

The Dog A.I.D. Magazine Spring 2023

Paws For Thought



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**STAY IN
TOUCH!**

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Dog A.I.D.
@Dogaidpics
@dogaid



MEET THE TEAM

Here at Dog A.I.D. we pride ourselves on the fantastic relationships we have with our owners and trainers, as well as people who support us!

With the team expanding, we wanted to take the chance to introduce ourselves!

Tara Patrick - Grants, Finance and Admin Manager

Tara has a background in customer service and Early Years education. Outside of work, Tara lives with her husband, 2 teenagers and 4 dogs. She enjoys walking, exercising and watching house & garden renovation programmes. She loves spending time with family and friends but also enjoys being curled up with a dog and a good book.



Lorraine Benham - Senior Training Advisor

Lorraine joined Dog A.I.D in August 2022. She has lived with dogs all her life and began her professional Dog Training Career in 2015. She is a qualified IMDT Trainer and has Diplomas in Canine Behaviour Management and Assistance Dog Training. Lorraine worked for 16 years in Adult Social Care prior to working with dogs. She is dedicated to continuing developing her skills and knowledge to support Dog A.I.D's amazing partnerships and trainers.



Laura Jackson-Tyler - Fundraising Officer

Laura joined the team at Dog A.I.D in August 2020.

With a background in dog training, admin work and retail positions she hopes to be able to use her bubbly and positive attitude for fundraising! Laura lives with her husband and 2 young sons, Arthur and Max. In her spare time Laura enjoys spending time with her family and friends and walking dogs throughout the days.



Susie Hamilton -Administrative Assistant

Susie has previously worked for a major retailer as a charity scheme administrator and more recently for a county council in the public protection team. She lives with her two grown up children, border terrier and ginger cat. She loves cookery and gardening TV programmes and finds it hard to resist a documentary. She visits the Outer Hebrides whenever she has the opportunity and spends as much time as possible in her "work in progress" garden.



Heather Acheson -Training Administrator

Heather joined Dog A.I.D. in April 2023. She has over 35 years' experience working in the public, private and charity sectors and of course is also a confirmed dog lover (and cat lover!). Outside work, Heather enjoys walking, pottering in her bee-friendly garden, going to the gym, cooking, and enjoying good food (hence the gym!). She's lives with her civil partner Craig, who she met when they were both working as TEFL teachers in Prague. She's a keen reader, likes watching good comedy programmes and spending time with friends and family.



CELEBRATING PARTNERSHIPS!

Dog A.I.D. is celebrating partnerships across our charity in 2023!

Our Celebrating Partnerships campaign aims to:

- Celebrate the achievements of partnerships throughout Dog A.I.D.
- Raise £15,000 to grow our numbers of client and dog partnerships.
- Recruit 35 new experienced volunteer trainers to empower our clients to train their own dog as an Assistance Dog.

Clients

Trainers

Businesses

Funders

Dog A.I.D. is honoured to be partnered with some incredible businesses, have the support of clients and trainers across the UK and see brilliant funders making our charity what it is!

If you would like to support us and help us reach our goals, please see our website for more details

www.dogaid.org.uk

If you are a business or funder that would like to be celebrated by us, get in touch today on fundraising@dogaid.org.uk

GOALS FOR DOG A.I.D.

- Recruit 35 new trainers
- Raise £15,000 for the charity
- Raise awareness
- Showcase everyone who is part of Dog A.I.D.





CELEBRATING PARTNERSHIPS

With Dog A.I.D.



National Human-Animal Bond Awareness Day



Dog A.I.D. are celebrating partnerships from across our charity in 2023! Find out how you can partner with Dog A.I.D. to support our life changing work on www.justgiving.com/campaigns/celebratingpartnerships

We're part of the Co-op Local Community Fund



Select us as your cause

coop.co.uk/membership

THRIFT +

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PARTNERSHIP PROGRESS

A huge congratulations to everyone who has passed a level recently and to those who have become an accredited partnership. Our gratitude and thanks goes to our amazing voluntary trainers and assessors.

