

Partners Forum

International Association of Assistance Dog Partners

VOLUME THIRTEEN • NUMBER TWO

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

New Benefit from Nutramax Laboratories, Inc.

Dasuquin™ is a new joint health supplement for dogs representing the next generation in joint health support. It contains the ingredient ASU combined with the glucosamine hydrochloride and chondroitin sulfate from Cosequin in a tasty chewable tablet (same taste as Cosequin). ASU works along with the glucosamine and chondroitin sulfate to support a dog's joints. In fact, cell studies have shown that glucosamine/chondroitin sulfate plus ASU works better than glucosamine/chondroitin sulfate alone. Dasuquin is also available in a formula with MSM (methylsulfonylmethane).

Nutramax Laboratories, Inc. will be offering Dasuquin and Dasuquin With MSM at no charge to an IAADP Partner Member in the USA for his or her active assistance dog beginning in January. Cosequin will still be available for those members who opt to continue administering Cosequin.

Editor's Note: IAADP is thrilled that Nutramax will be making this expensive new product available for assistance dogs in the USA so as to preserve the health of their joints. I'm one of those who have experienced first hand how Cosequin can have a rejuvenating effect on an older assistance dog, abating the some of the stiffness and soreness that seemed to be a consequence of the aging process. Younger dogs will benefit too, especially those who perform strenuous tasks or engage in vigorous exercise that can put a lot of wear and tear on the cartilage in their joints. This new product with ingredients which can boost the effectiveness of Cosequin is one that must be prescribed by an assistance dog's veterinarian. The procedure is the veterinarian must have his staff call the 800 number for Nutramax on the back of your Partner Member ID Card and request a six month supply of

this product be shipped to his office for your assistance dog. If you prefer the chewables to the capsules, he must specifically request the chewables. A copy of your Membership ID Card must be faxed to Nutramax Laboratories, Inc. by the veterinarian's office staff when the initial request is made. (Please remember...a member is never to contact any donor directly. If you have questions about this benefit or any others, please contact Tanya, our Membership Coordinator at 513-245-2199 or email her at iaadp@fuse.net. If you cannot reach her and the matter is urgent, please contact me at 586-826-3938 or email me at iaadp@aol.com with your questions.) To find out about other benefits provided by Nutramax Laboratories, Inc. to IAADP members, see the list on page five.

Our website is also a good information resource. The benefit section, linked to the membership section, just above the application, has articles you can print out to facilitate communication with your veterinarian if he or she is not familiar with IAADP. We also post updates to those articles, like a change in our benefactor's phone number or procedure, as needed, so you may want to check there before taking your dog in for his or her annual check up and to request a product like Cosequin or Dasuquin.

Features You Shouldn't Miss

Assistance Dogs Europe Conference.....Page 2

•

Service Guide Dogs Available.....Page 3

•

Dilemma for Colleges – Pet or SA?.....Page 6

•

ADA Title III Enforcement.....Page 11

•

Editor: Joan Froling
Date of Issue: December 2006
All Rights Reserved



The Guide Dogs for the Blind Alumni Association honored IAADP President, Ed Eames Ph.D. and his wife Toni with a Lifetime Achievement Award in November 2006 for their inspiring contributions to the assistance dog movement over the last twenty years.

Assistance Dogs Europe Conference

7th Annual Conference held in Malmo, Sweden
October 27-29, 2006

By Wendy Morrell, IAADP Board Member
Partnership from Dogs for the Disabled, U.K.

Assistance Dogs Europe (ADEu) is an organization dedicated to supporting the work of assistance dog programs across Europe. In 2005, I attended the annual conference in Salzburg, Austria, and presented the findings from my pan European access survey for assistance dog partnerships. This year I was invited back to speak once again on the subject of access and to hopefully build upon the work started last year.

The conference got off to an interesting start for me. On the first morning I was asked to leave breakfast in the hotel restaurant because they didn't want my assistance dog there! A quick word in a few chosen ears saw that the problem was resolved, but that one encounter crystallized my feelings that access in Sweden isn't what I have come to expect in the UK or the USA. The previous day a taxi driver had attempted to charge me triple fare because of the dog, not exactly an auspicious welcome.

The conference was attended by representatives from assistance dog programs across Europe, and it was good to see many familiar faces and catch up with progress in other countries during this year. Proceedings began with a welcome by Ingela Thalen (former Swedish Minister of Social Affairs) and Peter Gorbing (President of ADEu and Chief Executive of Dogs for the Disabled in the UK). There were three days of packed sessions and workshops with varied topics including, stress in animals, dog welfare, building & kennel design, recall training, how to start research in your organization, temperament testing in dogs, measuring stress in dog trainers, dogs for children with autism, team training a dog for diabetes assistance, a partnership testimony and access.

My session was entitled "Access with an Assistance Dog" in which I examined what access means to different people who are partnered with an assistance dog; and how expectations tend to develop and evolve during the life of a partnership. Like many other people who are partnered with an assistance dog, I have had my fair share of access refusals, and at the conference I teased out some of the different types of refusal I have experienced. Some refusals are straightforward – no dogs allowed, others are a little more complex, the "No dogs except Guide Dogs" type of thing. For me it is important that the general public get a standard message about assistance dog partnership, a guide dog is the same as a hearing dog, and is the same as a mobility assistance/service dog, and is the same as a medical alert dog; in respect that they all are partnered with a person with a disability and all perform valuable roles. I don't care which type of assistance dogs have been around the



Wendy and Caesar at the ADEu Conference in Sweden

longest, I don't care which organizations are bigger, I care about equality for people with disabilities. I very much feel that when you allow people to talk in terms of access for one type of assistance dog, you give them permission to discriminate against every other type of assistance dog partnership.

I really don't buy this "people don't understand what an assistance dog is, so let's talk about guide dogs and other assistance dogs" philosophy...IF the public doesn't understand what an assistance dog is...make it your business to tell them! It is so important that we are all singing the same song and that partnerships be given the same rights of access regardless of the task of the dog.

I urged programs and partnerships not only to look at access in their own country, but on a European/continental level; to look at standards that all dogs need to achieve before they will deserve public access and to consider how the public will recognize such dogs.

I asked programs to consider mentoring their more articulate partnerships to assist with access campaigns; to network with other programs and indeed with other countries, in order to gain shared goals. Much can be gained by interacting with partnerships from other countries; in fact at the conference I was able to share with some partnerships from Norway how the Shariat Council has issued a proclamation in the UK for Muslim taxi drivers on the subject of carrying assistance dogs; in the hope that they might be able to use this example to gain greater access to taxis in their own country.

I explained how IAADP has a role in all of this too, through *Partners Forum* it is possible to learn about progress in other countries and become more informed about the industry which in one way or another supports us all.

Both programs and partnerships who were present were very interested in hearing about IAADP and what we, as an organization, have to offer. The literature and copies of *Partners Forum* that I took with me were very popular

and hopefully we shall have more members from Europe as a result.

