



PAWS FOR THOUGHT

The Dog A.I.D. Magazine

SUMMER 2019

Crufts Special
Annual General Meeting
Prize Competition

Training pet dogs to assist ability



Natural Instinct®

Dog & Cat food as nature intended



 100% British Meats

 Veterinary Approved

 No Preservatives, Fillers or Grains

 Human Grade Ingredients

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Kindly
supported by
our friends at:



DID YOU KNOW?

Your unwanted Jewellery could be used to raise funds for Dog A.I.D.? Just package it up, send it to the office and we'll do the rest!!

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING SATURDAY 27TH JULY 2019

To All Members – Clients (qualified and in-training), Trainers and Supporters:

Notice is hereby given for the Annual General Meeting of Dog Assistance in Disability (Registered Charity Number 1178719) for 2018/19 to be held Avon Business & Leisure Centre, Avon Road, Cannock, Staffordshire, WS11 1LH on **Saturday 27th July 2019** from 10.30AM.

A Buffet Lunch will be provided (all dietary requirements catered for).

Featuring a “Tips and Tricks” interactive workshop with Lynn Stacey and Bella

Full Programme to be announced.

If any client or trainer has anything they wish to bring up at the AGM under “Any Other Business”, it would be helpful if you could send an outline or subject to be discussed to mike@dogaid.org.uk so that we can allot appropriate time.



PAWS FOR COFFEE



with our Chair **Sandra Fraser**

I was looking for inspiration from old newsletters and discovered in 2010 I had written that I had completed my first full year as chair! I was saying how time had flown. And it's no different now! Each month and year flies by.



Our Newsletters have come a long way since the early issues - but are all eagerly awaited by our supporters!

However it was good to look back and see how far we have come. I was reporting then about the first assessors workshop, until that there had only been 2 assessors, myself and Angel Woodhouse. I can't imagine how we would cope now. So many teams are now achieving their full Assistance Dog status, so far this year across the country assessments have bought our qualified numbers up to 103, it just shows how we have progressed.

Many things change but some remain. It's good to see that the newsletter still continues to inform and entertain our members both clients and trainers. Even though we have Facebook and our website I am sure that the newsletter still has value. The editor is changing once again, we say goodbye to Alice as she has moved and has a new job, many thanks to Alice for her support and many good wishes to her for her future. Mike has taken up the mantel for this issue, but if there are any budding 'editors' with experience who would like to give it a go do get in touch.

Looking back at the old issues showed that we used to have far more clients stories telling us about their journey with Dog A.I.D. or other interesting events. Let's have more, do send in your stories and we will put them in over the year. This includes Trainers who may like to share how they have had to adapt their training to support their clients.

The reason for looking back at old newsletters was to get inspiration in an effort not to repeat myself with each report! But I find that I do need to repeat myself to continue to thank people where ever possible.

Thank you to all our brilliant trainers, all 108 of them, who give their time to help so many clients achieve their goal of training their dogs to become fully trained Assistance Dogs.

Thanks to those trainers who are now assessors and making assessments as stress free as possible.

Thanks to all the clients and volunteers who attend events and fundraise for the charity, this includes the Tesco's token scheme that has raised an amazing amount across several counties. Thanks to all those who support the charity through various ways.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the AGM, it's a great chance to meet one another and some of the staff, do let the office know if you would like to attend so that we can cater for you all.



Finally, thanks to Kate in the office who leaves us for pastures new, we wish you great success in your new job.

COOKING WITH CAROLE!



TUNA, SALMON OR SARDINE CAKE

1 tin of sardines in tomato sauce - use tuna, salmon or mix
2 eggs
1 clove Garlic (optional)
350g flour
Milk to mix

Method

1. Mix sardines garlic and eggs
2. Add flour then use as much milk to make it a runny cake
3. Grease or line a Swiss roll tin and pour mix into it
4. Bake in a moderate oven for about 20-25 mins
It should be a bit like play dough when cool. Cut it up and bag and freeze it.

Trainer, Carole Husein, cooks up some 'tasty treats' – if you have some favourite culinary creations, please share them with us and we may feature them in future issues!

Don't give your dog the same treats all the time – variety is the spice of life! Cold meats cut very small, a little cheese, pumpkin seeds, kibble, carrot, apple etc. Kibble can be flavoured by leaving in airtight tin with something smelly – i.e. small lump of blue cheese or dried fish skins. A teaspoon of water in the pot overnight will soften kibble so you can break into very small pieces and moist treats are easier to digest.

Toys, play, verbal and physical praise and life rewards are also valuable reinforcers.

