

PAWS FOR THOUGHT

Spring 2022



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Dog A.I.D.

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www.dogaid.org.uk

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The Dog A.I.D. team want to take the opportunity to thank everyone who has supported the charity and continue to spread the awareness, showing us why Dog A.I.D. is a very special charity.

Editor's word.

This will be the third newsletter that I have been involved in and the first newsletter that I have put together by myself. I love having the chance to use all our clients' photos and to share all the wonderful stories you send me. Dog A.I.D. changes lives and it shows in aspects of our clients' lives. Thank you once again to everyone who supports Dog A.I.D.

Laura x

Calling all trainers!

SAVE THE DATE

Train the Trainer – Sunday 25th September

10-4pm

Stoke Mandeville Stadium

Details to be announced soon





Co-Chairs' Report

Debbie Broomfield and Lynn Stacey



It appears that, lockdowns and restrictions are now (hopefully) a thing of the past as we get back to a new normal, whatever that is. As a charity we are continuing to address the backlog of work that the pandemic has left us with and we would like to thank the office team in particular for their hard work and constant support of our clients and trainers.

We have continued to support clients and trainers throughout this crisis, but Dog A.I.D. has been closed to client applications for a while. We have made progress reviewing and updating the procedures and we can now start to progress new applications in the coming months in areas where we have capacity to meet the need. We plan on doing this in a phased approach, matching applications by area where we have available trainers thus ensuring we can effectively manage the process while offering the best possible service to new and current clients and trainers.

The office remains both busy and also the backbone of the charity. We would like to welcome Susie, our new Administrative Assistant, who has started part time in the office and will strengthen the team even further - you will hopefully all get to know her over the coming months. Tara has taken on a new role this year as Grants, Finance and Administration Manager and is now working on grant applications alongside heading the admin team and managing the finances, working closely with our Treasurer, Andrew Binks. Laura has also taken on a new role, Community Fundraising Officer, do please contact Laura with any fundraising ideas to support our appeal, or any questions you may have.

The Pawsitive Future Appeal was launched to help Dog A.I.D. to 'bounce back' in 2022 through raising £50,000, recruiting 50 new trainers, and reaching every area in the UK. We are making good progress towards these ambitious aims and have raised over £10,000 so far. We are both doing fundraising challenges, as are other trustees, and Laura would love to hear from anyone who can help to spread the word or get involved in the appeal.

We are very grateful to have received a grant from The Pets at Home Foundation, to fund the role of a Volunteer Manager. We welcomed Kate Armitage to the Dog A.I.D. team who started mid-June.

As always, we must say a special thank you to all our amazing trainers, proving to be adaptable to change, flexible, and showing how things can be done differently over the last couple of years working within all the restrictions. We are very grateful to the 95 trainers who offer their time and wealth of knowledge supporting disabled people to achieve their goal of training their dogs to become fully trained Assistance Dogs. Without this time and expertise offered as volunteers, Dog A.I.D. couldn't offer this life-changing support to so many people. We still

need more trainers, and aim this year to recruit 50 new trainers, so please do continue to spread the word.

The most positive impact of the Covid crisis for Dog A.I.D. is that it has shown us that we can work in a more versatile and accessible way using remote technology to reach and support more clients. We continue to use remote learning, supporting those clients who are in training but currently have no trainer available, and this is proving to be a hit. Thank you to Sandra and Peta for their commitment and taking the reins in this new online project.

We finally held our first 'in person' workshop since 2019 in April. This was a great success, and our sincere thanks must go to the trainers who gave up their weekend to help and to Jamie Arathoon for the work on capturing training footage which we will be able to use on developing training materials. We have several further workshops planned over the summer for trainers and recruitment, with another client workshop hopefully in the Autumn.

Completion of monthly reports for all our clients and trainers is mandatory, these are important for a number of reasons and without these we would be unable to develop our services such as workshops and support clients and trainers, so please do complete your monthly reports, even if you have not done any training.

