia.**

Assistance Dog Level Three, Final Certificate

**Janice Arthor and Barney. Carol Aldridge and Amber
Trudy Barker and Meg. Nina Burgess and Becca
Sarah Whelan and Lottie**



Wishing you a speedy recovery!

We would like to send our best wishes for a speedy recovery to Sue Line who unfortunately broke her leg getting out of the car on arrival at the September Workshop.



We are all thinking of you Sue.



Although Sue is a client she was at the workshop in her capacity as a caterer. She and her sister Chris and grandson Luke provide our scrumptious lunches .
They do this on a voluntary basis only charging DA for the food.

The accident left Luke to soldier on alone so with the help of Alan Bennet and others we were most royally fed. A big thank you to Luke for all he did.

Fund Raising Staffordshire



Grants

We were thrilled to receive a grant of £993.75 from the Staffordshire Cares: Community Wellbeing Fund in August of this year.

The Grant is to assist us in delivering a pilot project encompassing dog training for physically disabled adults, reducing isolation and increasing independence, covering 15 weeks of training.

These classes have been running at Avon Business and Leisure Centre in Cannock on selected Monday afternoons, and have proved to be of great benefit to those clients able to attend. It is hoped that the training will continue if further funding can be found. Our thanks go to Shelley Davis, Health Development Officer at Community Services Social Care and Health who facilitated the grant.

A surprise grant of £300 was received from the Sheila Whitley Trust, of Telford in Shropshire.

Their aim is to give financial support to any charitable purpose or purposes organisation or organisations in any part of the world broadly concerned with the welfare or treatment of:

- a) sick or disabled or handicapped persons of all ages
- b) the aged
- c) persons who are in distress by means of poverty or reduced circumstances
- d) merchant seaman of all ranks and ratings.

Grants are usually given on a one-off basis and our cheque arrived in June of this year. Discussions are still taking place regarding how best to spend this money to benefit our clients.

We would like to express our thanks and gratitude to the trustees of the Sheila Whitley Trust.

Dog A.I.D. Summer Fair



Cannock Fundraising Branch held their Summer Fair in August. Sadly the British weather was against them, so the turn-out was much less than expected. The fair was

opened with the inimitable humour of Steve Leonard, our patron, veterinary surgeon and TV wildlife presenter. Those who did attend were treated to live music by The Wozettes, featuring Caroline and Lydia, with many games and side-shows available throughout the day. The fun pet dog show was a great attraction, with the various classes being judged by Steve Leonard. There was a special 60th Birthday appearance by The Studebaker, a unique 1950 American fire engine, owned by our local volunteer Helen Tindill and her father Albert. Many thanks to them both for bringing the engine (complete with polish and dusters!) along; many were seen to be grabbing a picture by the side of it



The Twilly Memorial

Dog A.I.D. was one of the beneficiaries of The 5th Twilly Memorial Companion Dog Show, held in Staffordshire on August Bank Holiday Monday, organised by Yvonne Cox and Darren Young. The weather was fabulous; Erica and Alan Bennett went along to support the event and helped raise funds for the nominated charities, namely Dog A.I.D. and the Animal Health Trust. There were 4 judging rings all of which were very busy throughout the day; not surprising really as Yvonne and Darren had been voted Kennel Club Companion Dog Show Organisers of the Year 2009, and we have to say that their organisation of the day was just superb. Erica and Alan took along the Dog A.I.D. stand to promote awareness, and held a sale of local produce (hardy fuchsia cuttings grown by Erica and plums and cherries 'scrumped' from a neighbour's garden, with their full knowledge of course!) These few things alone raised £130.00 for Dog A.I.D. and we have yet to learn what the overall donation from the show will be; watch this space in the Spring newsletter

Fund raising around the Country.

£208 from Angela Pitmans Fido Dog Training School Fun Day,

FORTHCOMING EVENTS BY DOG A.I.D.

All proceeds to Dog A.I.D.



HARRY POTTER HALLOWEEN

DISCO!