All in all it was refreshing to attend the very well organized conference and to have the opportunity to learn first hand from others, and share experiences of my travels both in Europe and USA. By the time we left Sweden, I had realized that the two access challenges at the beginning were somewhat isolated occurrences, and we traveled home via Denmark where access was very patchy. I was even asked to leave a food store there as the manager explained, "It is like having a rat in my shop," so its clear there's still plenty of work to be done!

Hopefully, by working together, programs and partnerships across Europe will be able to improve upon the somewhat patchy access provision that there is currently.

The next ADEu conference is due to be held in Bad Neuheim, Germany from October 26-28, 2007.

The full conference proceedings will be available online within the next few weeks at www.assisteddogseurope.info.

Wales Cracks Down on Taxi Drivers

Taxi driver loses licence over guide dog

News Wales - Knighton, UK, Nov. 11, 2006

Cardiff Council Public Protection Committee has resolved to revoke the licence of a driver who refused to carry a visually impaired passenger accompanied by his guide dog.

Cardiff Council has for many years required licensed taxi drivers to carry passengers accompanied by a guide dog. The Disability Discrimination Act subsequently made it compulsory for a licensed taxi driver to accept a passenger with a guide, hearing and other assistance dog.

Councillor Brian Griffiths, Chair of the Public Protection Committee, said: "The Committee were very concerned that any of its licensed drivers could refuse to accept a hiring from a visually impaired person simply because they were accompanied by a guide dog. This is unacceptable and I hope that the decision taken by the Committee will send out this message to all licensed drivers."

Section 37 of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 required licensed taxi drivers to carry guide dogs as from 31 March 2001.

The only exemption which may be granted is on medical grounds, and licensed drivers who are allergic or have a chronic phobia of dogs may be exempted by the authority if they produce medical evidence of their condition.

<http://www.newswales.co.uk/?section=Community&F=1&id=9864>

Reprinted with Permission

Service/Guide Dogs Available

Paws With A Cause would like to announce the reinstatement of our Service/Guide Dog Program! This program, the first established in the world, was unfortunately put on hold many years ago due to lack of funding and qualified staff to train the guide dog portion of the process. We are honored to once again be able to provide Service/Guide Dogs to people who may not qualify for a traditional guide dog due to having a physical disability that requires the use of a wheelchair.

The program's funding is being provided through visionary foundations that wish to enhance the mobility of people with both physical and visual disabilities. Over the next three years, PAWS plans to train and place 33 service/guide dogs. These dogs will be fully trained in service dog tasks as well being able to guide their partner through their daily lives in their wheelchairs.

Our staff of three former Seeing Eye and Leader Dog Instructors, with over 43 combined years of guide dog work, will be the team providing the specialized training these dogs require. They will work with our network of Field Representatives across the country who provide instruction to client/dog teams in their homes and communities.

This past year we ran a pilot project, placing three service/guide dogs in California, Pennsylvania and Michigan. The clients receiving these dogs have disabilities such as spinal cord injuries, Multiple Sclerosis and Seizure Disorder, along with significant loss of vision. The impact that these dogs have had in the lives of these individuals is remarkable. Clients have shared that they are now able to do things that were not possible before they received their service/guide dog. The independence and mobility that was severely limited or nonexistent in their lives has been restored.

Each dog provided through this special program requires extensive training time and expense which will limit the number of dogs produced each year; therefore, specific eligibility requirements were established for potential clients. The most important prerequisites are that the client must have been partnered with at least one guide dog in the past, must have used a manual wheelchair for at least one year and have completed mobility orientation while using a manual wheelchair.

The success of this program will be analyzed and measured throughout the next three years. After we accomplish our initial goals for this program and additional funding becomes available, our hope is that one day we will be able to expand our services to meet the needs of those individuals who do not currently qualify for this program.

A Tail To Tell

By Toni and Ed Eames

In the last Tail column, we told you about the euthanasia of our elderly cat Cali. The house seemed empty with just three cats, so we decided to adopt Cali's successor. Toni and her Golden Retriever guide dog Keebler, with the driving assistance of our friend Linda Haymond, went to the Feline Foundation to adopt a new cat. A nine-year-old calico named Bambi stole Toni's heart with her extremely sweet personality. Keebler was supposed to be the cat friendliness tester, but she wasn't interested in the cats, just the tempting bowls of cat food! Bambi lived in the shelter for most of her life and was probably overlooked because she was extremely overweight.

Bambi's adjustment at home has been phenomenal! She is mellow with the other cats and is not overly concerned by the dogs. Sleeping with us at night, she follows us around the house by day seeking out a lap to lie on. The loud purr that emanates from her, let's us know she is pleased with her new forever home.

Bambi's vet check found her in good health except that she weighs almost 13 pounds when she should be 8! We have her on a strict reducing diet and she should be as sleek as Nifty, Bonzie and Kizzy by spring!

On the dog front, during an early morning walk, Ed's Golden guide Latrell and Keebler were confronted by a loose dog who kept running in circles and trying to play with the dogs. All the way home, he ran around us wanting to play. When we finally got home, Ed took our dogs inside, while Toni attached a leash to our unwanted marauder. Although not neutered, he was in good shape and was obviously a well cared for pet. Toni tied him to the banister alongside our front steps, and we checked him every half hour until the SPCA came to claim him. The tag on his collar was a license and the animal control worker said the family would be contacted. His best estimate was the dog was part pit bull and part Border Collie. The fear of encountering a dangerous dog is very real, and we were lucky our encounter was with a friendly critter.

During a walk several weeks after meeting the dog, we had another animal distraction. However, this time the critter was a tiny kitten! He came right up to Keebler and rubbed noses with her. Both dogs were extremely excited and distracted by this little guy. Since they live with four felines, one would think it wouldn't be such a novelty! The kitten followed us on our walk, but when we got to a busy street, Toni picked him up and carried him around. Fearing to lose this wiggling baby, Toni grabbed his scruff and settled him down. We brought him back to the area where we first met him, but he was determined to stay with us! Therefore, when we got home, we fed and watered him and left him outside! But Boca, as we named him because of his big mouth and loud cries, had a different idea! Those heart-rending cries were too much for Toni, so she brought him in and put him on our cat safe enclosed patio. Our friend Kathi Diaz came over after work and canvassed the area where we found him, but no luck. Nobody lost a gorgeous orange and white male two month old kitten. It was extremely

tempting to keep this little guy, but with the recent acquisition of Bambi, a fifth cat would be difficult. So bravely and sadly, we took him to the California Feline Foundation the next day. With his good looks and kittenish personality, he was adopted soon after!

On the travel front, we've pretty much stayed on the ground! As much as we love flying, it was relaxing to take the four hour drive to San Francisco to attend the Guide Dogs For The Blind (GDB) inaugural alumni reunion. Mary Harris, local Fresno puppy raising supervisor, was the chauffeur on this outing. Tango, her five month old Golden Retriever pup was awesome, meeting the demands of a noisy hotel, crowded elevators and more than 100 working guide dogs with a calm confidence well beyond his puppyhood status!

After the speeches and GDB staff greetings on Saturday morning, we loaded into school buses for the 30 minute trip to the San Rafael campus where we were served a box lunch. The rain that dampened the morning stopped in time for the picnic, but it was uncomfortably cold.

