



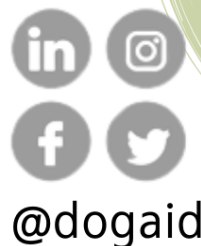
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www.dogaid.org.uk
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Dog A.I.D. Co– chair’s Report 2022.

As we look back on 2022, it has been wonderful to bounce back from the Covid restrictions and return to in person training, with workshops and volunteer recruitment sessions in Telford, Aylesbury and Scotland, and new clients joining and becoming qualified across the country. The interest in joining Dog A.I.D. is at an all time high: over 500 Disabled people have registered interest in training their pet as an Assistance Dog by working with a Dog A.I.D. trainer and we need to continue to grow and recruit many more volunteer professional dog trainers across the UK to meet this need.

Congratulations to all the clients who have made great progress with their training, passed assessments, and qualified this year - and to the volunteer trainers who have supported them to achieve this! We love seeing the photos of Assistance Dog partnerships with their certificates following a successful assessment, and hearing from you about the difference that these amazing dogs make and magic moments in the training, at home, work, study, out in the community or on holiday. Please keep sending in your photos and stories.

We have a strong Dog A.I.D. team working from the office in Shrewsbury, with the recruitment of Lorraine Benham as Senior Training Advisor. Many of our trainers will know Lorraine through her great work as a volunteer this year, supporting Lynn with reviewing and updating all our training processes and procedures.

We would like to thank the staff team for all their hard work and commitment to the charity: Tara, our Grants, Finance and Administration Manager; Kate, our Volunteer Manager; Susie, our Administrative Assistant; Laura, our Fundraising Officer; and Lorraine, our Senior Training Advisor. They are the backbone of the charity, working closely together and with the trustees to support clients, trainers, recruit volunteers, promote the charity and raise the vital funds needed to ensure that we can support Assistance Dog partnerships across the UK and grow to meet the surge in demand.

Fundraising has also bounced back, with a great response to our Pawsitive Future Appeal. Over £24,000 has been raised as we write this report and we are very grateful to Abi Thompson for sharing her story of how her Assistance Dog, Bracken, has changed her life with the support from Dog A.I.D. giving her back independence and enabling her to complete her education and work in the NHS. The story of Abi and Bracken’s partnership has been at the forefront of the Pawsitive Future Appeal all year, inspiring supporters to set up fundraising challenges and make donations, such as £30 donated this week on Justgiving with a message saying “I learned about you from Abi and Braken’s videos! Keep up the great work :)”.

Laura would love to hear from anyone interested in sharing their story to inspire others, setting up fundraising challenges, doing store collections,

attending local events or other activities. Laura will support you with any fundraising activities and setting up talks or interviews, please do contact her on fundraising@dogaid.org.uk

As we mentioned, Dog A.I.D. needs to recruit many more volunteer trainers to meet the surge in demand. Kate is running volunteer recruitment workshops online and in person across the UK. If you are connected to any dog training networks or groups that could provide an opportunity for Kate to talk about volunteering with Dog A.I.D., she would love to hear from you. She did a wonderful Q&A with Danielle Beck at the Professional Association of Canine Trainers conference in October and spoke to many potential trainers at the event.

Our AGM in July was a highlight of the year, and we’re very grateful to Jamie Arathoon for speaking about his research on the impact of Assistance Dog partnerships. This research showed that the benefits for Disabled people include companionship, independence, confidence, and for many benefits also for the dogs, including care and play. Rob Moore was re-elected as a Client Representative Trustee at the AGM, and nominations are currently open for both Client and Trainer Representative Trustee roles.

As Co-Chairs, we are supported by a strong Board of Trustees and will be working with them and the staff team on our Strategic Plan for 2023 and beyond. Many thanks to all the trustees for all they do to support the charity and our team. In particular, Andrew Binks as Treasurer who works with Tara each week to manage the finances and brings great financial experience and expertise to the charity.