SATURDAY 30TH OCTOBER

7.30 – MIDNIGHT

FANCY DRESS OPTIONAL

AN EVENING WITH STEVE LEONARD

TV WILDLIFE PRESENTER & VET

SATURDAY 20TH NOVEMBER 7.30 - 10pm

FULL BAR AVAILABLE

VENUE: AVON BUSINESS AND LEISURE CENTRE

Next to Asda)

AVON ROAD, CANNOCK

£10 (£8 CONCESSIONS)



60'S, 70'S, 80'S DISCO PARTY

SATURDAY 29TH JANUARY 2011

7.30 – MIDNIGHT

SPOT PRIZES

FULL BAR AVAILABLE

VENUE: AVON BUSINESS AND LEISURE CENTRE

(Next to Asda)

AVON ROAD, CANNOCK **£10 INCLUDING SUPPER.**

MAY DAY FAIR

MONDAY 2ND MAY 2011

VENUE: AVON BUSINESS AND LEISURE CENTRE (Next to Asda)

AVON ROAD, CANNOCK.

MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW

More information and tickets are available from Erica or Alan on

01543 270026 erica@dogaid.org.uk

TICKETS ALSO FROM RECEPTION AT AVON BUSINESS AND LEISURE CENTRE

01543 503163

Dog A.I.D. Assistance in Disability. Registered Charity no. 1098619

Fund Raising SE



June 27th Teston Park Dog Show

£167

Whew ! One of the hottest days of the year. Thanks to those who came and supported us and a special thank you to Debbie Abbot and family for their kind donations.

*June 6th Erith Waterfront
Charity Fair £166. Thank you
for all donations of goods and
help manning the stand.*

*June 13th
English Groomers
Challenge
£66*

*July 3rd New
Ash Green Vil-
lage Fete £97*

July 4th Carols Garden Party

For the 3rd year running Carol and husband Steve have hosted a Garden Party for Dog AID. Their friends and family give generously donating items for the 'tombola which they then come and spend money trying to win things back!! Many thanks to you all £263



Hyde Park 5K Challenge September 5th



What a great day! The weather was just right, warm but cloudy, we didn't want blazing sun!! We arrived in good time and took our place in the queue. There were thousands of people but all the competitors were ladies running and walking for a charity. People lined the route to cheer us on, there were Steel bands and other groups playing music to help us on our way. Thank you Pat and her family and Carol for the company and the huge effort of getting sponsors. So far we have collected between us.

*July 7th Talk at
Happy Club for
Disabled £43*

*£100 from new owners Mr
& Mrs Powell of labradoodle
Millie because Elaine Pattison
looked after Millie while
they were on holiday.*

Chrystal Palace Dog Walk September 19th.

A windy but dry day just right for dog walking!! Lots of interest was shown at the stand and two Community WPC's came and lent their support.. Thank you to Phil West for organising the event. So far we have collected £301 with more to come.



Coming events

October 23rd Mary's House Party

Dec 4th Dog AID SE Table top and craft sale

Collection Boxes

I would like to thank all those who have responded to my e-mail about Collection Boxes. All those pennies add up! Bearing in mind we have approximately 60 clients and 60 trainers these boxes do make a difference to our finances.

If you have a collection box and it is not being used please return it to me at the address below.

M.Walster, 10 Millbro, Hextable, Kent. BR8 7LF

Dog A.I.D. Merchandise for Sale

Can you spot your dog!

The new greeting card has a thumbnail picture of over 30 Dog AID dogs. Is your dog there?
Packs of 5 cost £2-75



The card is blank inside so that you can add your own greeting be it Christmas, New Year, Birthday or any other. It is the same size as the packs below.

New 2011 Dog A.I.D. Calendars. See page 17 for more details £4-50 plus pp

Dog A.I.D. Bags £4-50 Plus pp



Car stickers, wording is Dog A.I.D. Supporter. £2 plus pp.

Dog A.I.D. Bandannas £4-50 plus pp



Cosy clickers £4-50 plus pp



Road Refresher Bowl see page 15



Iron on logos £2-80 plus pp



Blank greetings cards as shown below £3-00 per pack plus pp.
See enclosed order form for all Dog A.I.D. items shown

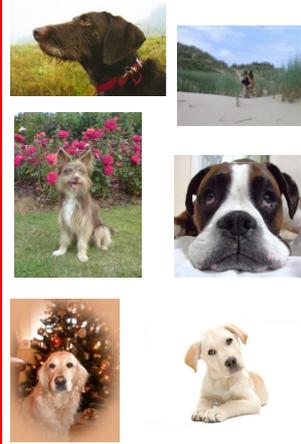
Pack 1



Pack 2



Pack 3



Pack 4



Raising Money for Dog A.I.D.