Since both of us were matched with our dogs and trained at home, we never participated in graduation ceremonies at the school. It was moving to sit in on this one, especially to witness the joy the puppy raisers expressed in knowing their hard work paid off and their young charges would now be working with blind individuals all over the U.S. and Canada.

Back in the hotel we prepared for the evening's banquet. Little did we know how special this event would be. The GDB Alumni Association honored us with a Lifetime Achievement Award for the tireless work we do to enhance the lives of guide dog partners through the work we do with IAADP. We received a gorgeous braille and print plaque and lots of applause!

Sunday morning we attended several seminars, spoke to the group about the benefits of joining IAADP, then set up shop to sell our *Partners In Independence* book.

Mary generously offered to spend the extra day in San Francisco so we could see Toni's surgeon on Monday morning. The report was fabulous, the spinal fusion has healed and Toni has no movement restrictions. There is still some residual discomfort, but that is likely to resolve over the next few months.

Two days after returning home, Ed participated in an emergency evacuation simulation exercise conducted by the American Red Cross and the Fresno city disaster relief coordinator. As chair of the Fresno ADA Advisory Council, Ed was asked to involve members of the disability community in this exercise. A dozen members of the Council joined Ed and Len Kessler and hearing dog Vana in their simulated role as newly arrived victims of a disaster. They helped educate the volunteers and staff about disability etiquette and the disaster-related needs of disabled people, particularly those teamed with guide, hearing and service dogs. This issue was brought into the foreground when one assistance dog partner asked a Red Cross volunteer where she could relieve her dog. The volunteer said she had no idea, despite

the availability of large stretches of grass 20 feet outside the door!

The next morning our wonderful friend and perennial IAADP conference volunteer Debbie Prieto drove us to Foster City, near San Francisco, for the Cat Writers Association Conference. Last year Toni was using a wheelchair during this event, but Keebler remembered the hotel and did a fabulous job locating the elevators and finding the outside exit to the relief area. Our Boise, Idaho-based friend Dana and her guide dog Vergie, Debbie and the two of us with Keebler and Latrell shared a mini-suite and it was fun spending time together.

In addition to seminars on all aspects of writing as a career and two sumptuous evening banquets, we spent a few hours at the Cat Fanciers' Association cat show and got to pet a Siberian, Celkirk Rex and Scottish Fold. Toni had just completed reading a fabulous book about Norton, the much traveled and loved Scottish Fold, and was delighted to meet a member of the breed.

Sunday morning, November 19, we said good-bye to Dana and drove home to Fresno. Tired from two weeks of excitement and festivities, we went to bed early. Ed awoke a little after 3 and asked Toni to call 911. He was experiencing shortness of breath and we threw on clothes and welcomed the ambulance crew which arrived in less than five minutes. Ed's oxygen level was extremely low at 82 and he was taken by ambulance to St. Agnes Hospital where the initial diagnosis was pneumonia. After being examined and treated, Ed spent fifteen hours in the emergency room until a bed was found for him in the heart pavilion. Toni did not accompany him to the hospital because Kizzy was slated to have his teeth cleaned at the vet's to resolve some health issues.

As soon as Kizzy returned home, Toni went to the hospital. When she left Ed that evening, he seemed comfortable, but had a serious breathing episode in the middle of the night requiring the Rapid Response Team's medical intervention. Tuesday Ed seemed a lot better and Wednesday, he went without oxygen and took walks with Latrell along the hospital corridors. The nursing care was exemplary, but we received a huge scare when the diagnosis was expanded to include congestive heart failure and the cardiologist talked about the need for heart surgery in the near future. Latrell did not stay at the hospital with Ed, but came to visit every day with Keebler and Toni.

Thanksgiving day was planned long in advance and Toni was now the official turkey roaster. She was overjoyed when Ed phoned to say he was doing so well, he was being discharged from the hospital in time to join us! Linda rushed to get him, while Toni tended to dinner preparations. It was a wonderful gift when Ed joined Linda, Bobbie, Beth and Toni for a fabulous meal. He was even home in time to carve the turkey!

After his hospital stay, Ed resumed his many advocacy efforts. We were delighted that 77.5% of voters in November approved a half cent sales tax that will be used to finance public transportation including improved para-transit services for the disabled community and free bus service for seniors.

On another front, Ed participated in a meeting with city officials to reaffirm the position that diagonal curb cuts/ramps placed where two sidewalks intersect is against federal and state regulations and threatens the safety of both

wheelchair users and blind pedestrians. Coming down a diagonal ramp into traffic is not conducive to the health and well being of disabled pedestrians!

At this writing, Ed is not out of the woods, but is certainly enjoying the trees, the birds and whatever the woods and local dog park have to offer.

Toni and Ed Eames can be contacted at 3376 North Wishon, Fresno, CA 93704-4832; Tel. 559 - 224-0544; e-mail eeames@csufresno.edu.

Partner Member Benefits

Free benefits unless otherwise noted

All Members Worldwide

- "Partners Forum" Newsletter
- Emergency Recovery Kit - Bayer funded
- International Help-line [call or write]

Available in United States

- Sentinel [heartworm preventative] from Novartis
- Advantage or Advantix from Bayer
- Dasuquin from Nutramax Laboratories
- Cosequin from Nutramax Laboratories
- Welactin from Nutramax Laboratories
- Denosyl from Nutramax Laboratories
- Avid Microchip - Avid ID System Inc.
- Registration in Pet Trac and/or the AKC Companion Animal Recovery
- Veterinary Care Partnership Grant (eligibility guidelines on website)
- KV Vet Supplies offers 15% off all non-pharmaceutical products
- Veterinary Care Centers - 10% discount
- Ruff Wear toys, products - up to a 50% discount
- Ft. Dodge - vaccine rebate up to \$20
- Access & Education brochure

Available in Canada

- Advantage-Multi from Bayer (heartworm, fleas, other parasites)
- Advantage flea control from Bayer
- Hills' Prescription Diet food
- Cosequin from Nutramax
- Rebate check for Wyeth vaccines
- Avid Microchip

Note: Members in the UK and other countries are encouraged to seek similar benefits from companies for their geographical area.

These Student Requests Are a Different Animal

The Chronicle: 10/13/2006 From the issue dated October 13, 2006

Colleges accustomed to guide dogs now grapple with demands to allow ferrets and snakes that provide psychiatric support.

By Kelly Field

Sarah B. Sevick considers her pet ferret, Lilly, to be a service animal, no less legitimate than a guide dog. True, the support Lilly provides is emotional, rather than physical, but that does not change her status under the law, Ms. Sevick reasons.

So Ms. Sevick, who suffers from anxiety and depression, was surprised when administrators at Our Lady of the Lake University, in Texas, told her she could not bring Lilly to the campus because the ferret did not qualify as a service animal. Convinced the college was wrong, she filed a complaint with the U.S. Justice Department's Civil Rights Division last August, asking that the administrators' decision be overturned.

"They didn't understand," says Ms. Sevick. "I couldn't just have a panic attack and say, See, she is helping me."