LEVEL 1

Ann and Honey
 Carl and Herbie
 Burnadette and Izzy
 Christine and Joe
 Samantha and Oscar
 Helen and Coco
 Sarah and Buddy
 Tegan and Millie
 Jen and Kenzie
 Geneve and Pluto
 Karol and Piper
 Hannah and River

LEVEL 3

Ann and Snoopy
 Gillian and Rhoda
 Sarah and Vega
 Robert and Bailey
 Alison and Uneq
 Hazel and Teddy
 Chloe and Ocho



LEVEL 2

Dorothy and Poppy
 Hazel and Teddy
 Allan and Oscar
 Sarah and Thor
 Jodie and Disney
 Chloe and Ocho
 Andrew and Odin
 Louise and Lottie
 Neil and Sheba
 Jade and Archie
 Gina and Paddy
 Kay and Teddy
 Susan and Drum



**Special Recognition for our
 trainers who have trained
 their clients to full
 accreditation.**

**Carole Tindall
 Sarah Benson
 Pauline Thompson
 ★ Laura Ward
 Christine Redferne
 Melissa Nicholson
 Mark Henshaw**





Celebrating
— 10 YEARS —

Natural Instinct[®]
Dog & Cat food as nature intended



This year Dog A.I.D. are celebrating an amazing 10 year partnership with Natural Instinct.

Natural Instinct specialise in creating raw food diets to help improve dogs and cats lives and maintain a healthy life style too!

Over the last 10 years, Natural Instinct have supported our charity in many different ways and we are so grateful for each one! As a company they sponsor each of the jackets our Assistance Dogs wear, whether they are in training or qualified, the company support us by getting the newsletters printed and also, they offer a discount code for all clients and trainers!

This year saw Dog A.I.D. working alongside Natural Instinct on their Crufts stand and promoting each other through social medias and communications.

Our charity is extremely grateful to Natural Instinct, their support allows us to continue our work and keep changing lives!

Thank you to everyone at Natural Instinct.




Thank You







This year Dog A.I.D. were lucky enough to be able to attend Crufts! The charity was invited to feature on one of our incredible supporter's stands, Natural Instinct. 

Each day of Crufts saw one of our partnerships took to the stand to showcase their amazing skills and how they work together.



- Day 1 - Abi & Bracken
- Day 2 - Charlotte & Rosalind
- Day 3 - Asha and Stanley
- Day 4 - Gillian and Rhoda

Abi and her Assistance Dog, Bracken, a beautiful springer spaniel, joined us on Natural Instinct's stand on our first day of Crufts, whilst there they demonstrated task work and spoke to the general public. Charlotte and Rosalind, our first Assistance Pug, take to the stage on the second day to show how capable pugs can be as Assistance dogs. Coming to join us on the third day was Asha and her beautiful boy, Stanley, an Australian Labradoodle

who blew everyone away with his friendly and happy personality and ability to help his owner!

On the last day we saw Gillian and her Assistance Dog, Rhoda, a stunning standard poodle, came to talk to everyone and show the tasks that Rhoda can do to help Gillian.



Thank you to our incredible partnerships for joining us and showcasing your amazing bond and work!



Agria

Pet Insurance

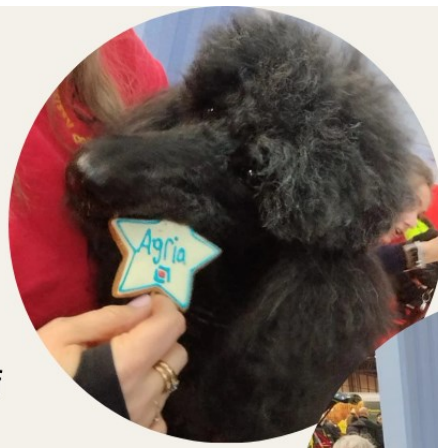
Whilst at Crufts, Dog A.I.D. partnerships and the staff were invited to attend Agria Pet Insurance on their stand for the Graduates of the year party!

During the party, Agria celebrated many different Assistance Dog charities and the people who had graduated in the last year.

Two of our teams joined the party, Gillian with Rhoda and Charlotte with Rosalind, the dogs were treated to a dog friendly biscuit cake and some pawsecco!

Agria went on to celebrate our clients even further by inviting them to take part in an interview about Dog A.I.D. and what their Assistance Dog means to them.

Charlotte and Gillian told their story and described their journeys with their disabilities.



Natural Instinct®

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Thank You to Natural Instinct for their unwavering support of Dog A.I.D. at Crufts and throughout each year.

Our incredible visit to Crufts wouldn't have been possible without the support and partnership with Natural Instinct.

Natural Instinct specialise in raw dog and cat food, as well as treats too. For a discount code, please look at the back cover of our newsletter!



The Pets At Home Foundation have been a huge support to Dog A.I.D. in the last year. The company started by funding a staff role within the charity, with the focus of recruiting more trainers across the UK.

The Pets at Home Foundation Funding is changing lives!

Dog A.I.D. would like to thank The Pets at Home Foundation for their continued support and their incredible funding that we received last year for our Volunteer Manager role. This funding has enabled us to recruit and support more trainers who in turn change the lives of our disabled clients.