Verbal and physical praise is also valuable and very important because you always have your voice and hands with you. Don't just deliver a treat - make it count by using praise too.

Vary the types, size, and number of rewards and keep the special one for when it is needed most, for example, in the perfect recall.

amazonsmile
You shop. Amazon gives.

You shop, Amazon gives – search for
Dog Assistance in Disability at
smile.amazon.uk and it doesn't
cost you a penny!

LIVER CAKE

1 Egg
1 lb Liver
Spelt wholemeal flour, Tapioca Flour or Plain wholemeal flour - (enough to form a fairly stiff cake mix) - half and half plain and tapioca flours gives good results with less crumble.
½ tsp fresh herbs (optional)
1 clove garlic (optional)
Spoonful of coconut or olive oil (optional)

Method:

1. Liquidise liver, (+ herbs, garlic, oil if using) and egg together.
2. Stir in flour until mixture resembles cake mix and can be able to stirred.
3. Put into greased and lightly floured baking tin large enough to get mixture about 1 to 1½ inches deep.
4. Bake in oven, gas mark 5 or electric equivalent for approx. 20 to 30 minutes or until knife comes out clean.
5. When cool, cut into small blocks and freeze. Take out what you require daily and defrost before cutting into tiny pieces

SALMON CAKE 2

1 Egg
1 Clove Garlic (opt)
1/3 cup of rice flour
6 - 8ozs salmon fillet - skin removed
Water

Method:

1. Puree the salmon and garlic in a blender or food processor with about 1/3 cup of water until smooth.
2. If you're using a food processor, add the egg and blend. Then add enough of the rice flour to make a thick batter.
3. If you're using a blender, transfer the salmon/garlic puree to a bowl, add the egg and mix. Then blend in enough of the rice flour to make a thick batter.
4. Spread batter into an approximately 6x8 inch baking pan lined with release-coated foil (or greased & floured).
5. Bake in a preheated oven at 350 degrees for approximately 20 minutes, or until the centre is firm. Be careful not to overcook!
6. Remove from pan when finished baking and allow to cool.

Finished treats:

Treats must be stored in the refrigerator, or frozen for later. The key to getting a nice, firm, slightly rubbery consistency in the treats is the rice flour. Either brown or white rice flour may be used. 1 1/2 tsp. of garlic powder may be substituted for fresh garlic and add 2 tbsp. of fresh, chopped parsley if you desire.

NATURAL INSTINCT

The no stress, no mess way to feed raw!

Despite the many years of domestication and the evolutionary changes that have occurred, the domestic dog is still designed to process and benefit from a raw meat and bone-based diet.

The dog's dentistry for example is designed for nipping, tearing and crushing/macerating meat and bone and has no side to side grinding ability that is needed for plant fibres. The gut is short and the stomach small with strong acid which is adapted to high meat and bone-based diets and not for the breakdown and fermentation of high starch and plant fibre-based diets.

Even though the domesticated dog largely uses humans to supply their food, they have never learnt to cook and never get excited about a field of corn...other than when a rabbit is running through it!

What are the Benefits of Feeding Raw Dog Food?

Raw pet food manufacturer, Natural Instinct, follow the ethos 'you are what you eat', offering a nutritional selection of complete and complementary meals and treats for dogs and cats. All of their products are made in Surrey using human grade ingredients with no artificial additives, colours, preservatives, fillers or grains. They are keen supporters of British produce and use only 100% British meats and the freshest fruit and vegetables.

"We receive numerous testimonials from customers saying how uncomfortable skin, coat, teeth and joint conditions have been resolved following a transition to our raw food diet. Problems relating to digestion, breath and aggressive behaviour have also shown improvement. Increased health and vitality, as well as an alleviation of IBS and colitis have also been named."

Their customers have also noticed improvements in the below:

- Shinier coats
- Fresher breath
- Healthier skin
- Healthier digestion and bowels
- Stronger bones, teeth and joints
- Stools reduced and easier to clean up
- More resilient immune system
- Dense muscle structure
- Lots of energy!



For more info please contact retail@naturalinstinct.com, visit the website at www.naturalinstinct.com or telephone 01276 608500.

NATIONAL LOTTERY GRANT ENABLES "INTENSIVE COURSE" PILOT

A grant from the National Lottery enabled us to launch an "Intensive Course" Pilot Programme, which 6 people attended in March. The Programme, involving 3 residential weeks with remote support in between, will be designed to support people who are unable to access a 'regular' trainer. It was really pleasing that two of the attendees actually passed their Level 1 Assessment at the end of this first week – and we are currently seeking funding to continue the Programme with a view to extending its availability.