College officials declined to comment on the case, citing respect for Ms. Sevick's privacy, but a spokeswoman said the college was "following the law" in how it describes a service animal. The Americans With Disabilities Act, or ADA, defines a service animal as "any guide dog, signal dog, or other animal individually trained to do work or perform tasks for an individual with a disability."

"If we have an animal that has been prescribed as part of a treatment plan and trained in accordance with the law, then we will make every accommodation we can," says Susan A. Schleicher, chief communications officer for the university.

In letters to Ms. Sevick's mother obtained through a Freedom of Information Act request, college officials expressed concern that the ferret would be "distracting and disruptive" in the classroom, and might bite or scratch students or faculty members. They said residence-life staff members had reported a "strong and unpleasant odor" emanating from Ms. Sevick's room during orientation weekend, and had found ferret feces on the floor and in the sink when Ms. Sevick and Lilly left.

In a reply, Ms. Sevick's mother, D. Kay Sevick, countered that the ferret would be no more distracting than a service dog, and pointed out that the ADA prohibits the denial of service animals on the basis of hypothetical risk. She said she had purchased a dietary supplement to reduce the ferret's odor, and suggested that the "feces" were probably food pellets.

The battle between the Sevicks and Our Lady of the Lake University is not unusual. Across the country, a growing number of students are seeking permission to bring "psychiatric service" animals into college classrooms and dormitories. The students say the animals, which range from cats and dogs to snakes, rats, and even tarantulas,

help them cope with the stress of college life. But the law is unclear on whether colleges must accommodate such animals, and many colleges have grappled with how to distinguish a student with a true need from one who simply does not want to be separated from Fluffy or Spot.

For many colleges, though, the biggest fear is that if they allow one ferret, it will only be a matter of time before their campuses become petting zoos.

"The single biggest concern on the part of institutions would be setting a precedent," says Jane E. Jarrow, president of Disability Access Information and Support, an organization that helps colleges meet disability standards. "They worry that if they say yes to this one, they won't be able to say no to the next one."

Unusual Requests

Most colleges say they know how to handle requests for traditional service animals, such as guide dogs for the blind.

But the idea of service animals for the mentally ill is so new that even disability advocates have not yet settled on what to call them. Some advocates label them "companion animals" or "comfort animals," others refer to them as "emotional-support animals."

Joan G. Esnayra, a geneticist who has bipolar disorder, prefers to call them "psychiatric service" animals, a term she coined to distinguish the benefits they provide from "the kind of emotional support everybody gets from their pets." She chose the word psychiatric over psychologic, she says, to emphasize the severity of the handlers' psychiatric conditions.

Ms. Esnayra, founder and president of the Psychiatric Service Dog Society, says psychiatric-service animals may be trained to perform tasks for their handlers, such as alerting them to an incipient psychiatric episode. She says her first service dog, Wasabi, a Rhodesian Ridgeback who died a year and a half ago, would repeatedly nudge her with his nose when she had been staring at the computer for hours – a sign she was entering a manic phase.

Ms. Esnayra says psychiatric-service animals can also "do work" for their handlers, as the ADA stipulates, and which she interprets broadly as "performing a function." For example, a dog might enable a person with agoraphobia – a fear of being in public places or crowds – to leave her home without panicking, or it might provide a "reality check" for a person with schizophrenia; if his dog is sleeping peacefully, then the handler knows that the voices he is hearing are in his head, not in the room.

"It's a passive function," Ms. Esnayra acknowledges,

“but when you’re the schizophrenic person sorting things out, it’s a valuable form of assistance.”

But she says that animals need not perform tasks to qualify under the ADA, arguing that the interactions between a handler and animal can be “intrinsically therapeutic.”

“A lot of the medicine of a psychiatric-service dog is predicated by a bond, and a bond is not a physical task,” she says.

That position has put her in conflict with a coalition of traditional service-dog users, which has called task training “the litmus test of legitimacy.”

The Coalition of Assistance Dog Organizations says the legal definition of “service animal” has been misunderstood or deliberately exploited by pet owners and protection-dog trainers, and the group has urged the Department of Justice to revise its ADA regulations to explicitly exclude animals that provide only “comfort, protection, or personal defense.” The proposed definition would also replace the phrase “do work or perform tasks” with “perform physical tasks.”

Sheila Styron, a spokeswoman for the coalition and president of Guide Dog Users Inc., says her group is trying to fortify the law against abuses that threaten to undermine public tolerance of service animals. Ms. Styron, who is blind and works with a guide dog, says she was recently questioned at an airport after another passenger attempted to pass off a bowl of goldfish as service animals.

“People with disabilities have worked long and hard to gain their public-access rights, and they get upset when they feel that people are cheapening the progress that they have made,” she says.

But Ms. Esnayra believes much of the resistance from traditional service-dog users stems from stereotypes about owner-trained dogs. While there are several training schools for guide dogs, there are no schools for psychiatric-service dogs, so most handlers train their own dogs.

“There is a prevalent stigma that owner-trained dogs will inevitably be poorly behaved” and will “diminish the good image of service dogs in the eyes of the public,” she says.

She says she has tried to combat this “image problem” by establishing voluntary standards for psychiatric service dogs.

Courts Create Confusion

With only one exception, the courts have backed Ms. Styron’s interpretation of the law, ruling that the Americans With Disability Act and the Fair Housing Act – which prohibits discrimination in housing – apply to animals that perform tasks, not to those that provide comfort and companionship only.

But administrative judges at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development have said that an animal does not have to perform tasks to receive protection under the Fair Housing Act. In a landmark case, decided in 1994, the judge ordered an apartment complex to waive its no-pets rule for a woman with depression.

“In effect, the dog gives...the same freedom that a wheelchair provides a physically disabled person,” the judge wrote.

Those conflicting rulings have created confusion for colleges, which are subject to the Americans With Disability Act campus-wide and the Fair Housing Act in their dormitories. Certain colleges, like Ohio State University, permit psychiatric service animals in dormitories in some cases, but not in other facilities.

“I go with the highest standard of access,” says L. Scott Lissner, the ADA coordinator at the Ohio State system and an authority on service-animal case law.

J. Aaron McCullough, a legal expert with the Disability Law Resource Project, which provides training and technical assistance on complying with the ADA, counsels colleges to rely on the law’s definition of service animal, which “thoroughly precludes coverage” for animals that provide comfort only.

“A companion animal is just a euphemism for a pet,” he says.

But Ms. Jarrow, the disability consultant, says she reminds colleges that the ADA “sets a floor, not a ceiling.” Just because colleges are not required to accommodate psychiatric-support animals, she says, does not mean they are prohibited from doing so.

continued on page 8...

HOW A DOG CAN HELP

[Part of the Article by Kelly Field]

Following are some of the tasks that a psychiatric-service dog could be trained to perform. Some of these could be accomplished by animals other than dogs.