Dog A.I.D.’s new Facebook group for members is a great way for clients and trainers to connect, and support each other. Many thanks to Jill Doran, Rhiannon and Rob Moore for managing this group. Jill and Rhiannon are now Volunteer Client Support Co-Ordinators, and can offer support through the group.

We would like to thank all of Dog A.I.D.’s supporters who make the charity’s work possible. Thanks to Natural Instinct for all their support and once again covering the cost of this newsletter. Support has also come through grants from Charitable Trusts and Foundations, community fundraising, corporate donations, individuals fundraising and donating through the Pawsitive Future Appeal, and gifts in Wills. If you are interested in leaving a gift to Dog A.I.D. in your Will, once you have provided for your family and friends, please do contact us as it makes such a difference. We have information on our website and also a great partnership with The Goodwill Partnership, which offers a Will writing service through a home visit and following best practice. You can find out more on www.thegoodwillpartnership.co.uk/dogaid.

Thank you to everyone involved in Dog A.I.D. - clients, trainers, other volunteers,

Debbie & Lynn.



Partnership Progress



A huge congratulations to everyone who has passed a level recently and those who have gone on to become a fully accredited partnership!
A special thanks goes to all our trainers and assessors for their hard work and commitment.

Level 1

Laura and Bryn
Katie and Raichu
Steph and Marley
David and Winnie
Chloe and Ocho
Mo and Charlie
Jade and Archie



Level 2

Ann and Snoopy
Caroline and Casper
Chloe and Tiggy
Andrea and Willow
Robert and Bailey
Steph and Marley



Level 3

Jessica and Darcy
MaryAnn and Koda
Maia and Willow
Judith and Lulu
Hilary and Salty
Charlotte and Rosalind
Lillie and Iggy
Rebecca and Luna
Yvonne and Hope







Christmas With **DOG A.I.D.**

Help us with our Christmas Appeal. By donating to Dog A.I.D., you'll be helping fund vital resources to support our partnerships and continue our life changing work.

Donate to Dog A.I.D. instead of sending Christmas cards this year!

Send in your Christmassy dog photos to help us create our "12 dogs of Christmas!"

Join us on our Christmas drop in session in December!

Do your Christmas shopping with Give As You Live and choose us to receive a donation every time you shop.

Get your work team involved and wear Christmas jumpers for Dog A.I.D. in the office!

Shop for your doggy essentials, Christmas cards and calendars in our website shop. www.dogaid.org.uk

Host a Christmas quiz with your family and friends for Dog A.I.D

If you love Amazon like we do, choose us as your Amazon Smile charity!!

Charity Christmas count down, arrange donating a set amount or a small amount every day up until Christmas



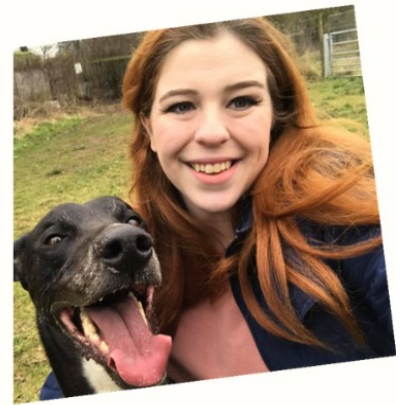
Behind the scenes, our staff blog!

We have heard from most angles of Dog A.I.D. including our clients, trainers and clients that are trainers too! So, I thought it would be a nice insight for you all to hear about what it's like working at Dog A.I.D.!

I started working with Dog A.I.D. during the world pandemic, in August 2020. After being furloughed for a while from my previous dog training role, I joined the Dog A.I.D. family as an admin assistant, working alongside the other admin staff. Although we had closed our doors, I continued to work and sure that the charity was still looking after our clients with their incredible Assistance Dogs and trainers were happy and safe during those tough times.

When the light at the end of the tunnel came, it was such an exciting time for us at Dog A.I.D. as we were able to open our doors again, commence training and see lives being changed all over again. Sadly, we were down to a team of two, with my better half of the role, Tara.