The Executive and Fundraising Committees and Regional Fundraising Teams have been working particularly hard this year not only to raise much needed cash to support our work but also to increase public awareness of our charity and the work we do. This has varied from organising our own fundraising events, representing Dog A.I.D. at other Assistance Dog Charity events, running a national Summer Raffle, applying for Grants and selling branded Dog A.I.D. items. We have also been looking at ways we can further attract monetary support, particularly from the general public, through online services.

Monetary support for Dog A.I.D. can be achieved in several ways; not only as cash through collection boxes or by proceeds from an event, but also by encouraging people to make one-off donations through the Dog A.I.D. website or by becoming a Supporter of Dog A.I.D. Dog A.I.D. also has its own 'eBay for Charity' account allowing anybody to make a donation through the selling of an item on eBay.

Other, indirect, ways of supporting Dog A.I.D. and effecting a donation to support our cause is by using the online 'Everyclick' service that Dog A.I.D. is registered with or our own web site shopping link when searching and making purchases. These services do not cost the user anything, and Dog A.I.D. benefits by the proceeds that these services give back to the charities as a commission for using their site

Maybe you could help benefit Dog A.I.D. by using some of the many facilities that Dog A.I.D. now has available. The following gives a description of how you could help in a variety of ways. If you would like more information, or if you would like to join one of our regional fundraising teams, please contact;

Dave Marter ☎ 01394 272923 e-mail payments@dogaid.org.uk

1. Cash Donations

Cash donations can be made at any time using one of the several ways accessible online through our website www.dogaid.org.uk.

- 1.1 If you have a **PayPal** account then a donation can be made directly from your account into Dog A.I.D.'s PayPal account. The full amount donated will be received by Dog A.I.D.
 - From the Dog A.I.D. home page scroll down to the PayPal 'Donate' button which will take you to the pre-selected PayPal login page.
 - Enter the amount you wish to donate and click the 'Update' button
 - login to your PayPal account using your PayPal email address and login password details.
 - Follow the instructions to confirm the donation.
- 1.2 Similarly, if you wish to donate using a **Debit or Credit card**
 - From the Dog A.I.D. home page scroll down to the PayPal 'Donate' button to be transferred to the pre-selected PayPal page.
 - Enter the amount you wish to donate and click the Update button,
 - select the 'continue' link under the 'Don't have a PayPal Account'.
 - Enter your personal details selecting the type of card you wish to use
 - click on the 'Review Donation and Continue' button to confirm donation.
- 1.3 Alternatively if you have a **Charities Aid Foundation** account you can arrange a direct transfer or you can select to donate using a debit or credit card,
 - Click on the CAF banner at the bottom of the Dog A.I.D. home page.
 - In the CAF home page enter 'dog assistance in disability' and click the 'search' button.
 - Select Dog A.I.D. and click 'donate' and follow the instructions.
- 1.4 On our fundraising page there is also an opportunity to donate via '**Everyclick**' which if you are already registered with gives you the ability to track your donations. This is ideal for more frequent donations. Registering with Everyclick and using their services, at no cost to you or Dog A.I.D. also allows Dog A.I.D. to receive other proceeds when you shop and search using the web. See **Everyclick** below to find out more.

Remember too that a donation can also be 'gift aided' (see below) if you are a tax payer, so that we benefit further from being able to claim back the tax paid.

Donations can also be made by cheque which should be made out to Dog A.I.D, marked on the back as a donation, and sent to the Treasurer (currently Caroline Lewis).

2. Becoming a Supporter of Dog A.I.D.

A Supporter of Dog A.I.D. can be any person, member or non-member, who is willing to set up a direct debit mandate to make a minimum monthly donation. Our Alliance & Leicester account can be used to make the direct debit transfer. Remember too that a monthly donation can also be 'gift aided' (see below), so that we benefit further from being able to claim the tax paid.

A supporter will receive a free car sticker, to advertise they are a supporter, and will also receive our regular newsletter and other information concerning our work.