Watch this space for updates!





OUT AND ABOUT THIS SUMMER

Finding the right place to stay for a short break or 'staycation' can prove a challenge .

Coniston Cottages in the heart of England's beautiful Lake district offer 7 dog friendly cottages from cosy hideaways for two up to larger cottages sleeping six, which are ideal for family and friends.

What's more, Chris Mancini, who you may know as a voluntary Dog A.I.D. Trainer, lives locally and can also offer one on one training sessions during your stay!

For more information check out:
conistoncottages.co.uk



**Have you stayed somewhere that you'd like to recommend?
Please let us know and we could feature it in a future issue!**

WIN!

We have 10 copies of **The Rough Guide To Accessible Britain** to give away to the first 10 correct entries in our competition.

One lucky winner will also receive a £30 Voucher, courtesy of our friends at Natural Instinct.

To be in with a chance simply email your answer to the following question:

OVER HOW MANY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR GREAT DAYS OUT ARE INCLUDED IN THE CURRENT EDITION OF THE ROUGH GUIDE TO ACCESSIBLE BRITAIN?

Email your entry to mike@dogaid.org.uk by Wednesday 31st July. Winners will be contacted shortly after. Usual Competition Rules apply.



Visit accessibleguide.co.uk or find them on Facebook for more details

Access all Areas - Lillie Abbott

Whilst the below advice is not in any way legal advice (I am not a solicitor nor do I have that level of knowledge) it is based on my personal knowledge of the Equality Act 2010 and my personal interpretation of the act, of course should you wish to take legal advice you would need to contact a solicitor).

Fully qualified Assistance Dogs can go most places with you and of course this is one the big reasons we have an Assistance Dog so that they can help us when we need it most! However, there are some places where you may find they are not so willing to allow access to your dog. Hospitals, GP surgeries and dentists to name a few, whilst your fully qualified Assistance Dog can accompany you to your appointments there are occasions and some rooms where they won't be allowed due to the health and safety of you and other patients. Imagine you are in a consultation room where you have a chat with your GP about the problem you are having chances are your dog will be allowed, but if the room is used for clinical purposes such as dressing wounds or more in-depth testing the chances are the dog will not be allowed to go in with you. This is because they need to ensure that these rooms are kept as sterile as possible. If this is the case, they should offer you a reasonable adjustment such as the dog waiting in the receptionist's area.

You may want to go out in a taxi, if when you call they say that will need to charge you an extra fee for cleaning purposes after the dog has been in the car, this is not acceptable (nor is charging you for another passenger – the dog). Many taxi companies have had little training in these areas and they may try to say that they don't have to take the dog unless it is a Guide Dog for the Blind, this is the not case all assistance and Guide Dogs are afforded the same rights. Note: The only time a taxi can refuse your Assistance Dog is if they have a medical exemption certificate to say that they have an allergy to dogs, and they would show this to you.

If you are refused access where possible get as much information as you can, ask to speak to a manager or at least get their name and the name of the person refusing you access. If they are someone different, note down the time and date and then let the Dog A.I.D. office know and they will contact me to discuss, you can also pass this information to your local Trading Standards office.

Another example that has recently been brought up is that of recovery agencies for vehicles when your car breaks down at the roadside. This situation can be a little trickier, whilst most understand the rules around Assistance Dogs there is still the need to take health and safety into account. Some, but not all, recovery drivers will allow dogs in the cab of the recovery vehicle, however should you not be able to safely restrain your dog in the cab (by the



use of a specifically designed dog seatbelt or attachment or crate etc) the driver may refuse on the grounds of health and safety as the dog would be insecure and could cause an accident. It is not safe for the dog to just sit on the chair next to you with you holding the lead.

Listed buildings can be another place where access may be refused due to the health and safety of not only yourself but also others (such as steps leading down to a cellar that are old and steep).

Please be assured though, refusal cases are few and far between and usually the best way to deal with them is to stay calm, do not argue and report where necessary. Most of the time it is due to lack of knowledge and where possible Dog A.I.D. will help you and the site that has refused you to find a way of allowing your dog to accompany you. Education is best, where we can educate people, organisations and businesses about the benefits of allowing Assistance Dogs the rewards are many (and not just financial).

South East Fundraising 2018/19

Well it's been another busy year for the team, starting in May at Lullingstone Park Fun day, raising £25. In June, Midge and Alan celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary, they requested no presents but donations for the charity and raised £265.