It never stopped us from putting our best foot forward to create partnerships, work closely with our volunteer trainers and get our clients through their assessments!



During the months that followed I was lucky enough to become our fundraising officer, which meant I was responsible for raising money for our wonderful charity. I have and still do enjoy this role in the charity, it allows me to create amazing bonds with our clients, sponsors and trainers who are out in their community spreading awareness, placing collection tins and doing talks. Although fundraising comes with it's challenges, it is such a special part of Dog A.I.D. and to see the difference these funds make, makes it all worth it.



Working at Dog A.I.D. is a once in a lifetime type of environment. We get to see the highs, the lows, the excitement and the worry of everyone we are lucky enough to interact with. As a team, we are more like a family, we help each other when it's needed and support each other when it gets hard. I am so lucky to work here and continue to enjoy it!



Events, Events, Events!

We have had an incredible number of events happening this year! Our events have been led by clients and trainers up and down the country with the help of our fundraising officer, Laura. They have been out and about spreading awareness about Dog A.I.D., raising money for the charity and most importantly, inspiring and educating the public by doing demonstrations with their Assistance Dogs!

**COULD YOU GET INVOLVED WITH EVENTS TO SPREAD AWARENESS?
PLEASE CONTACT [FUNDRAISING@DOGAID.ORG.UK](mailto:fundraising@dogaid.org.uk)**



To name a few, our clients headed to the D.A.D. event in Warrington, they combined selling goodies and raising awareness! Another brilliant selection of clients led the way at the North East Dog Fest, where Finley showed off his bucket carrying skills, a doggy tombola and chatting to the public who came to the show! We were lucky enough to be chosen as the charity to receive the donations raised from Bradeley Green Dog Show. The Swan at Marbury held their "Barry Pooch Dog Walk" in aid of our charity and Glenda Sutherland, Author, allowed us to attend her book signing where Dog A.I.D. recieved the funds that were raised.



FUNDRAISE AND HAVE SOME FUN WITH OUR CURRENT EVENT TEAM!

Bracken loves going out and about with Abi.

With special thanks to The People's friend for publishing this original article!



Dogs With Jobs

Amazing assistance dog Bracken was trained with the help of Dog A.I.D. Lorna Cowan finds out more.



Bracken started training when he was two.

MOST dog owners feel proud if their four-legged friend walks to heel, gives a paw or retrieves a ball.

However, there's a four-year-old springer spaniel called Bracken that can do all this and much more.

As an assistance dog trained by the charity Dog A.I.D., he can switch a light on, take his owner's socks and shoes off and even empty the washing machine.

"Bracken's main job consists of a lot of different tasks and elements to help his owner Abi," Dog A.I.D.'s

fund-raising officer, Laura Jackson-Tyler, explains.

"He's been trained to fetch the post, press a lift button, open and close cupboards and collect medication from a pharmacy.

"Bracken can also bring Abi keys, pick up items from low shelves in shops and accept a receipt from a cashier or self-service machine.

"He does jobs that would otherwise require Abi to ask someone for help."

With Bracken around at home, Abi can enjoy an independent life.

What's more remarkable – and rewarding – is that Abi has trained her own pet to do these tasks, thanks to Dog A.I.D.

Bracken was originally destined to be a gun dog, but he met his for ever friend, Abi, when he was two, and soon started his training towards becoming an assistance dog.