3. Gift Aid

Gift Aid is a scheme introduced by the government which allows charities to reclaim the tax that a supporter has already paid on money he or she donates. This means that, for every £1 that is donated, the taxman gives us an extra 28p; more for higher rate tax payers.

For anyone who is a UK tax payer making a cash contribution, either as a single donation or ongoing commitment (Dog A.I.D. Supporter), it is really beneficial to ensure that you have filled in a Gift Aid declaration form. The form need only be filled in once, and is valid for future donations until the person becomes ineligible or cancels their Gift Aid pledge. A 'Gift Aid' form can be downloaded from the Dog A.I.D. website under 'fundraising – gift aid', or posted to you by contacting the office

4. Shopping on the Web

Most major retailers provide on line shopping these days, and with many people purchasing through the web this is one of the ways in which our charity can really benefit every time you **shop online** from one of the registered retailers. For us to benefit you must purchase through the Dog A.I.D. registered link with www.buyat.com.

- From the Dog A.I.D. home page click on the 'web shop' link button **or**
- It can be accessed directly at <http://buy.at/dogaid>

This gives access to all retailers that are registered and who give a commission to Dog A.I.D. for any purchase made through this link. Note: Terms and conditions may apply

5. 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.

Note that people who have registered with Everyclick can also make a gift aided (see above) cash donation to Dog A.I.D.

6. Selling an Item on eBay

If you already have an eBay account then you will be aware that when browsing items for sale that some items have the charity icon against them. When you **buy a charity marked item** part or all of your purchase will support the certified charity chosen by the seller. As an added benefit, when an 'eBay for Charity' listed item sells (where at least 90% of the final sale price goes to a certified charity), eBay include the seller's Insertion and Final Value Fees.

Dog A.I.D. now has its own eBay account and is registered with MissionFish the agency providing 'eBay for Charity' services. So Dog A.I.D. can benefit from anyone who chooses us as the charity to benefit when they sell an item.

So if you are **selling an item** on eBay you could opt to allocate a percentage of the final value as a donation to Dog A.I.D. If you choose to donate at least 90% or more of the final selling price then your listing fee and final value fee are waived and added to the donation.

Alternatively if you have an item that you wish to donate or wish to sell through eBay and donate the proceeds to Dog A.I.D. but don't have an eBay account contact Dave Marter by email -payments@dogaid.org.uk

Since we have a direct sellers account as a registered charity with eBay, 100% of the payment received from the purchase gets paid directly into the Dog A.I.D PayPal account.

We realise that there is a lot of information to take in here; we are doing our best to make the process of giving to Dog A.I.D. as simple as possible to maximise our income. If you would like someone to talk through this with you, please contact Dave Marter our Fundraising Chairman **01394 272923** Email payments@dogaid.org.uk

Surviving Dillon Part 2 *by Niki Smith*



Dillon is now 7mths and is no longer a little puppy. He has become a gangly, clumsy adolescent. He is definitely growing, but not all of him grows at the same time! One day it is his front legs, another day it is his hind legs and another, his face. That is how it seems. He enjoys sitting at the top of the garden and flopping forward, ending in him rolling down to the bottom! He then gets up and does it all over again. Dillon can go up stairs perfectly well, coming back down causes the problem! It is as if he has no idea that there is more to him than his head and front legs. Sometimes his hind legs overtake the rest of his body and he ends up in a heap at the bottom of the stairs after part walking and part sliding down them. Dillon is the happiest dog I have ever met, everything about him screams Labrador from his love for muddy water (muddier the better) to his need to carry something, anything, around in his mouth. He has even picked up and carried into the house a concrete garden ornament without even struggling or dropping it. No, he was not asked, he just decided that it would look better indoors! Dillon

greet each day with a huge grin and a big HELLO. It is as if he thinks that the world is there for his benefit, and why not?

Dillon loves insects, not in a kind way, he is definitely not into saving species, just eating them. He tortures the poor creature by taking it limb from limb and then licking up what remains.

He loves the forest, the smells and sights there thrill him as he charges through the undergrowth. You hear bushes being flattened and I'm sure the odd tree has fallen (excuse the pun!) foul to my little bulldozer!

He has even scaled a five foot rock banking, vertically and he did it with such ease.