At the beginning of July, Midge and Karol along with Brian and Tammie attended 3 days of a Disability Awareness Week at Holy Trinity Primary School, where the children celebrated Lily's (Karol's dog) 8th birthday, singing to her and making cards for her. The school kindly sent a donation to Dog A.I.D. The middle of July saw us baking scones and cakes and making crafts for the Strawberry Tea which raised £306.49, which was then matched, taking the total raised to £612.

September brought with it the "Rise4Disability" Trade show at Detling in Maidstone, an event which we attend with many large businesses and medical professionals to help raise awareness of disability. This year we were also asked to do some demonstrations with our dogs, which proved to be very popular. October was to be our next fundraising event, a "Dog Works" Dog Show but unfortunately due ill health we had to pull out. In November Karol attended the Leyton Cross Social Club

Christmas Fair selling crafts and Dog A.I.D merchandise, which she raised £71.55. Also, in November, Ali was invited to do a talk and Demo at the Strood Active Retirement Association which raised £229. And finally, as our fundraising year came to a close Midge finished it off with a raffle at the Hextable Dog Club.

Of course, we couldn't have done all this without the help of other clients like Tammie, Brian and Mo, our thanks go to them all. We also owe a special thanks to local businesses; Homebase and Pets at Home in Chatham who helped provide prizes for our events.

So, what does 2019 have in store, well, we will be once again to attending the "Rise4Disability" Trade show which is held at Maidstone showground in Detling. We will be running a stall, which will raise awareness of Dog A.I.D and doing demonstrations in the new outdoor arena. This year saw a footfall of over 2000 people and they are hoping to double that amount by holding the event over 2 days, Friday 14th and Saturday 15th June 2019. We would love to hear from any Clients and/or Trainers or friends of the charity who would like to join us on either of these two days, whether it is talking to people at the stand or joining in the demos with their dogs, please contact Ali on 07770109191.



South East Fundraising Team Say Goodbye to Chair

It is with great sadness that we are saying Au Revoir to our Chairwoman, Midge Walster. Midge started the S.E.F. team 6 years ago and has been a continued inspiration to us all in the fundraising activities that we have been involved with. We will miss the endless baking of cakes and scones for the Strawberry Teas & Coffee Mornings, the laughter at the Dog Show Demos (yes, even our dogs sometimes opt for a day off!!), her famous 'Mary Poppins' bag with its endless supply of tape, pins, blue tack, clips etc.... and lifelong friendships that have grown within the fundraising team. We have shared much fun and laughter over the years, and will endeavour to continue on her hard work, so yes team... keep baking!!

Our thanks also go to her husband Alan for his constant running around and minding of stalls while we go off to do our demos.

As our trainer she will be very sadly missed, it is thanks to Midge's hard work, determination and great patience that our lives have changed in ways we didn't think were possible. Through training our dogs and supporting us, she has given us our independence and the courage to go out and enjoy life to the best of our ability along with a wonderful 4-legged friends.

**Thank you,
Midge, for
everything, we
wish you both
peace and
happiness
in your new
home.**



EDITING? GRAPHIC DESIGN?

We're looking for support to develop our regular print and online Newsletter - could you or someone you know help ...?

Please contact Mike on 01743 588469 or email mike@dogaid.org.uk





PARTNERSHIP PROGRESS

Well done to the Client-Dog Partnerships and their Trainers who have achieved success since our Winter Newsletter!

LEVEL 1

Catherine Long & Kimmy
 Deborah Longbone & Vega
 Elizabeth Dores & Theodor
 Ella Hollis & Jeffrey
 Helen Waring & Boo
 Helen Wilkes & Bella
 Kathleen Woodward & Dylan
 Kay Clayton & Ted
 Kerry Smith & Joe
 Lisa Austin & Senna
 Louise Wood & Lottie
 Marie Kentell & Co Co
 Nicola Boardman & Fidgit
 Nicola Hendey & Arthos
 Sally Ager-Harris & Melba
 Samantha Barker & Daisy
 Sarah Kidd & Brodie
 Sarah Lees & Dexter
 Shirley Smith & Skye
 Sue Freeman & River
 Elizabeth McCall & Nalu
 Emma Partlow & Luna
 Ciara Doyle & Odin

LEVEL 2

Debbie Miles & Teddy
 Donna Waring & Kizzy
 Elizabeth Lightowler & River
 Emma Frith & Lottie
 Gina Lill & Millie
 Helen Aston & Bella
 Helen Petley & Elma
 Jas O'Neill-Stone & Max-Reggie
 Margaret Russell & Barney
 Nicola Boardman & Fidgit
 Paul Horbury & Alice
 Sandra Cole & Kelsie
 Sarah Parker & Nuka
 Sarah Ridley & Tux
 Talya Hambling & Coby