With this funding we have been able to run recruitment sessions throughout the UK, attracting potential trainers and increasing the capacity of the organisation. During this partnership with Pets at Home we have recruited a number of new volunteer trainers, spanning 15 different counties from Edinburgh to Somerset.

As a charity, we appreciate the challenges in volunteer recruitment and appreciate the support and aid from The Pets At Home Foundation.

Dog A.I.D. are still recruiting dog trainers to work alongside our owners so, if you are an experienced dog trainer who is committed to reward-based training, we would love to hear from you!



OUR TRAINERS MAKE OUR WORLD GO ROUND!

Dog A.I.D. has the most wonderful team of dog trainers that work alongside our clients to help transform pet dogs into Assistance Dogs!

They are a group of extremely special people, not only because of their skills with dog training but, they are also all voluntary! This means they give their time and knowledge to their clients and our charity free of charge.

So, as the heading suggests, our trainers really do make our world go round! Without our trainers we wouldn't see partnerships going on to gain their independence, go back to their jobs, start families and so much more. The bond our trainers make with their clients is to be marvelled at, they are helpful, supportive and full of amazing top tips to get the dogs to their full potential as Assistance Dogs.

Dog A.I.D. are so proud to host such an incredible team of trainers and we are so thankful to each and every one of them!



WE NEED YOU!

Dog A.I.D. are currently running a huge trainer recruitment push! We are looking for dog training professionals to join our rapidly expanding charity to help us train more clients and keep changing lives!

You will need previous experience of dog training/behaviour, work with positive reinforcement techniques and be able to volunteer some of your talent and time to clients!

In return, you get full support from our Senior training advisor, free CPD opportunities including webinars from dog professionals, access to learning platforms, workshops and the use of our logo.

For more information get in touch on admin@dogaid.org.uk



Dog A.I.D. - A Trainer's Story!

I joined the Dog A.I.D. Trainer community in June 2021 just 6 months after retiring from my role as a Health and Safety professional with the world's leading logistics company.

I was looking for further ways I could contribute to the welfare of both dogs and owners, in addition to being an Approved Temperament Assessor for Pets as Therapy, and this fit the bill.



After becoming a Kennel Club Accredited Instructor (Working Trials) Advanced, in 2014, I wanted to put the skills, knowledge, ability, training and experience I had gained over 30 or so years of attending hundreds of seminars/workshops as well as participating/competing in many disciplines (inc Obedience, IGP, Agility, GWT, KCGCDS, Showing etc) to good use.

As an instructor in any sphere it is important to “Train the Team in Front of You” and never more so than within the community of Assistance Dogs where it is vital to have an extremely well stocked toolbox at one's disposal in order to offer a variety of ways to achieve a particular goal which suits both owner and dog.

"TRAIN THE TEAM IN FRONT OF YOU!"



A special thank you to Allyson for writing this incredible article and giving us a lovely insight to being a Dog A.I.D. trainer!

My client, who has never owned a dog before, and I get on a like a house on fire! One of the reasons I love this role so much is being able to suggest different techniques and/or equipment which could improve their partnership/performance and above all their relationship.

Another bonus, that I had not considered before embarking on this journey, is the engagement of the wider community whilst we are out, and about which can only be to the benefit of all.

Twiggy my longhaired Weimaraner (aka Fursdon Twylyte Tramontano K9MS2 AD BH FH1 FH2 CDex UDex WDex TDex) and my GSD Arrow (aka Jake at Jotunheim AD BH SchH1 SchH2 SchH3 CDex UDex WDex) both now sadly deceased. And Buffy the BSD, Malinois (aka Jotunheim Jai Ho BH)!



From the 1st to the 7th of June we will be celebrating Volunteers' week!

At Dog A.I.D. we have a huge amount of volunteers, from our voluntary dog trainers to our volunteers who are out attending events and spreading awareness!

Over the 7 days of volunteers' week we hope to encourage more people to join our volunteer family and to showcase how much our volunteers do for the charity and celebrate all the hard work and commitment to the charity!

Did you know?

Dog A.I.D have 92 dog trainers, they are all volunteers!

Would you like to know more or get involved as a trainer? Get in touch today on admin@dogaid.org.uk

We will be celebrating our trainers, event volunteers, talk volunteers and much more and we want to give you the opportunity to get involved and volunteer with us!

Our volunteer family is made up of general public, clients, trainers and staff. Everyone is welcome! Get in touch today on fundraising@dogaid.org.uk



[#VolunteersWeek](https://www.instagram.com/volunteersweek)

National Human - Animal Bond

Awareness Day!

Dog A.I.D. have been given a really exciting chance to be part of National Human and Animal Bond Day, this is a new national day and fits us so well with the incredible bonds we see all through our charity.