The AGM is approaching and this year again we are again holding it via Zoom, this seems like a popular and accessible approach allowing more members to attend. Further details of the AGM are in this newsletter, and we wish to highlight that this year, there are two 'Client Representative' positions due for election to the Board of Trustees. Please remember you need to be a fully paid-up member to be able to nominate, vote and attend the AGM, so please make sure you have paid your 2022 membership (when you receive the request), we hope to see you there.

We both continue to enjoy sharing the role of Chair of Trustees and our focus remains to endeavour to provide the best possible service for our clients, trainers and assessors.

Thanks to all those who support the charity in so many various ways. We really are very grateful for every hour given and penny raised, every little helps and as the old saying goes, pennies make pounds!

Thanks also go to Natural Instinct, our continued supporters, who once again cover the cost of the newsletter as well as supporting us in many other ways.

We hope you enjoy the summer season, spending some safe and fun time with your dogs in the sunshine (hopefully) which is always such a good tonic.

AGM ANNOUNCEMENT

Notice of the meeting has been given to all members via email or letter on 25th May 2022.

**2022 Annual General Meeting
of Dog Assistance in Disability** (registered charity number
1178719)
to be held virtually via Zoom on **Saturday 23rd July, from 1pm**

Client Representatives on the Board of Trustees

There are two positions, the roles of 'client representative', due for election to the board of trustees at the 2022 Annual General meeting. The deadline for these applications have now passed.

Apply to admin@dogaid.org.uk for Zoom invitation and agenda to the 2022 Annual General Meeting of Dog Assistance in Disability.



Partnership Progress

Congratulations to all these partnerships and their trainers
on all of their achievements.

Level 1

Chloe O'Donnell &
Luna
Allan Reeve & Oscar
Ann Blake & Snoopy
Elizabeth Slater & Connie
Carolyn Greenhalgh & Dubi
Charlotte Gee & Rosalind
Janice Arthur &
Phoenix
Gina Lil & Oakley
Lynn Stacey & Nancy
Chloe Goillau & Tiggy
Susan Cunningham & Drum
Rob Steele & Bailey
Gillian Kirkham & Rhoda
Emily West & Alfie
Carol Hewson & Bailey
Lillie Abbott & Iggy
Sarah Thompson & Thor

Level 2

Mychaela Green & Nova
Angel Garden &
Maddie
Debbie Miles & Remy
Suzzie Potter & Narla
Alison Mann &
Uneq
Asha Sandhu &
Stanley
Maia Shaw & Willow
Ffion Griffiths & Vera
Sarah Beirne & Teddy
Ashleigh Hyde & Mia
Emma Proctor &
Pepper
Kate Warlow &
Luna
Yvonne Coleclough & Hope
Jessica Greene & Darcy
Elizabeth Wright & Lady
Caz Goodman & Lexi
Judith King & Lulu
Zoe-Ann Green & Theo
Hilary Love & Salty



Level 3

Liz Lightowler & River
Chantelle Rae Bradley & Star
Laura Hood &
Nesta
Janice Oliver & Skye
Nicola Rea & Ava
Janet Benham & Delilah
Debbie Miles & Remy
Alexis O'Sullivan & Finley
Angel Garden & Maddie
Rebecca Naylor & Baxter
Ashleigh Hyde & Mia
Asha Sandu & Stanley
Mychela Green & Nova
Emma Proctor & Pepper





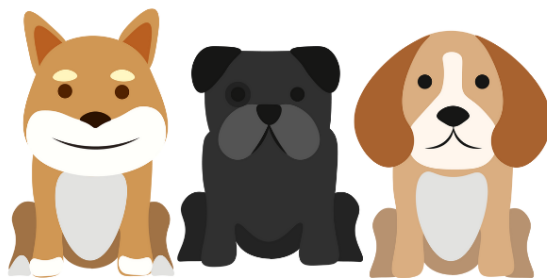
Word Search



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FIND THESE WORDS

Assistance
Walkies
Dog A.I.D.
ADUK
Lead




Train
Toys
Dog
Treats



hazel-dawn
ILLUSTRATIONS

I DIGITALLY DRAW PET PAWTRAITS
IN A VARIETY OF UNIQUE STYLES
TO CREATE EVER LASTING MEMORIES



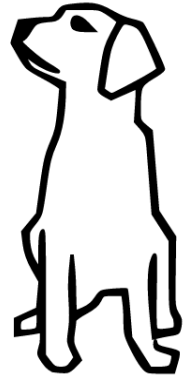

Illustrating
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& more



Introducing Kate Armitage, Dog A.I.D.'s New Volunteer Manager!