LEVEL 3

Ann Slide & Tilly
 Chantelle Rea-Bradley & Oreo
 Debbie Glasgow & Geoffrey
 Donna Waring & Kizzy
 Emma Capel & Kida
 Emma Frith & Lottie
 Gareth Foulkes & Ike
 Gina Lill & Millie
 Jas O'Neill-Stone & Max-Reggie
 Jennifer Jones & Theo
 Jenny Rowlands & Echo
 Jocelyn Banford & Shiloh
 Kelly Astley & Poppy
 Megan Taylor & Rowley
 Natalie Collins & Jazz
 Nicola Boardman & Fidgit
 Paul Horbury & Alice
 Phil Packer & Poppy
 Sarah Parker & Nuka
 Sarah Ridley & Tux
 Talya Hambling & Coby



Trainers attaining "Approved Status":

Ali Fell	Jan -19
Ema Davis	Jan -19
Isabel Towers	Jan -19
Kiri Downes	Mar -19
Edit Ratkai	Apr -19
Tina Meaney	May -19
Penaran Higgs	Apr -19
Kate Hurcombe	Jun -19

Special thanks to all our wonderful trainers, without whom it wouldn't happen!

Well done everyone!

Spring Client / Trainer's Workshop

Louise Downing

From my own experiences, I found it really helpful to be able to focus for two days on helping clients learn new skills, and work through any issues they may have been struggling with in regard to their partnership with their canine companion. Brain storming with clients and other trainers to find solutions to certain issues where physical limitations can make praise or treat delivery difficult was very rewarding. Thinking outside the box was often the order of the day!

What I also really enjoyed was meeting up with clients who I had met on a previous workshop, and to see the amazing progress they have made. Everyone there was focused on helping each other, making sure every dog was coping well with their anticipated role and that training remains fun, not a frustrating chore.

The whole group was split into smaller groups who then worked on specific areas of training such as targeting, recall, platform training, loose lead walking and retrieving unusual objects in a completely different environment to what they are used to. We had lots of fun in the final session putting everything together in a course to see just how well everyone had done.

All dogs were welcome in the restaurant too, so the training was not just restricted to the actual training sessions. The entire weekend was a huge learning curve for all clients and their dogs, from staying in a hotel room; exercising in a new location; being around so many other people and dogs in various indoor environments; learning new skills and fine-tuning others and understanding that either or both of



them may also be finding things difficult and challenging. It was mentally and physically tiring for everyone involved, but hopefully in a positive way!

I really enjoyed meeting new clients and dogs, and hope that they enjoyed their experience as much as I did. I would strongly recommend both trainers and clients to try to attend one of these workshops, where possible, because the knowledge and experience gained is truly invaluable in all aspects of working with clients and dogs.

Spring Trainer's Workshop

Odette Pidcock

Having recently joined Dog A.I.D as a volunteer trainer I was keen to attend a Train the Trainer Workshop to find out more about what I had let myself in for. I was accompanied by my boy Tigger. Tigger is an elderly boy of undistinguished decent, with a bullbreed head, the markings of a brindle greyhound and the character of a calm, good-natured Labrador. Although Tigger really ought to be hanging up his harness, he still loves nothing more than exercising his brains at seminars, learning new skills, meeting new people, smelling new dogs and enjoying a generous flow of sausages with the odd bonus chew. I think the same counted for all us trainers, apart from the smelling bit that is.

We got to know each other during an "in their shoes" exercise. We mingled whilst wearing glasses to obscure our vision, made small talk wearing ear muffs, clumsily stumbled about on crutches and gave our biceps a work-out trying to navigate a wheelchair plus dog through a heavy, self-closing and rather unforgiving door.

In the evening, we chatted over a curry and a glass of wine in the canteen. A game of "cards against humanity" left us in no doubt that we all enjoyed a good giggle and that we were in the company of dog-loving kindred spirits - aka positive reinforcement training geeks who are into harnessing the amazing intelligence and cooperativeness of dogs to assist their owners.

I would like to thank the Dog A.I.D. office for putting on an informative and enjoyable train-the-trainer event. Being invited to these events is a big perk of becoming a Dog A.I.D volunteer trainer and I hope to attend many more over the years to come. In the meantime, I am feeling very excited, motivated and much better-informed about the work ahead with my client.



DOG A.I.D. 'FIRSTS' FOR 2019

DOG A.I.D. NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2019

We are absolutely thrilled to be bringing internationally renowned MICHELE POULIOT to Telford in October. With over 40 years of dog training, Michele has presented scores of Seminars worldwide - she has been responsible for bringing science based clicker training to thousands of people and promoting the expansion of clicker training internationally. This is one of her only UK appearances this year.