DISORDER	SYMPTOM	TASK
Major Depression	apathy	tactile stimulation*
	hypersomnia (excessive sleep)	wake handler
	feelings of isolation	tactile stimulation*
	memory loss	remind to take medication
Bipolar disorder (manic phase)	aggressive driving	alert to aggressive driving
	disorganization	assist with daily tasks, such as laundry
Panic attacks	fear	lead handler to safe place
	dizziness	brace or lean against handler
	chills	lie across handler
Schizophrenia	hallucinations	provide reality check
	forgotten personal identity	carry handler’s documents
	confusion/disorientation	take handler home
	feeling overwhelmed	provide buffer in crowds

* This could include licking the handler’s face, nuzzling, laying head in handler’s lap or on handler’s knee.

Student Requests Are a Different Animal

Continued from page 7

“The fear of opening the floodgates should not keep you from making an accommodation under reasonable circumstances,” she said, urging administrators to consider requests case by case.

At the same time, she cautions colleges not to adopt an “anything goes” policy toward psychiatric-support animals, saying she once received a call about an early childhood education major who wanted to bring her dog – a pit bull-Rottweiler mix – into a campus day-care center.

“Clearly, some animals may not be appropriate to a university setting,” she says.

Ms. Jarrow says some colleges have been too quick to accommodate even unreasonable requests, fearing lawsuits.

“The institutional administration is often too skittish about possible legal action to think about what’s logical, appropriate, or right,” she said.

Michael R. Masinter, a law professor at Nova Southeastern University, says colleges should approach requests with skepticism, but not with a completely closed mind.

“No one is going to go through the trouble of losing their eyesight to keep a pet, but they might go through the trouble of getting a therapist’s note,” he says.

Mr. Masinter suggests that colleges consider whether the animal was prescribed by a psychologist, and whether it “really does alleviate the effects of the impairment,” as required by the ADA.

Experts urge universities to develop policies that clearly differentiate between service animals and emotional support animals. To assist colleges, Ms. Jarrow has created a sample policy that borrows heavily from that of the University of Wisconsin at Madison, which she calls “the granddaddy of them all.”

The sample policy defines a service animal; outlines the responsibilities of the disabled individual, as well as those of faculty and staff members and students; spells out which areas are off limits to service animals (research laboratories, mechanical rooms, and custodial closets, among them); and describes when a service animal may be forced to leave a campus facility.

Brian T. Rose, associate vice president for student affairs at Rutgers University at New Brunswick, says his institution decided to come up with a policy after it received five requests to accommodate a psychiatric-service animal in a single year – three cats, one dog, and a snake.

“Obviously, we permit service animals,” he said. “But this was – pardon the pun – a different animal.”

Ultimately, the college decided to allow the animals in its garden-style apartments, but not in dorms with a common elevator, where they might bother students with allergies and phobias.

“You’re balancing Disability A against Disability B, trying to keep everyone comfortable in the residence halls,” he said.

Research Shows Benefits

Research into the benefits of psychiatric-service animals is still in its infancy. Several studies have demonstrated the

benefits of animal-assisted therapy for the elderly, the infirm, and the mentally ill. Other studies have shown that pets lower blood pressure in hypertensive stockbrokers, help children recover from traumatic experiences like sexual abuse, alleviate loneliness in single women, and foster empathy among prison inmates.

“Pets calm people down, give them a feeling of self-confidence, and increase their ability to deal with the world more effectively,” says Alan Entin, a psychologist in Richmond, Va., and an expert on pets.

But there have been no controlled studies on the benefits of trained psychiatric-service animals for specific psychiatric populations, and much of the evidence of their effectiveness remains anecdotal.

Ms. Esnayra, who recently left a job as a program officer at the National Academies of Science, hopes to change that. She has applied for a grant from the National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine at the National Institutes of Health for a study of whether psychiatric-service dogs can lower anxiety levels in patients with anxiety disorders.

Despite the dearth of research, the idea that animals can help mitigate mental illness appears to be gaining acceptance in the mental-health professions.

Carole E. Fudin, a clinical social worker in New York City, says she has recommended psychiatric-service animals for several of her clients. In some cases, she says, the animals have “worked as powerfully as medication,” with fewer side effects.

“I think psychotherapy has grown up a bit when it comes to how significant these animals are for people,” she says, adding that there was some skepticism when the idea was introduced in the early 1980s. But she stresses that psychiatric-support animals are no substitute for psychotherapy and medication, adding that “if dependency on an animal alone is the only way a person is getting through the day, then they’re going to be in crisis when the animal dies.”

In Ms. Sevick’s case, her ferret’s therapeutic properties came as a surprise. She received Lilly as a pet, and only later discovered that stroking the ferret helped distract and calm her during a panic attack. With the help of her mother, she then trained the ferret to come on command and sit quietly in her lap for long periods of time. Eventually, Lilly learned to sense the onset of a panic attack, and would come to Ms. Sevick automatically, she says.

When Our Lady of the Lake University declined her request to bring Lilly to campus, she decided to enroll anyway, certain that the college would reconsider. But she struggled academically and socially, and suffered frequent panic attacks.

“I had never been on my own, and I was in a strange place,” she recalls, her voice cracking. “I was under a lot of stress, and I did not have any support at all.”

By the time she heard back from the Office for Civil Rights, in December of last year, she had flunked out. The response was a one-page letter, saying that staff had reviewed her case and “decided not to take any action.”

Copyright © 2006 by The Chronicle of Higher Education
Reprinted with permission

Editor's Note for Clarification:

IAADP does not endorse the task definition given in this article by the founder of the Psychiatric Service Dog Society. We belong to the Coalition of Assistance Dog Organizations, which does support access for someone who is substantially impaired in performing one or more major life activities by a mental illness if they have a well behaved, task trained assistance dog. To be considered an assistance dog, the dog must be schooled to perform specific [physical] tasks on command or cue that will empower an individual to cope better with the symptoms or difficulties imposed by their disabling condition. Many people including assistance dog handlers receive emotional support from a dog, but that alone is not enough, legally speaking, to transform a pet into a service animal with regard to public access under the current interpretation of the ADA by the U.S. Department of Justice or under the laws of other countries such as Australia, the U.K. and Canada.

MEMBERSHIP QUERIES? CHANGE OF ADDRESS?

Contact Tanya at 513-245-2199
or at iaadp@fuse.net

INFORMATION AND ADVOCACY CENTER

Call Carol at 706-439-9554
or contact Joan at iaadp@aol.com

WEBSITE: www.iaadp.org

A Leonberger Success Story

By Neil Ewart

Increasingly Leonbergers are being used to assist persons with disabilities. This is naturally a slow process as organizations like ourselves need to learn about, what is for us, a relatively new breed.

Just after Christmas I travelled north to visit a three year old Leo rejoicing in the name of Cavendish! (Don't Leo's attract some cracking names??!!) and owned by Nicola Henty who lives close to Nottingham.

Nicola has cerebral palsy and, in addition, poor sight since birth and, unfortunately, both conditions are now slowly worsening.

She also suffered a huge blow seven years ago when both parents were killed in a car accident on the M1!!

However, problems in life have not stopped her from achieving a Research Fellowship at Nottingham University and leading a very active life.

A few years ago a social worker paid a routine visit to Nicola's home and was accompanied by her own 'assistance dog' which, coincidentally, was a Leonberger trained by a group known as Support Dogs.