We are delighted to have secured funding from the Pets at Home Foundation to recruit a Volunteer Manager and in mid June we welcomed Kate Armitage to the team. Dog A.I.D. are lucky to have many volunteers who dedicate their time, amongst those we have around a hundred professional volunteer dog trainers across the UK who support disabled dog owners to train their pet dogs to become Assistance Dogs.

Kate will be working to ensure improved, dedicated support to all our volunteer dog trainers as well as supporting volunteers in the community.

Kate has been working in the charity sector for over ten years and although though she is new to the dog training world, she has significant experience recruiting, training and supporting volunteers from a variety of charities. She has a passion for supporting people to grow and develop and also knows from personal experience the challenges that people with physical disabilities face as she spent a number of years in and out of

hospital as a child having leg surgeries. Kate understands the life changing impact that an assistant dog can have on people's lives and the company and companionship that they bring as well. She is looking forward to getting to know all the volunteers over the next few months and to offer support and training opportunities.

Kate will be working closely with Lynn over the coming months to organise a number of trainer recruitment days as well as training days for current trainers so do please get in contact if you are interested in either of these.

Kate.armitage@dogaid.org.uk





Pawsitive Future — APPEAL —

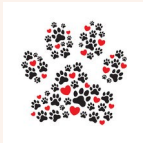
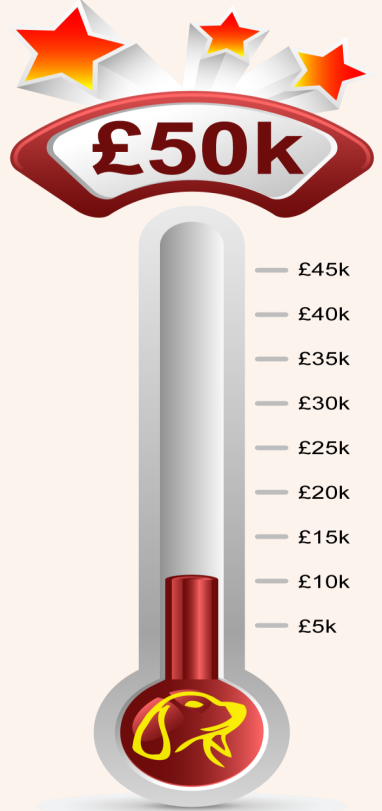
Dog A.I.D. launched our Pawsitive Future Appeal, with the aim of raising £50,000, recruiting 50 new trainers, and reaching every county in the U.K.

walking 50 miles, planting 50 new plants as well as knitting and baking.



There is many different ways to be involved in Dog A.I.D.'s Pawsitive Future Appeal from spreading awareness on social media platforms to getting yourself set up on JustGiving with a 50 themed challenge!

We have had some wonderful challenges set up so far, with dogs across the world learning '50 new tricks!' and people everywhere





Along with all the amazing challenges set up, we are seeing a huge increase in events and local fundraising!

Is there a summer fete local to you? Or a shop that would have a collection tin for Dog A.I.D.?



Get Involved

Would you like to get involved and fundraise for Dog A.I.D.?

Go to www.dogaid.org.uk to see the work going on behind the scenes for our Pawsitive Future Appeal or, go to our Just Giving page to donate and get involved with your own challenge!

**Contact Laura on
Fundraising@dogaid.org.uk**



CAN YOU GIVE

1 H UR A WEEK

To help a disabled person train their own pet dog to become an Assistance Dog?



