



**Dog A.I.D. awarded £9960 from National Lottery to support remote delivery of Charity services**

21 December 2020: Assistance Dog Charity Dog A.I.D. is ending 2020 on a high with a grant from the National Lottery Awards for All. The funds will help Dog A.I.D. deliver training and support online to a wider audience of new and existing clients.

Dog A.I.D. is a national charity who help people with disabilities to train their own pet dog to become an Assistance Dog. There are currently 117 fully qualified Dog A.I.D. dogs throughout the country, with 121 more in training. Training takes from 18 months to two years with both dog and owner receiving specialist education from a network of 130 volunteer trainers.

Rachel Rodgers, Training and Development Manager at Dog A.I.D. comments, “When Covid-19 hit, our trainers were unable to deliver their usual face to face training sessions with clients. What’s more, many of our clients with underlying health issues found themselves self-isolating for long periods of time. We therefore needed to quickly adapt our services to support clients with their training, as well as offering emotional support.”

Initially Dog A.I.D. set up virtual coffee breaks to bring together clients and team members. It also organised webinars to share valuable tips and enrichment information, available both live and via recordings. This brought about the realization that delivering e-learning tools would not just benefit existing clients, but also those who didn’t have volunteer trainers in their area.

“As a result of being granted £9960 from the National Lottery, Dog A.I.D. is now in a position to put in place the Remote Development Project which will go live in 2021,” comments Dog A.I.D. Chair, Sandra Fraser. “Such support is incredible and will allow us to broaden the reach of our services via an online portal. We can then make our training programme more widely accessible to people with disabilities, such as step-by-step training videos, discussion forums, practical support and assessments.”

For further information on Dog A.I.D., please call 01743 588469 or email [admin@dogaid.org.uk](mailto:admin@dogaid.org.uk).

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For all press enquiries, please contact:

Hannah Newberry

Tel: 07771 561567/Email: [hannah@leafagency.com](mailto:hannah@leafagency.com)

Notes to Editors

**About Dog A.I.D.**

Dog A.I.D. provides assistance dog training to people over fifteen years old with physical disabilities up to Assistance Dog standard where suitable. Where Dog A.I.D. differs from most assistance dog charities, is that the dogs they work with are the client's own pet

dogs. Dog A.I.D. is a national voluntary organisation accredited by the National and International umbrella groups, which uphold the high standards required for Assistance Dog training.

Based in Shrewsbury, Shropshire – Dog A.I.D. provides services throughout the UK. And there are currently 117 fully qualified Dog A.I.D. dogs throughout the country, with 121 more in training. Training takes from 18 months to two years with both dog and owner receiving specialist education from a network of trainers. Once trained, the new Assistance Dogs will be able to support their owner to live a more independent life. Assisting with a variety of tasks from emptying the washing machine and finding the telephone, to turning the lights on. These dogs are often their owners' lifeline, supporting them emotionally, as well as physically.

All 130 trainers assist the charity on a voluntary basis and the charity relies solely on fundraising and donations to provide its services. The charity is registered with the Fundraising Regulator.

For further information about fundraising, volunteering or supporting Dog A.I.D. please visit [www.dogaid.org.uk](http://www.dogaid.org.uk)