Nicola was so impressed with the breed that she decided to obtain one for herself. Her preference was for a male and after searching she acquired Cavendish from Debbie Charwin in Herts.

Her sight does not yet warrant an actual guide dog but help was needed to provide aid for daily living. Enquiries were made amongst various Assistance Dogs groups and Birmingham based 'Dog Aid' accepted the challenge.

Cavendish spent some time with them when he was around twelve months old and was successfully trained.

His main tasks are to provide Nicola with stability when

walking, etc. (this where the breeds size is an advantage) to retrieve anything which she has dropped and to try to communicate with the public if, for example, Nicola falls and is unable to get up.

I asked if she could quote an instance where his skills had proved invaluable.

A short time ago Nicola found that her back had locked and she could not get out of the shower. Cavendish was urgently requested to go and locate a mobile phone which was lying in another room. He promptly commenced a search and was successful. An urgent summons went out for help which fortunately quickly arrived.

It does not require much imagination to picture a scenario when such a situation could be life threatening!!!

This is just one instance which illustrates how a dog can prove invaluable to someone with disabilities.

But what of the future?

Assistance Dogs groups in the UK are now working more closely together so that we can provide mutual help to those who may require a multipurpose dog.

A recent example has been a lady in Cheshire who now has a guide dog that is also a fully trained hearing dog.

In the meantime Guide Dogs have been able to advise Nicola about methods for improving her stability when Cavendish is walking alongside her. As sight deteriorates she may well require a qualified guide dog and any such dog would also need to be trained to retrieve, etc.

Oh, and just for your information...Nicola insists on any eventual replacement being a Leonberger so a lot of forward planning will be required!!!

Taiwan Launches a Guide Dog School

Taiwan Headlines, *Taiwan*, Monday, October 23, 2006

Taiwan begins training seeing eye dogs on its own

While there are 50,000 visually impaired people on Taiwan, the island is home to only 18 seeing eye dogs. This indicates a serious shortage of seeing eye dogs in Taiwan. The Huikuang Guide Dog Foundation, located in Taichung, has been working on training a group of people to train seeing eye dogs. The first group of locally trained seeing eye dogs graduated from training this year, indicating that efforts of the past 10 years to enable locals to train such dogs are starting to pay off.

Ko Ming-chi, the chairman of the Huikuang Guide Dog Foundation and the first person in Taiwan to employ a seeing eye dog, said that Taiwan introduced seeing eye dogs about 10 years ago. It has taken quite a while, however, to educate society about the use of such canines and achieve acceptance. Ko said that many people have certain set impressions about dogs. He said that one of the biggest problems people with seeing eye dogs face is that the animals are not allowed into restaurants or on public transportation. Ko lamented that even though laws have been amended to allow such, just recently someone trying to board a train at the Miaoli train station was prevented entry on the train due to having a seeing eye dog. He said the reason is that seeing eye dogs, while allowed to be on board non-express local trains, are not allowed to be on the Tsu-Chiang Class Express Train. Ko shook his head, saying that it is unbelievable how the rules can be structured like this.

In addition to having to change society's perception of such animals, at the most basic level, Taiwan is simply short of seeing eye dogs. According to standards of the International Guide Dog Federation, there should be a ratio of one to one hundred in the number of seeing eye dogs to visually impaired people. Based on the number of legally blind people on Taiwan, the island should have at least 500 seeing eye dogs. At present, however, this number stands at only 18. The main reason for this is that Taiwan has traditionally relied on importing seeing eye dogs from other countries.

Ko said that in localizing the training of seeing eye dogs, the first thing that needs to be accomplished is to train a group of people to train the animals. Taiwan, however, to this point has lacked a significant number of trainers, meaning that the process to train the dogs has also been painstakingly slow. Despite all of these problems, in April of this year a Labrador gave birth to eight pups, which were sent to foster families where they could get accustomed to interacting with humans. At an early age, the dogs then began to undergo training. It is expected that in the coming three years, this will provide Taiwan with another eight seeing eye dogs. After 2010, the number of seeing eye dogs on Taiwan is expected to increase by 16 dogs annually.

Ko and a guide dog trainer, Chen Ya-fang, both said that training dogs locally will significantly reduce the costs of

preparing a dog to go into service. Importing a seeing eye dog from overseas costs between NT\$500,000 and NT\$1 million. However, the costs associated with training a dog locally will be much less at between NT\$250,000 and NT\$350,000. In addition, training dogs on Taiwan from the time they are young will enable them to be more accustomed to the local environment, which will reduce the time needed for an imported guide dog to adapt to the setting here.

Another problem facing users of guide dogs on Taiwan is that quite commonly the English comprehension ability of the dogs is better than that of the master. Imported dogs have been trained in English and respond to English commands, which means there is a language barrier once the dogs get to Taiwan. In the future, locally trained dogs can be trained in either Mandarin or Taiwanese, enabling the dog to respond to commands in local languages.

While progress is being made in the localization of training of seeing eye dogs, Ko admitted, however, that the foundation is desperately in need of donations from the public. He said that the costs of training a dog are significant and he hopes that society is able to provide assistance in helping the organization. The phone number of the Huikuang Guide Dog Foundation is (02) 2998-5588. The website of the organization is:

<<http://www.guidedog.org.tw/>><http://www.guidedog.org.tw/>

Source: Liberty Times (2006/10/23 11:59:49)

Newsflash for Members! Credit Card Renewals Now Possible!

Good news. We have been frequently asked if member dues can be paid by credit card. We investigated the options and for your convenience, it is now possible to enroll or renew membership in IAADP "online" at www.iaadp.org using a credit card. We chose Pay Pal as our secure server because of its outstanding reputation and track record worldwide. Your credit card number will never be seen by IAADP or other non-profits or merchants if the payment is processed by Pay Pal. It is not necessary to have a Pay Pal account to be able to use your credit card on IAADP's website.

Those who prefer to continue to pay by check or money order are welcome to print out the Application on the website and mail it to Tanya Eversole, our new membership coordinator and database manager, at her Cincinnati address.

The Things People Say!

Hello Marion,
Why don't we put together a collection from everyone of funny things people say?

My favorite story is the one that happened at my granddaughter's school. I arrived at the gate as school was getting out so that I could meet my granddaughter and walk her home. The monitor at the gate said that I couldn't come on to school grounds with my dog. I explained that she was a guide dog and that she could go everywhere that I went. She said the dog would be allowed in but only after all the children left school grounds. I said that was not acceptable because I had to meet my granddaughter. Again, I explained that my dog was a guide dog and she was great with kids and that I didn't have to wait until the kids left school grounds. She asked me where I was going and I explained that I was going to the cafeteria. She protested and said I would have to walk in front of the school where all the kids were waiting for the bus. Again, I explained my dog was a guide dog and she was fine with the kids. OK, to sum up I had mentioned that Orsa was a guide dog about four times by now. So what did the monitor say next? She was quite indignant and she said "Well, why didn't you just drive to the other side of the school?" No kidding. At this point I was laughing, but I just walked past her and on to meet my granddaughter.