Get involved!



dogaid.org.uk

Registered Charity Number 1178719

Become a Trainer!

Dog A.I.D. are always on the look out for great people to join our group of volunteer dog trainers. So, if you've got previous experience of dog training and can volunteer your time and expertise for one hour a week please get in touch!

"Being a volunteer trainer for Dog A.I.D. is as rewarding for me as it is for the disabled people I support. I love that what I do makes a difference to someone's life, when I see the bond between owner and dog, the hard work they put in and the positive results of what we do, creating independence and confidence, that is so humbling. Trainers are supported through regular drop-in sessions, opportunities for CPD, all travelling expenses are paid plus subsidised trainer workshops but most importantly we are part of a team that changes people's lives ... and that is priceless."

If you want to be a part of Dog A.I.D. and join our team of amazing volunteer dog trainers, we recruit professional dog trainers who have practical experience backed by theory-based knowledge.



If that is you, get in touch! Email admin@dogaid.org.uk
www.dogaid.org.uk/information-for-trainers



Day At The Seaside!

By Alexis and Finley

Finley and his mum, Alexis, sent us these photos and a small write up of their day out!

We hope they had the most wonderful day and thank you for sending these in!

"Yesterday I went to Southport with Finley. We travelled on three trains but he was amazing and this was my happy ever after. We had the most amazing day I burst with pride over Finley and I for the first time in seven years felt alive and amazing and just normal.

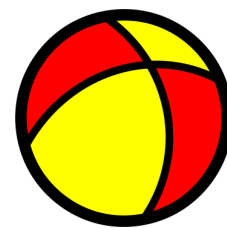
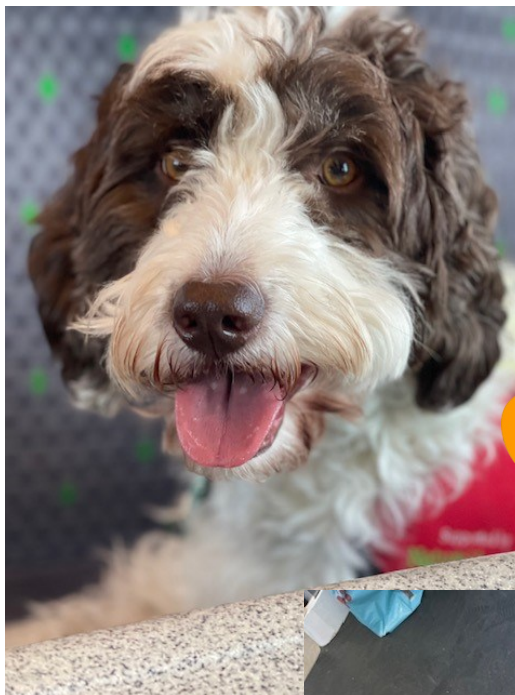
To some this may look just like a normal day and for most he was a pet dog only jacketing him in a cafe and shops and along the prom so people gave us space to build my confidence. This was my first dream.

When my trainer first came to see us, one answer I gave her was **"I just want to be able to live again."** Yes, they smash the

picking up tins and the getting cash from a machine and taking our socks and shoes off and that's amazing and needed but **THIS** is the hidden things that our dogs do for us.

I never would have had the confidence to get on 3 trains a year ago. Yesterday I felt amazing and normal and like my happy ending and happy new beginnings too.

I'm now looking at a weekend away somewhere which I'd of never done a year ago."





Dog A.I.D.'s Spring workshop!

Dog A.I.D. were delighted to welcome back in person workshops this spring, after a few years of doing things virtually, it was incredible to see our clients and trainers in person!

The workshop was designed to help clients who are working towards their level 1 and level 2 assessments. The weekend consisted of different training elements to help prepare the owners and their dogs, our trainers ran sessions in specialised areas, talks were held for clients and guests on dog body language and it gave a fantastic opportunity for dogs to meet, work alongside each other and for clients to chat their training thoughts through with each other.