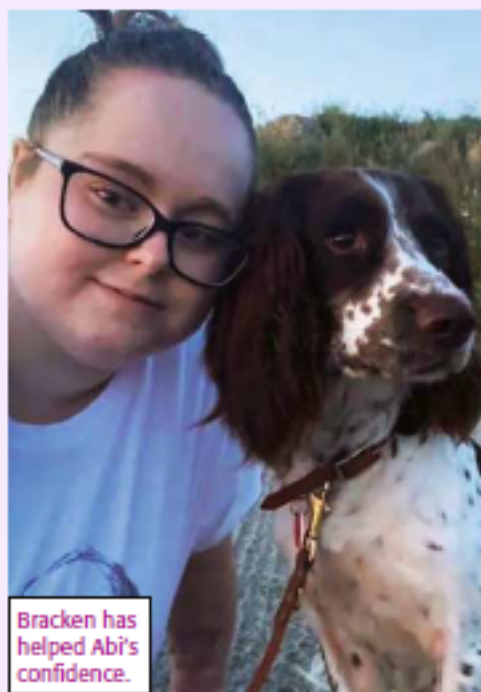
"Abi decided to get a dog after she spent a while in hospital and adult foster care," Laura continues.

"She wanted to gain independence and rely less on carers and supported living arrangements.

Bracken enjoys both work and play!



A Unique Bond



Bracken has helped Abi's confidence.

Abi reveals that Bracken puts a smile on her face every morning. "He collects toys on my bed throughout the night." She laughs. "When I go to sleep, he's just got one by his side."

"When I wake up, there's more than ten on the bed. The thing is, I've yet to catch him in the act."

"He loves tennis balls and has a huge chest of toys, including a Build-A-Bear assistance dog."

Abi tells us that Bracken is a sensitive soul and knows when she's feeling upset.

"He was never trained to comfort me, but we've got such a strong bond that he just understands."

"If I'm having a difficult appointment or just a hard night, Bracken will come over and put his chin on my knee."

"If I don't respond, he'll bring me a toy and push it on to my lap. He then spins in circles waiting for me to throw it. He always makes me laugh."

While out and about, Abi says she often meets people who want to know more about Bracken's job.

She loves saying hello, but also wants to stress the importance of not distracting an assistance dog.

"They are working hard to help and assist their humans, so if you see a dog wearing a jacket, or their lead states they are in training, please leave them alone so they can do their tasks to the best of their abilities."

"If you speak to the owner first, more often than not they will happily tell you all about their dog and what they do."

"Her decision was always based around Bracken being an assistance dog. Abi sought help from a local dog trainer, Lynn Stacey, who specialises in training assistance dogs."

"Lynn became Abi's coach and guide and was a crucial person in Bracken's development."

Not only does Bracken help with day-to-day chores, the adorable spaniel has also given Abi more confidence.

"With Bracken by her side, Abi is now able to talk to new people and return to work as a call handler for the ambulance service."

"Bracken offers reassurance and is a calming influence at work."

"He's become a firm favourite in the control room."

Bracken has truly made an unspeakable amount of difference to Abi's life. He comforts her at night, and she's become less reliant on carers and family.

"Abi admits that Bracken changed her life from the very first day," Laura says. "And he continues to make her happy every day."

From all accounts, Bracken is a contented dog, too.

"He may have an important job, but Bracken believes every task is fun."

"He loves going everywhere with Abi. He doesn't stop wagging his tail!" ■



Dog A.I.D. ensured that Bracken was trained well!

Assistance In Disability

Dog A.I.D. (Assistance in Disability) is a charity that specialises in training pet dogs to be assistance dogs.

It helps people over the age of sixteen who have a physical disability that impairs their movement and their ability to perform tasks.

Challenging tasks can include picking up dropped objects, opening and shutting doors, putting washing in the machine, fetching help and many others.

The dogs, simply with their presence, give reassurance, confidence and independence to their owners.

Training can take between one and two years, but the end result is usually a

successful partnership.

During a client's training they will undergo three different assessments to ensure the dog is able to perform the tasks needed and can fully support their human with their needs.

Earlier this year, the charity launched its Pawsitive Future Appeal with the aim of raising £50,000. This will help to recruit 50 new dog trainers and reach every county in the UK.

Dog A.I.D. has also created the "50 challenge" to encourage people to do 50 themed fund-raising challenges.

To find out more about Dog A.I.D. and how you can support the charity, visit the website, www.dogaid.org.uk.