In the house Dillon is calm and relaxed. He still has 'moments' where he has selective hearing (he only hears what he wants to) and still can't resist picking up the remote control and bringing it to us when we are in the kitchen. He is getting the hang of walking on a lead now and does it beautifully but I'm sure he will forget himself sometimes. There is a calmness in the home now as we all know each other that little bit better and Dillon is settling. He is booked into the vets for 'the op' in the next week so he will be my brave soldier.

Watching him play in the forest, really happy and enjoying himself it must be true what is said that blondes have more fun!

FREE MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE

Through the Lions Club Dog A.I.D. has procured a quantity of these potentially life saving Message In A Bottle packs which we are offering free to our clients and trainers for just the cost of the postage to send to you.



So what is Message In A Bottle – It is a voluntary scheme for anyone living at home, who might be reassured to know that essential information would be readily available to the Emergency Services should they suffer an accident or sudden illness. The scheme ensures that vital information is available not only to identify you, but to advise of relevant illnesses, allergies, medication and contact addresses.

When time is saved, lives are saved –When emergency services see medical information and personal details of a patient they can render safer and speedier First Aid by short cutting time consuming fact-finding enquiries about the patient.

How does it work -The scheme's aim is to encourage people to keep their basic personal and medical details in a common location. The Message In A Bottle container is kept inside the fridge door, where emergency services' personnel attending will look during an incident at a person's home. Members of the police, fire and ambulance services will know residents are involved in the scheme because the scheme's pack contains two green cross labels. One label is stuck on the outside of the fridge, the other is stuck ON THE INSIDE OF THE FRONT DOOR, at eye level and so it is not visible from the outside.

How to get one -To obtain your Message In A Bottle please contact erica@dogaid.org.uk, there is a small charge to cover postage & packaging 2nd class at £1.25, which will cover up to 2 bottles being sent. This can be paid by cheque/PO (made out to Dog A.I.D.) or by using the Dog A.I.D. website and pay using PayPal.

Dear Everyone at Dog A.I.D.,

I just wanted to let you know that Mia did something today that I am very proud of...

I have been training her to get my medical bag when I ask her (as when I have one of my heart episodes I often cannot walk, get up or breathe very well). She has been doing so well with this task and today it came into play....

I was in fact in the garden this morning when I had one of my heart episodes... Mia always pre-warns me (2-4 min before) but I thought I would go in the house just after I have finished what I was doing.

It was awful and I was slumped against the summer house unable to get up and I could hardly breathe. I was all sweaty and trembling. I was all alone at the house (a common event), I thought I heard a neighbour and initially tried to call out but couldn't get the breath! Mia was very concerned and I thought I'd ask her for my bag... she immediately went all the way to the kitchen where we keep the bag and she brought it to me.

I have never asked her to bring it that far away from where it is kept, especially not up the garden steps but she did it!

Without Mia I could have gone into severe SVT and without hospital intervention that is fatal...

I didn't go to work after that so I am now working from home today and I am still a bit shaken! but Mia has just had her lunch and is now fast asleep all relaxed as if nothing had happened!

I just wanted to let you all know as I am very proud! who would have thought an unwanted rescue dog that had a bad start in life could be such a god-send!.....

Hope you are all well, Kind Regards, Emilie and little Mia



The new 2011 Dog AID Calendar

As you can see Mia is on the front cover of our 2011 Calendar.

Below are a few of the dogs featured inside.



If you would like your dog in the next calendar don't forget to have your camera on hand and catch your dog in action, at rest or play.

We always need pictures of our dogs to illustrate what we do, to enhance a piece of publicity or use on the display books and boards.

The calendars are only £4-50 this year so we are hoping you will support us by buying one or two.

How I cope with ME and Fibromyalgia by Margaret Hood



Meet my best friend LUCY

Lucy is my best friend and helper I got Lucy purely by accident. I did not want another dog and I would not have considered having a collie as they are hard work, they constantly want to be doing something and need lots of stimulation, but I am so glad I got her. She was about to be thrown in the reservoir, so she was a total wreck when I got her, she was a tiny bit of a thing. She hid under the chair when I got her home it took me over a week to get her to come to me, if anyone came to the door she would run around barking, if they came in she sounded so vicious but would wet herself with fear.