Ah, but the story isn't over yet. I went to enter the cafeteria and the bus monitor stopped me to tell me I couldn't take the dog into the school. Oh here we go again. I explained she was a guide dog but I didn't wait this time, I just went into the school. I asked the person at the desk if I could please pick up my granddaughter Lindsay. Yes, I could, but I shouldn't have a dog in the school, what if someone was allergic. I said that if someone was allergic they could just stand away from my dog but that she went where ever I went.

With so much upset, I decided to write a letter to the principal. I explained this story and asked him to inform his staff that guide dogs had access to the school and that I hoped I wouldn't be harassed in the future. I explained that I had never experienced so much opposition by people who really should have known better. He called me to tell me the staff had all been given a memo and I shouldn't have any problems.

So who was the gate monitor who was so clueless as to guide dog access laws? She was the Assistant Principal!!! Heaven help us.

JODY

* Email post reprinted with the kind permission of the author

ADA Title III Enforcement

Editor's Note: The U.S. Department of Justice publishes periodic reports on the website www.ada.gov on its Enforcement of Title I, II and III of the ADA. It cites violations of the Americans With Disabilities Act and how each case was settled, whether by litigation, a formal settlement, an informal settlement or by mediation. Title III covers businesses and other places of public accommodation. The following Title III cases are from the first quarter of 2006. I'm only publishing those involving service animals. I also will include information on how to file a complaint. It is now possible to do so by email.

Formal Settlements

- McDonald's Restaurant, Huntsville, Alabama – The Department reached an agreement with Johnson Enterprises, LLC, the owner of a McDonald's Restaurant in Huntsville, Alabama, resolving a complaint by an individual alleging that he was refused service because he was accompanied by his service animal. The owner agreed to provide its employees with a written copy of its service animal policy, place a "service animals welcome" sign in its restaurant, provide training to its employees on the ADA and its service animal policy, and pay the complainant \$250 in damages.

- City Cab Company, Crestview, Florida – The Department signed an agreement with City Cab resolving a complaint alleging that the taxi provider denied services to a blind passenger because the passenger was accompanied by a service animal. City Cab agreed to adopt a policy requiring all drivers to transport individuals accompanied by service animals and to provide the complainant with complimentary taxi services for a period of one year.

Informal Settlements

- An individual who uses a service animal complained that a Florida sports bar refused to allow him into the facility with his service animal. The bar owner agreed to post a service animal policy and to confirm publicly that persons accompanied by service animals are welcome at the sports bar.

- An individual who uses a service animal complained that an Alabama grocery store refused to serve her while accompanied by her service dog. The grocery store, part of a regional grocery store chain, agreed to train its employees on the requirements of the ADA. In addition, the facility agreed to return photographs of the complainant with her service animal taken by store employees.

- Southern District of New York – An individual with a disability who uses a service animal complained that she was denied access to the subway when a transit authority officer required her to produce written certification that her animal was a service animal. The transit authority has revised its policy to accept credible verbal assurances,

continued on page 12...

ADA Title III Enforcement

Continued from page 11

including an oral description of tasks that the animal performs, to verify that the animal is a service animal.

Mediation

• In California, a woman with a mobility disability complained that staff at a restaurant requested documentation for her service animal and treated her rudely. The restaurant reaffirmed its ongoing commitment to provide access to service animal users, agreed to train its employees on this policy, and to compensate the complainant with \$750 and an additional \$100 in gift certificates.

How To File an ADA Complaint

It is not difficult to file an ADA complaint if you have an access problem or encounter harassment or discriminatory treatment from a Title III covered entity such as a mall, restaurant, taxi cab company or some other place of public accommodation. While I hope you never need this information, it may be helpful to have it here to refer to someday.

Remember that all mail sent through the post office to the U.S. Department of Justice has to go through "security screening." It can take several months for a letter to reach a government agency. Therefore, the Disability Rights section at the DOJ has recently set up a new email address for complaints so the staff will be able to act on them in a much more timely fashion.

ada.complaint@usdoj.gov

I'm told you can write a couple paragraphs about the incident and send it in by email. Alternatively, you can use the Title II complaint form at www.ada.gov as a guide, crossing out the II and labeling it Title III.

You should include the following information: Your name,

address, phone number, email address if available; the date and location where the incident took place; the name of the business, non-profit or other entity involved; the names and position(s) of the persons who were discriminating if known; your disability and if it involves a service animal, what tasks the animal performs [e.g. how does your service animal assist you?] The Title II form asks if you have filed a complaint with any other agency or plan to file a civil lawsuit, so make a note of it if relevant.

It is possible to file an ADA complaint by phone or fax. You can call the ADA Information Line to obtain information on how to do this. Just dial (800) 514-0301 [voice] or (800) 514-0383 [TTY]. At www.ada.gov it says that ADA specialists are available on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday from 9:30 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. and on Thursday from 12:30 p.m. until 5:30 p.m. (Eastern Time). Foreign language service is also available. In addition, the ADA specialists can provide general ADA information and answer technical questions.

Complaints about violations of title I (employment) by units of state and local government or by private employers should be filed with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. Call 800-669-4000 [voice] or 800-669-6820 [TTY] to reach the field office in your area.

To mail in a complaint about violations of Title II by units of state and local government or violations of title III by public accommodations and commercial facilities, use the following address:

U.S. Department of Justice
Civil Rights Division
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Disability Rights Section - NYAV
Washington, D.C. 20530

If you wish your complaint to be considered for referral to the Department's ADA Mediation Program, please mark "Attention: Mediation" on the outside of the envelope.

VCP Thank You Letter

Dear VCP:

My Collie service dog Sean and I recently benefited from the VCP Fund.

Sean has been my service dog since September of 2005. He greatly improved my life, giving me the freedom to go places and do things that I never thought would be possible. He will get the cordless phone, a beverage and pick up things I drop and carry things for me. Even more important, he finds help when my heart goes out of arrhythmia or if no one is home, he can use his special phone to call 911 for help! I used to have to use a wheelchair most of the time because I fall so much due to cerebral palsy and my shunt problems. Now with Sean's special harness and his training to provide balance support when I walk, I can sometimes go off shopping by myself instead of needing my dad to push me in my wheelchair. I still have to use the wheelchair on days when weak and short of breath due to my heart or when injured from a fall. But since getting Sean that hasn't been as often, as he prevents most falls! If I do fall



in public or at home, he's right there to help me to get back up. He gives me self reliance.

Earlier in the year, Sean became very sick with a bladder infection, two different kinds of crystals in his urine, hair loss, excessive thirst, bloating, vomiting and other symptoms. The first medication and prescription diet we tried was not working and Sean was having accidents so he could not work as a service dog out in public anymore. The vet said he wanted to do more lab tests on Sean to find out what was wrong so he could prescribe the right kind of treatment, but the tests would be very expensive. He also told me that he would have to see Sean for follow up testing over a period of months to monitor and adjust his medications. I was beside myself. I wanted to help Sean but I didn't know how I could begin to pay for it all. Then a friend told me that IAADP might be able to help us through its Veterinary Care Partnership fund. Whew! My vet applied and a grant was approved, enabling Sean to have the tests and treatment he needed.