Bracken assists Abi in a range of situations.



ADUK Member Trained Assistance Dogs



Service Dogs UK



Hearing Dogs



Autism Dogs CIC



Dog A.I.D



Dogs For Good



Medical Detection Dogs



Support Dogs



Guide Dogs



Canine Partners



Seeing Dog Alliance

The above dogs represent assistance dogs trained by organisations that are accredited by an international standards body. Not all assistance dogs are trained by a charity or an organisation. For a full list of organisations that are working towards accreditation visit www.assistedogs.org.uk



Get involved!

**Become a trainer
With Dog A.I.D.**

**1 H  UR
A WEEK**

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

Registered Charity Number 1178719



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Tel. 01743 588 469





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Little Warden
Pawfit Open Day
Glenda Young - Author
Eat Me Cafe & Social
North East Ambulance Service NHS Foundation
Trust - Abi and Bracken Video
Barking Bags
The Swan @ Marbury
Scout Groups
Higher Heath Tuesday Club
W.I groups
Lyndhurst Garden Centre
Burton Stroke Club
DH Myers Opticians
Kepier Chemist
Derbyshires

The Goodwill Partnership

Dog A.I.D. has teamed up with The Goodwill Partnership to offer an incredible service, which will enable you to prepare your will from the comfort of your own home. Through their Will writing service, you can also consider leaving a gift to Dog A.I.D., once you have provided for your family and friends. The Goodwill Partnership offer discounted rates for Dog A.I.D. members, for further information please visit:
www.thegoodwillpartnership.co.uk/dogaid



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

In 2014 I applied to be a volunteer dog trainer with Dog A.I.D. and was thrilled to be accepted.

My first client attended puppy training classes with me. They hadn't really considered training the pup to become an Assistance Dog, until I explained the unique way in which Dog A.I.D. works with the owner's pet dogs. From then on, my client and I attended our first Dog A.I.D. workshop together and this was invaluable for swapping training ideas, learning new skills and spending time with like-minded people.

**"I ABSOLUTELY LOVE MY ROLE AS A
VOLUNTEER DOG TRAINER
WORTH IT? DEFINITELY!"**

I eventually increased the number of clients I was training with Dog A.I.D. who I saw weekly. As their trainer, I had to be creative in rising to the challenge of delivering training according to each client's dexterity, needs and confidence. I learnt so much from them, including not to trust them with a ball chucker when I had their dog on a long line! They let me into their lives and let me see how challenging every day living could be.

Working with my clients and seeing their dogs progress with their skills and confidence is so rewarding. Watching a client have the confidence to go out and about with their dog is fantastic, The dogs are more than 'In Training Assistance Dogs' - they are companions and active links to communication and integration into everyday local living for their owners. This has an amazing positive impact on the lives of my clients and therefore their dogs too.



Compassion, empathy, patience, positive communication skills, a realistic, professional & friendly demeanour, solid practical and theory knowledge of positive, reward-based dog training and a love of people and dogs. Along with a desire to make a difference. Give it a go - you might just learn a lot more and make a difference to someone's life at the same time. What's not to like!



Pawsitive Future Appeal

Thanks to everyone who has supported our Pawsitive Future Appeal so far in 2022! In November, we celebrated raising over £25,000 through a range of fundraising challenges and kind donations. We still need your help! If you would like to get involved and help us continue change lives, please get in touch on fundraising@dogaid.org.uk

Thrift +

Did you know you can recycle the clothes you don't wear anymore and raise funds for Dog A.I.D. at the same time? You can send clothes to THRIFT+ and once the company has taken their fees, the rest can go to us!

www.thrift.plus and on to 'clear out' to get started!

THRIFT

+

Stamp Collection

Another fantastic way to raise funds for Dog A.I.D. is to collect your stamps! We send stamps away to be weighed and receive funds for all stamps recieved. Please send in any stamps, old and new, to the office (address on Contents Page) - thank you!