Find out more at dogaid.org.uk/conference19

BOOKING NOW OPEN!
conference19
 FOR UK DOG TRAINING ENTHUSIASTS & PROFESSIONALS
 5-6 OCTOBER 2019 - TELFORD
 THE NATIONAL DOG TRAINING CONFERENCE FOR DOG TRAINING ENTHUSIASTS AND PROFESSIONALS
 FEATURING INTERNATIONALLY RENOWNED
MICHELE POULIOT
 5TH & 6TH OCTOBER 2019
 TELFORD, SHROPSHIRE
 THE UK NATIONAL CONFERENCE FROM DOG ASSISTANCE IN DISABILITY

SAVE THE DATE!
 FIRST EVER!
FAMILY FUN DAY & PET DOG SHOW
SUNDAY 30TH JUNE 2019
 Shipley Country Park - Derby - DE75 7GX
 CHILDREN'S RIDES & GAMES DEMONSTRATIONS AND MUCH MORE!
 Find us on facebook @dogaidshipley2019

FAMILY FUN DAY & FUN DOG SHOW

Enthusiastic support by clients in Central England has resulted in the first Dog A.I.D. Family Fun Day at Shipley Country Park, Derby this June.

If you are within travelling distance – please do either offer to lend a hand or support the event by bringing the family ... there's lots planned including Children's Rides and Games plus Demonstrations and much more – it will be a great day!

Thanks to the group of organisers – including Carolyn Greenhalgh, Marye Arnett-Clark and Rob & Rhiannon Moore for the time and effort you have put in to raise vital funds for us!

Find more about the event on Facebook - [@dogaidshipley2019](https://www.facebook.com/dogaidshipley2019)

An innovative research partnership was launched this year with KANDAO TECHNOLOGY to assess the use of their QOOCAM Camera and Virtual Reality in our training environments.

KANDAO
 VR Helping to Train Pet Dogs to Assist Ability
 an international research partnership using innovative technology to improve the lives of people with disabilities

JOIN TODAY!
 AND HELP PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES ACROSS THE UK
Lucky Paws
 £25,000 weekly Jackpot!
 PLAY FROM JUST £1A WEEK AND YOU COULD BE IN WITH A CHANCE OF WINNING A WHOPPING £25,000!
 JOIN TODAY AT DOG.AID.ORG.UK

OUR FIRST BIG LOTTERY WINNER!

This March one lucky supporter won £1,000 on our weekly LUCKY PAWS LOTTERY, which is administered by Unity Lotteries on our behalf. Our lottery offers players the chance to win a whopping £25,000 every week ... but you've got to be in it to win it!!

It costs just £1 per week to play – and you can join here: unitylottery.co.uk/charity/display/dog-AID

Dog A.I.D., A Personal View - Keith Warwick

Dogs and their ability to help us in many ways has always fascinated me. I'd heard about Dog A.I.D. and decided to find out more about what was involved. I had previously been a dog handler and assessor with the Search and Rescue Dog Association (SARDA) which takes members of mountain rescue teams and trains them and their dogs to locate missing people. I discovered that, in a way, Dog A.I.D. is similar, as clients are helped to train their own dogs to become qualified Assistance Dogs.

Of course, just like SARDA, not all dogs are suitable so there was a correlation which helped me to understand the challenges that trainers and clients face. Although I have been involved in the world of dog training for many years, I had no idea of the challenges that physically disabled people face in their day to day life. Simple tasks like attaching a lead to a harness or collar can be very difficult. This was a huge learning curve for me.

Fortunately at the same time as I was enquiring about becoming a trainer for Dog A.I.D., I had a client at my weekly classes who I realised might benefit from training her dog, a Beagle, to become an Assistance Dog. Her name is Janice Arthur, her dog Barney was, and still is a real character! Barney is now retired, Janice now has Elsa, a yellow Labrador. Along with other clients, Janice has been a great support and help to me, particularly when considering the challenges

I learned very quickly from the start that there is far more to Assistance Dog training than ordinary pet dog and SAR Dog training. It is important to become involved with the client and their challenges in an attempt to empathise. From my experience, all clients have one thing in common, their quest for independence and their determination to maintain that independence. Dog A.I.D. training is what I would describe as "client driven".

Of course some of the requirements are mandatory and apply to every dog. When it comes to everyday interaction with it's owner then the client's own requirements play a part.

Some may need help with dressing and undressing, whereas others may need the dog to carry out totally different tasks, dependent on the needs of the individual client.