"It's Saturday April 16th and we are heading from Yorkshire down to the 2022 Dog A.I.D. conference at Telford. Never thought we would make it here.... If it had not been for our super trainer Christine calling on the special expertise of Lynn, the Dog A.I.D Head Trainer; and her help preparing me and the Big Yellow Labrador for a room full of clients we might not have been here.



Me the 'nervous nelly' and George collected our name badge nicely placed opposite the coffee and choccy biscuits.... There were groups of lovely chatty people, their dogs and lots of red shirts waiting to say Hi. To start us all off as a group was the introduction this helped put even me and George at ease. Once we were all feeling nicely relaxed. Three groups were arranged, and we went to work. We firstly had fancy 'foundation skills' of tugging, targeting and pickup. With our Tug and pull training we were shown how George could open a washing machine door.





It wasn't just the cheerful trainers helping that made George give that big Lab smile. It was the next training session. Where he was taught to walk with loose lead, the aim to have a smile in his lead. Then it was time for lunch, that catered for everyone and even had chips! With plenty of time for us all to natter.



For the last Session of the day, we had a very 'constructive collection of clicker' training tasks. With great kindness shown to me who couldn't get the click right. Towards the end of the day we had plenty of time to chat with everyone and ask all those questions. Easter Sunday started with a lovely breakfast buffet, there was even a sausage for George. We started the day with a Doggy Body Language talk, we learnt not every 'Waggy Tail is not a happy tail'. Think we all managed to add a suggestion or two to the white board as Lorraine emphasised each part of the body language.



We had an afternoon of fun challenges, the lovely helpers built a course around the whole conference room; with ramps, tug tasks, weaving bits, and squishy steps. At the end was find the doggy egg amongst the teddy bears. My George, the big lab retriever, wanted the teddy bear!



So off we go the Dog A.I.D goodies table and he get him his very own doggy cleverly made by a client to raise funds using origami of a just a towel. There we lots of goodies, client T-shirts, bags and scarves.

Happy now with his own soft toy George sat patiently whilst everyone gathered for a final natter, we both so enjoyed our 2 days together meeting everyone and learning so much."



Words by Debra, who attended our Spring Workshop with George.



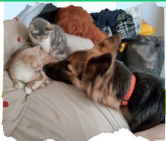
Next Client Workshop Details!
 1st & 2nd of October 2022.
 Details to be annouced soon.



It's Not All Work!

Dog A.I.D. trained Assistance Dogs carry out very important jobs, alongside this, they get a lot of free time to just be 'dogs'.

Luda is a German Shepherd cross who is working towards her level 2 with the charity. She loves nothing more than running around, freedom on walks and her most important task at the moment, is helping her owner raise foster kittens!



Nova has lots of jobs and tasks to complete for her mum, she loves running around and chasing a ball! Just look at that beautiful smile and jump!

Little River is a true testament that little dogs can do it just as well as the big dogs! River loves to help his owners at home, making sure all his jobs, he loves a sunny dog walk with his owner by the river!



Oscar is smashing through his training to become an accredited Assistance Dog but when he isn't working hard, you'll find him in the garden with his favourite toys, in the sun!

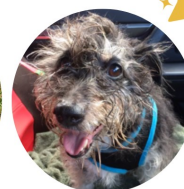
Dog A.I.D.'s Online Dog Show.

Dog A.I.D. recently held an online dog show for everyone to enter their dogs! With 9 categories to enter, we had some wonderful photos sent to us!

Best Eyes, Best Rescue Dog, Best Smile, Fluffiest Dog, Golden Oldie, Most Fabulous Fella, Most Lovable Lady, Judge's Favourite and Owner's Who Looks Like Their Dog

Dog A.I.D. brought in some outside help to judge this wonderful competition!

A huge thank you to Steve Leonard for judging our Online Dog Show.



RECIPES FOR YOUR FOUR LEGGED FRIEND!

Beef Bites!

- 60g of breadcrumbs
- 280g of rolled oats
- 140g plain flour
- 1 beaten egg
- 3 blended precooked beetroots

Mix

Add a little bit of stock at a time roll into a ball, leave for 10 minutes cut up bake at 150 for 90 minutes!