But her confidence has grown; she is still nervous of strangers but is leaning to cope.

Lucy is learning, along with me, to be a Dog A.I.D dog. Dog A.I.D is a charity that helps disabled people train their own dog to help them stay independent. Dog A.I.D supply a trainer who works with you and teaches you how to train your dog to do the things you need your dog to lean. My trainer is so good and kind, Lucy really enjoys her visits.

I have very severe problems with MS and Fibromyalgia, I have poor mobility, constant pain, and difficulty picking things up, holding things, and constantly dropping things. When Lucy is at my side she picks things up for me, she will fetch the phone when asked but when I fell and broke my arm she fetched the phone without being asked. She will get the remote controls, keys, fetch letters from the letter box, get my car keys, and if I sneeze she will fetch a tissue! She even empties the washer for me.

Other daily tasks she does for me are taking my shoes and socks off and she never catches my toes, she will pull off my coat, trousers, and my jumper.

I believe Lucy saved my life recently. I have sever sleep apnoea I have a cpap machine to keep my air ways open when I sleep, this day I had been in so much pain I had gone to bed after having taken sleeping tablets and pain killers. I was in a deep sleep when the street had a power cut, I was woken my Lucy pawing at me which she had never done before and didn't stop until I was properly awake. She has now done this twice, it is not something that she been trained to do, she just new she needed to wake me!

Letter from the Editor

Hi Everyone,

Thank you for all those who have contributed to this issue.

It is wonderful to hear your stories and see the photos of your dogs.

Not only does it make the Newsletter interesting to read it is a source of inspiration to all of us who 'work' for the charity. We need to feel our efforts are worthwhile and the only way we can collectively do that is to read these often very moving and sometimes funny stories.

I was hoping to do another 'Spotlight on a Trainer' but so far no-one has come forward with an article.

We could reverse this and a trainer might like to highlight a client who has made outstanding progress or a dog that has achieved something out of the ordinary.

Keep those photos coming in.! We are being asked more and more for pictures for publicity purposes as Dog AID becomes more widely known.

May I take this opportunity to wish all our clients and trainers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Midge Walster

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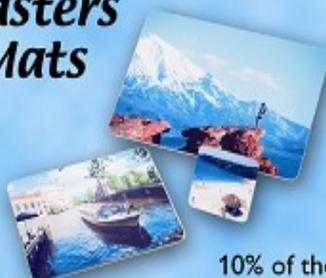
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Well Done Chris and Marley! What great ambassadors for Dog AID,

Special guest for opening of new pet store in Lichfield

A four-legged guest of honour was present as a new pet store opened in Lichfield.

Three-year-old golden retriever Harley joined Lichfield City Council Mayor Christopher Spruce to open the new Pets at Home shop at Lichfield Retail Park on Eastern Avenue.

Harley has just completed a training programme with local charity DogAid, aimed at giving her the skills to be able to help owner Chris Balch with household chores.

She showed off some of her skills at the opening of the new store, before being taken on a tour of the facilities by manager Helen Fern.



Cllr Christopher Spruce with Chris Balch, Harley and Pets at Home employees

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 Caroline Lewis

E-mail CoolAlto@aol.com

Dog A.I.D. Office. Angela Woodhouse

43 Sir Alfreds Way, Sutton Coldfield, Walmley West Mids., B76 1ET 01212 408372

E-mail aw012h4554@blueyonder.co.uk

Lyn Fleet Forum Moderator

lynfleet@msn.com

Web address <http://www.Dogaid.org.uk/>

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.

2 year old Marley and Friends! He really is 'A Sports Boy'



We all sat down for tea and tried to put into words what Marley means or does for us, it's sooo hard.

He is amazing. so gentle but playful., so eager but calm., so fit and healthy, keeping us all fit and healthy, so loving and giving. He's funny and sappy, he's clever and works hard. he's not scared of anything, but loves to stay

close, he's helpful and thoughtful.

Of course we can't imagine life without him, his calming and loving presence helps Remi soooo much, it's almost impossible to put into words. Let's see, he's a physiotherapist, occupational therapist, counsellor, fitness instructor, first aider!,

It goes on and on. He's the best assistance dog in the world. we love him to pieces!!!!

Cherie