This is the most challenging dog training that I have ever been involved with, however with the support and training offered and regularly scheduled by Sandra and her team, it is also the most rewarding.



Jeanette's dog Beinn, decided not to be involved in this photograph.



Elsa, Janice's dog, as a puppy.



#TEAMDOGAID

Crufts® GALLERY

#TeamDogAID had a fantastic time at Crufts again this year – here’s just a small selection of our favourite memories! We love to see your pictures too ... so remember to keep posting on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram!

*Come and see us in
Hall 1 Stand 96*



BE PART OF #TEAMDOGAID!



Can you help at events throughout the country during the year? Get in touch with Ann on events@dogaid.org.



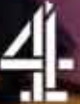


Robert Killick Award 2019



Left to Right: Amy Warner, Ali Smith (OUR DOGS), Dawn Dunn, Neil Ewart (OUR DOGS) Vince Hogan (OD MD), Sandra Fraser (Chair - DogAID), Caroline Lewis (Client and Trustee - DogAID), Mike McDonald (Chief Executive - DogAID), Paul Horbury (Client - DogAID), Julie Horbury (Paul's wife), Alice (Assistance Dog)

Dog A.I.D have been named as OUR DOGS Charity of the Year for the second year running!
Chair, Sandra Fraser, was also presented with the Robert Killick Award for her outstanding contribution to Assistance Dogs.
Huge congratulations to Sandra and the rest of the dedicated Dog A.I.D team.
Watch for further updates from our contributor Neil Ewart in forthcoming issues.





Ports of Call!

Sandra Fraser

It is great to see how so many clients share activities and training on our Facebook page. They can often be a source of inspiration to other clients.

However, if you are having difficulties or experiencing frustration because an exercise is not going how you would like, then please make your trainer your first port of call! They are so wonderful!

They are selected because they have shown that they have that 'extra something' when working with dogs, and, if they don't know how to resolve the issue they can call on a wealth of knowledge from other trainers on their closed Facebook page, or contact me for some alternatives.

There is often more than one way to develop a certain behaviour or task and what may suit one dog may not suit another. Your trainer is the one who knows the dog almost as well as you!

Take for instance the distance exercise; I know at least 4 ways to teach this and what suits one dog may not suit another. Some dogs prefer treats as rewards for stopping; others may prefer a game with a ball! But you might not want to use a ball with say a collie, who may then bark like mad when you reach the playing field in anticipation of the game with the ball as reward for stopping at a distance!

So when you have a dilemma with your training do make your trainer the one you ask first, that's what they are there for!

KERSTIN DIMOND

In December we were very shocked and saddened at Kerstin Dimond's sudden passing. Her passion and enthusiasm for dog training and her undoubted commitment to helping others shone through in the support she gave to people with disabilities as a voluntary Dog A.I.D. Trainer. We will miss Kerstin very much and are so grateful to friends and family for thinking of us by honouring her memory with a Just Giving Fundraising Campaign, which raised over £1,800 plus Gift Aid.

IVAN GRIFFITHS

Many of you may have known Ivan Griffiths, who also sadly passed away in November 2018. Ivan had volunteered for Avon Business & Leisure Centre for 28 years and had supported Dog A.I.D. for over 10 years often helping with table top sales, fetes and many other fundraising activities. Everyone at Avon Business & Leisure Centre will miss Ivan and we will too. With a desire to help animals and children, nearly £2,000 was donated to Dog A.I.D. in his memory.

SAD GOODBYES

YOUR PICTURES



We love seeing all your pictures ... so much so that we've decided to include one or two in each Newsletter – and we hope they make you smile as much as we do! This time we've featured a lovely one from Kelly Astley of Poppy having some 'fun in the sun'. Have you got a picture you'd like to share? Please forward them to us with your Monthly Reports!

THANK YOU!