The day will be Sunday 23rd of July!

During the day, the co-ordinator will be running competitions, prize draws and hosting talks from huge celebrity guests such as Clare Balding, Shawn Tully and Sarah Heath.

If you'd like to be involved, all you simply have to do is head to their Facebook page and like it, this will give you all the information needed of when talks are and how to enter the competitions and it is all free to attend!



#NATIONALHUMANANIMALBONDAWARENESSDAY

JOIN IN ON SUNDAY 23RD
JULY FOR TALKS &
COMPETITIONS



Did you see us?

We have recently had some fun, interactive and amazing interviews and talks given by our clients and their Assistance Dogs! Did you see any of them?!



Rhiannon and Beanie.

Rhiannon is a force to be reckoned with, giving talks and demonstrations all year long to various clubs including the WI and local businesses. Beanie adores his ever growing fan club, he loves showing off his skills and Rhiannon is an enthusiastic, passionate advocate for the charity! Thank you for everything you do Rhiannon and Beanie!

Emma and Luna.

This year we were lucky enough to see one of our incredible partnerships deliver a talk at Naidex, all about disability transport! Emma and Luna spoke about the trails and tribulations of access and made sure Luna looked beautiful in her Dog A.I.D. jacket!

Thank you Emma and Luna!



Chloe and Ocho.

This Morning recently celebrated Women's Day and we saw one of our own take to National TV! Chloe and Ocho attended the infamous sofa to talk to Phil and Holly all about being a nurse with an Assistance Dog and Ocho was looking so handsome in his Dog A.I.D. jacket! Chloe made a call for trainers to join our charity too!

Thank you Chloe and Ocho!



DOG A.I.D. EVENTS



Dog A.I.D. are making an appearance at events up and down the country this year! With so many upcoming, we have made it easy by listing them all below! Come along, meet some of the team and hear all about Dog A.I.D. If you'd like to attend an event or host an event for our benefit, get in touch today on fundraising@dogaid.org.uk

DOG FEST

Sat 27th & Sun 28th May
Loseley Park, Surrey, GU3 1HS

Poisons Webinar

Thursday 8th June, 11am.
Virtually run by Poisons, Information Service.

DOG FEST

Sat 10th & Sun 11th June
Ragley Hall, Warwickshire, B49 5NJ

D.A.D.

Disability Awareness Day
Sunday 16th July
Walton Hall Gardens, Warrington, WA5 1BA

National Human - Animal Bond Day

Sunday 23rd July
Virtual attendance, see page 14 for details.

North East Dog Fest

Sat 1st & Sun 2nd September
Kirkley Hall, Newcastle, NE20 0AQ



TRIBUTE TO LUCY WATTS MBE



On behalf of Dog Assistance in Disability (Dog A.I.D.), we are so sorry that Lucy Watts sadly passed away. Lucy had such an amazing bond and strong partnership with Molly, her Assistance Dog trained with Dog A.I.D., and was an inspiring Health and Disability Activist, who lived her short life to the full. The MBE was awarded in recognition of her extraordinary work and campaigning, and she was also honoured with other awards and an Honorary Master's Degree from the Open University.

Molly was bought in 2013 as an eight-week-old puppy to be Lucy's pet, and then was trained by her with support from a Dog A.I.D. volunteer trainer. Lucy wrote: "Molly came into my life at a time when I had nothing: no life, no purpose, no enjoyment, nothing. She came in and suddenly I had a reason to push myself really hard with physio and everything to sit up in my wheelchair more, which enabled me to walk and train her, take her to puppy classes, and to get out every day."

Molly also helped Lucy not to feel invisible anymore and she felt like part of society again, which she had not felt since she became disabled at the age of 14. Lucy wrote that by training Molly with Dog A.I.D., "not only was she my pet but she became my Assistance Dog, my helper, my carer. When she qualified in September 2016, it was like the world opened up".

Lucy and her beloved 'Molly Dog' raised so much awareness of the life-changing impact of Assistance Dogs. 'Molly, dog with a blog' was followed by thousands of people on social media, and Lucy's campaigning has made such a difference for Disabled people across the UK.

In paying tribute to Lucy on behalf of Dog A.I.D., Lynn Stacey, Trustee who has also trained her own Assistance Dog and supported others to do so, said:

"Lucy will be so sadly missed by her family, friends, and the Dog A.I.D. and wider Assistance Dog communities. Her partnership with 'Molly Dog' was remarkable and inspired so many people, she was a champion for Assistance Dogs and was such an effective health and disability campaigner, who lived life to the full and made such a difference to so many other lives."



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