Banana Bombs!

- 2 eggs
- 200g of peanut butter
- 2 chopped bananas
- a good helping of honey
- Blend
- 200g of wholemeal flour
- 200g of cornflour
- mix and roll into balls
- 45 minutes in the oven and cool!



Low Fat Dog Biscuits!

- Mash up a medium banana
- Grate 2 large carrots
- 226g of rolled oats
- 340g of wholemeal flour
- 56ml of vegetable juice
- 56ml of water



Mix & add more water if needed
Bake at 200c for 20-30 minutes

Thanks to our Volunteers!

Dog A.I.D. are surrounded by people who selflessly give their time to the charity, whether they be our volunteer dog trainers who work with our clients day in and day out to prepare them and their dogs for Assistance Dog tasks or the people who go to events to spread awareness of Dog A.I.D. or simply popping a collection tin in their local shops!

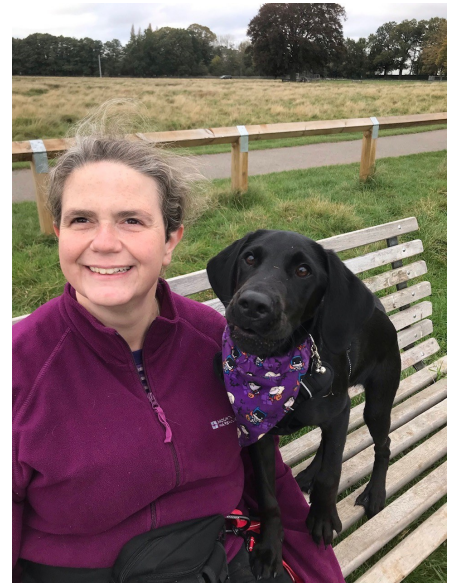
THANK YOU



Can you help Dog A.I.D. carry on their fantastic work? Become a trainer and teach life changing skills to our clients for 1 hour a week, host a coffee morning or attend an event as a Dog A.I.D. representative! Get in touch today via email to fundraising@dogaid.org.uk



The Dog Blog Charlie ♥



All about a lovely dog called Charlie, you may have seen Charlie sitting proudly on a log on the front cover of this issue!

Charlie is a 1 year old black Labrador and as his mum says, he has completely transformed her life! He is training to be her Assistance Dog with Dog A.I.D. Before Charlie came into Mo's life, she had struggled for many years with a few different problems and after a long time of trying to sort her help and medication, the idea of a dog came into play. Mo went to collect a small, black puppy, who clung to her from the very first moment, and became Charlie.

Life was never the same again, but in the most wonderful way!

Charlie has been a constant companion to Mo, he is a best friend, a cheeky, crazy pupstar and makes her laugh daily. Since Charlie joined Mo's life, he has followed her everywhere and has already started doing a selection of tasks to help with day to day life. Deep pressure therapy, helping her load / unload the washing machine, fetching Mo's emergency medication, picking things up for her, tidying up his toys, fetching her phone, picking up his lead and passing it to his mum if she drops it.

He is nailing loose lead walking and automatically sits at kerbs and if his mum stops. He is settling well in cafes / pubs. He can calmly walk up and down stairs with Mo and travels well on the train and bus. He can press buttons with his nose and is learning to do the same now with his paw. He shakes hands and sits between Mo's legs in a beautiful 'middle'. There is so much he has

learnt and he is so eager to please - especially when there is a treat about!

Charlie is so playful - he adores his ball and loves to play fetch. He loves all his enrichment toys - his snuggle mat, treat dispenser, licky mat. He has loads of doggy friends and loves to play chase with them at the park! His recall is good unless very distracted and he is whistle trained as well as coming to a call! He adores his soft toys especially his piggy and loves to sleep with his head on his pillow in his crate - though during the day he loves a nap on the bed snuggled up with his mum.

Charlie has recently turned 1 year old and continues to change his mum's life and bring joy to everyone he meets!



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