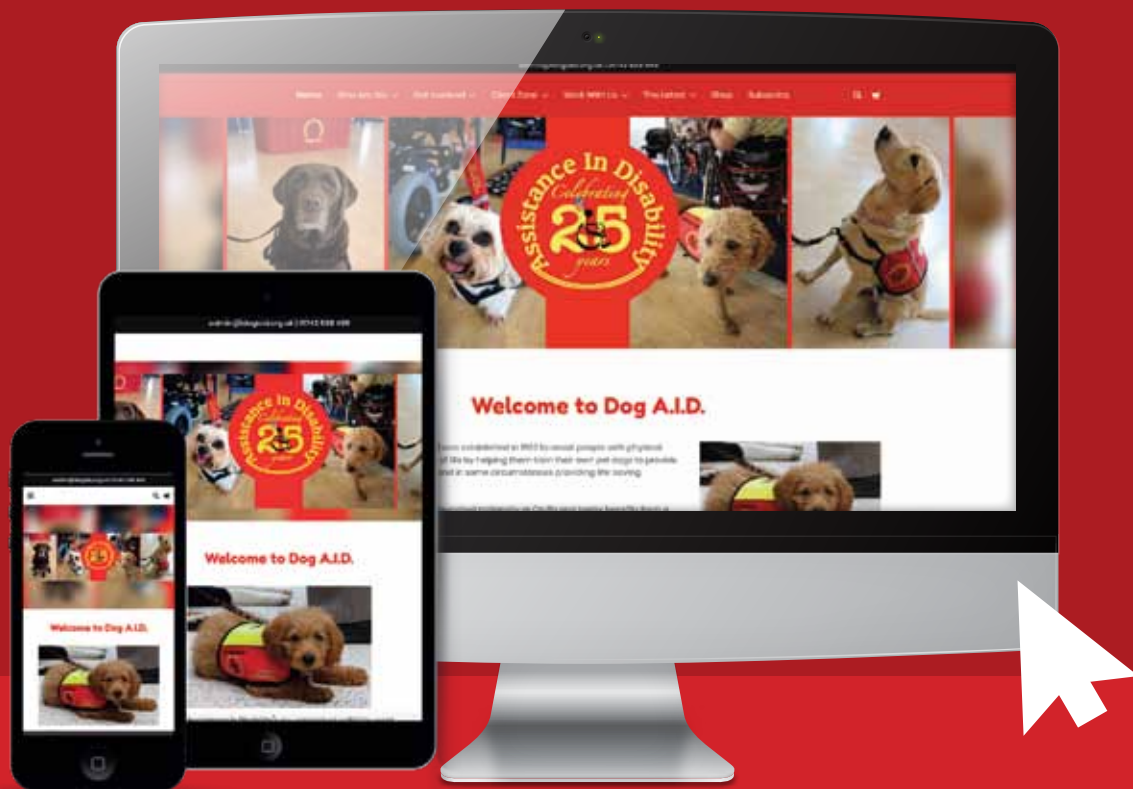
It would not be right to let a Newsletter go by without thanking each and everyone of you for your support, whether it is through volunteering or fundraising. We are truly grateful!

As we continue to grow, we need more and more people to help fundraising and attending events across the country – if you have friends, family or work colleagues who can help, please ask them to get in touch!

GRANTS

Once more we have received some generous support of Grant Making Trusts throughout the UK including: Cantiacorum Foundation (£15,000), Clare Milne Trust (£10,000), David Brooke Charity (£3,000), Hospital Saturday Fund (£2,000), PetPlan (£7,750) and some exciting news from Groundworks UK to come soon regarding Tesco "Bags of Help"!! **Thank you very much for making such a difference to the lives of people with disabilities!**

KEEPING YOU UP TO DATE ONLINE



dogaid.org.uk



All Workshops are held at Stoke Mandeville Stadium, Aylesbury and dates are subject to final confirmation. Register your interest now by emailing Sam at admin@dogaid.org.uk

FORTHCOMING WORKSHOP DATES

2019

Clients & Trainers

7th & 8th September

2020

Clients & Trainers

18th & 19th April

5th & 6th September

Trainers

9th & 10th May

3rd & 4th October

Laugh Out Loud

Troubles in the life of a 2-year old Westie – Margaret Russell

Dogs are not robots we are always told. Well Barney has decided to buck the trend and start turning himself into a robot with the help of his Magloc collar attachment! I was enjoying a yoghurt yesterday when the doorbell rang. So I put the yoghurt pot and spoon down on the coffee table and went to answer the door.

I came back to a very worried Barney who was now sporting a teaspoon bow tie! Yoghurt pot safe on the table but clearly he had tried hard to get it. However the spoon had attached itself to his magnet. Step one of the metallic robot design.

No telling off but I did laugh and he didn't get to clean the pot for a change.



“Membership Forms” and Invoices

With this issue, Members will find their Renewal Forms and Invoices for 2019/20 – please ensure you return these to the Dog A.I.D. Office as soon as possible. If you receive your Newsletter by email, you will also receive your invoice electronically.

KEEP IN TOUCH!



Get Social @DogAid

Please remember to keep your details up to date

 admin@dogaid.org.uk

 01743 588469

 dogaid.org.uk

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Please contact mike@dogaid.org.uk with suggestions for future Newsletters!

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