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

Select us as
your cause

coop.co.uk/membership

We have been lucky enough to be chosen by the Co-Op Local Community Fund to receive donations via purchases in blue Co-Op shops!

If you're already a blue Co-Op member, please select Dog A.I.D. as your cause. If you're not yet a member, you can click on the link to sign up.

<https://membership.coop.co.uk/causes/70937>

Once all that is done, whenever you shop in a blue Co-op, you can scan your app and 2p of every £1 spent comes to us! You can instantly support Dog A.I.D. by scanning your phone when you shop!

**SIGN UP USING OUR LINK AND
BECOME A CO-OP MEMBER**

CHOOSE DOG A.I.D. AS YOUR CAUSE

**CHECK YOUR EMAILS AND FOLLOW
INSTRUCTIONS HOW TO DOWNLOAD THE BLUE
CO-OP APP ONTO YOUR PHONE**

**SCAN YOUR NEW CO-OP APP WHEN
YOU SHOP AT ANY CO-OP STORE!**

**INSTANTLY SUPPORT DOG A.I.D. WITH THE LOCAL
COMMUNITY FUND! 2P FROM EVERY £1 YOU SPEND
COMES TO US!**



DOG A.I.D. APPEALS FOR VOLUNTEER DOG TRAINERS TO CHANGE MORE LOCAL PEOPLE'S LIVES

Dog A.I.D. have been touring around the UK seeking professional dog trainers who have a strong grounding in reward-based training. The charity has run four in person recruitment events as well as six online recruitment events. Representatives from the charity also attended the PACT conference in Winchester where over 20 trainers expressed an interest in volunteering.

These events have been vital for raising awareness of the charity and spending time with potential trainers to share stories from both our clients and our trainers.

On 24th September, Dog A.I.D. showcased the impact of our Assistance Dogs at a special event at Stoke Mandeville Stadium. Rob Steele shared his story about how his life has changed since being diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis and spoke about the confidence that he has gained since starting to train Bailey, an Australian Labradoodle, to qualify as a Dog A.I.D. Assistance Dog. The impact on Rob's life has been significant, and the support provided by Dog A.I.D.'s experienced volunteer trainer has been incredible.



"WE ARE VERY MUCH LOOKING FORWARD TO ATTENDING NEXT YEAR TOO!"

On 16th October, representatives from Dog A.I.D. attended the PACT conference in Winchester and were able to run a short Q+A session on stage with one of their incredible clients, Danielle. Danielle spoke about the impact training her Assistance Dog has had on her life and how important it is to recruit more trainers to support more disabled people. It was an incredible event to be a part of and we are very much looking forward to next year's conference.

Next stop was Edinburgh and Linlithgow, where potential volunteer trainers were able to hear from our incredible client Rhiannon and one of our longest standing volunteers Sandra. Rhiannon shared her story of training with her Springer Spaniel, Beanie and expressed how it was difficult to put into words the impact that Dog A.I.D. has had on her life. Beanie make everyone smile and laugh showing off his task work and demonstrating the incredible things he can do to support Rhiannon. Sandra also shared her journey of being with Dog A.I.D. and shared how important it is that we recruit new trainers throughout the UK.



“WE NEED MORE TRAINERS TO SUPPORT PEOPLE LIKE MYSELF AND MAKE LIFE CHANGING DIFFERENCES – PLEASE BECOME A TRAINER!”



Photo Credit: Derek Pelling Photography



Photo Credit: Derek Pelling Photography

More than 500 people have expressed an interest in joining Dog A.I.D. to train their pet dog to become an Assistance Dog. **Dog A.I.D. is appealing for experienced dog trainers to contact them** if they would like to join our incredible team and help change lives! You will be able to develop your skills, networks and access new training opportunities.

Further information at www.dogaid.org.uk/information-for-trainers and please contact Kate, Dog A.I.D.'s Volunteer Manager on kate.armitage@dogaid.org.uk if you are interested.



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