It has taken several months to figure it all out and fix him up. I'm very thankful for the help you gave to the VCP grant fund as without that, Sean might not have been able to continue to work as a service dog and my best friend!

You are very special people to help IAADP have this very special fund. I only hope that this fund will be there to help others in the future because I know what it meant to me to be able get Sean better. You all are very caring to relieve the pressure and worry about how to pay for treatment so a person can just focus on taking care of their partner when he is so sick. You gave us a special gift in a time of need and I don't think words can say thank you enough even if spoken every minute of everyday!

I think if Sean could talk he would say thank you all very much! I feel much better...now can you pass a cookie? :)

Although he will have to stay on a prescription diet for the rest of his life and medicine, he's feeling much better. His coat has grown back in. The bloating is gone. The vomiting and accidents have stopped. He is very happy that we can now go out in public together.

I hope you know that this fund saves lives and allows the service animals and people to continue to work and love each other as a team and you are now a part of my team. I wanted you know that I'm grateful and really glad to report that he's now well and happy. Attached is a picture of me and Sean working as a team. It is thanks to your help that we can still be a team.

Thank you very much,
Stacie Thornburgh and service dog Sean

IAADP Writing Competition

Offering Annual \$50 Prize in each of 3 categories:

Best Article

Best Opinion Piece

Best Short Story or Anecdote

Entries accepted year round. Unpublished and published material welcome. Photo may accompany article, but not required.

Praise for an Unknown Guide Dog

By Karen Hazelrigg

I was driving into the city yesterday and saw an amazing sight.

Traffic was worse than expected – I figured the shoppers were out in force and then remembered the Rolling Stones were in town. Major roadwork that had been going on for months has escalated recently, and the traffic flow is rearranged on a daily basis. The weather was foul, but the sidewalks were crowded with pedestrians.

I was stopped at a traffic light at an intersection of six lanes of traffic. The amount of time allowed for pedestrians to cross is limited and takes two lights to accomplish. There is an island dividing the lanes of traffic so pedestrians have a safe place to wait and allows pedestrians to cross in either direction. This usually works well, but the roadwork has disrupted the configuration of the island. It no longer has curbs and all the usual landmarks are gone.

The light was about to change in my favor and the pedestrians were already on the move when I realized a man and his guide dog were crossing against the light! For a split second I thought it must be a training exercise, but quickly decided that wasn't the case. Neither were in immediate danger, but the cars in the outside lane turning right were moving pretty quickly and man and dog were heading in that direction!

Horns started honking from both sides of the intersection as I watched in horror. Then I noticed a pedestrian stop and call out to the man. Using his voice, he guided the man back to safety and man and guide dog safely crossed with the light. (Special thanks to the unsung pedestrian!)

In reality, the pair got no farther than a half car width into the intersection. I'm sure the dog would have stopped in plenty of time to keep his human safe. He seemed to have everything under control!

What struck me during all of this was the composure and focus of the guide dog. He did as his owner requested, seeing no danger in the command to move forward when no cars were moving. He wasn't distracted by many horns honking several feet away. He had a job to do and he was doing it, no matter what! When the man abruptly changed directions, the dog didn't hesitate. Still no danger to his human, so he followed instructions.

So, to the small Yellow Lab who maintained his focus while the humans around him were losing theirs, I want to shout your praise from the rooftops! I don't know your name, but you are a hero!!! I hope I never forget the look of concentration on your face, the confidence of your walk or the evident pride you felt in your job. I feel blessed having seen you in action.

New Ambulance Policy for Service Animals

November 13, 2006

IAADP c/o Tanya Eversole
PO Box 531086
Cincinnati, OH 45253

Dear Ms. Eversole,

In July, 2006, I required transportation via rescue squad to the hospital for an unusual G.I. condition that can mimic cardiac symptoms. Upon arrival members of the Albemarle County Rescue Squad refused to transport my service dog, Journey, with me. I tried to show them the federal and state laws allowing Journey access to be with me to no avail. I was even told that I leave the dog or don't go myself. Journey had to stay behind.

Days after the incident I wrote a letter to the Albemarle County Rescue Squad where Chief Lair D. Haugh responded. He searched all of Virginia for a policy regarding

the transportation of service animals on rescue vehicles. Finding none, he began searching other states. He finally found a policy in Pennsylvania. Adopting and adapting, Albemarle County now has the first Service Dog Transportation Policy in the state of Virginia.

Chief Haugh further posted the policy on the state's website to inform other rescue squads of the need for this service policy. I found that once made aware of the federal and state guidelines for service dog access, Chief Haugh was more than willing to find and adopt a policy to accommodate the team and protect the squad.

Journey and I couldn't have asked for a better resolution.

Sincerely,
Karen Lee Allen,
IAADP Member

CHARLOTTESVILLE ALBEMARLE RESCUE SQUAD Standard Operating Guideline for Transport of Service Animals

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance to EMS personnel who encounter individuals who are assisted by service animals, including guide dogs for the visually impaired and other types of service animals.

However, because of the nature of the services we provide it can sometimes be difficult to accommodate a patient and a service animal in an ambulance. EMS personnel should be guided by this policy in determining whether service animals should be transported with the individual in the ambulance or wheelchair van, or whether alternate methods of transporting the service animal should be utilized.

SCOPE

Any call involving a patient with service animals.

PROCEDURE

A. All Patients with Service Animals:

1. Service animals, for example, guide dogs utilized by visually impaired persons, shall be permitted to accompany the patient in the ambulance unless the presence of the service animal will disrupt emergency or urgent patient care or there is some basis for the crew members to believe that the safety of the crew, the patient or others would be compromised by the presence of the service animal in the ambulance.
2. EMS personnel should assess the level of care required to provide competent medical attention to the patient.
3. When the presence of a service animal in the ambulance might interfere with patient care, jeopardize the safety of the crew, the patient or others, or cause damage to the ambulance or equipment, personnel should make other arrangements for simultaneous transport of the service

animal to the receiving facility. Unless emergency conditions dictate otherwise, absolutely every effort must be made to reunite the patient with the service animal at the time of the patient's arrival at the hospital or other destination.

4. Acceptable alternative methods of transporting a service animal to the receiving facility include, but are not necessarily limited to, family members, friends or neighbors of the patient, or a law enforcement official. Attempt to obtain and document the consent of the patient for transport of the service animal by such person. If no such individuals are available, contact the service base or PSAP and request that additional manpower respond to transport the service animal.
5. Personnel should document on the patient care report instances where the patient utilizes a service animal, and should document on the patient care report whether or not the service animal was transported with the patient. If the service animal is not transported with the patient, a separate incident report should be maintained describing the reasons that the service animal was not transported with the patient.

IAADP WEBSITE
www.iaadp.org

Sting Operation - Department of Justice

D.C. Property Owner, Managing Agent Agree to Pay \$45,000 as Part of Settlement of Justice Department Housing Discrimination Lawsuit

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Justice Department today announced a settlement agreement with the owner and managing agent of the Sulgrave Manor Apartments in Washington, D.C., resolving a lawsuit filed by the Justice Department alleging discrimination against persons with disabilities. According to the complaint, which was filed in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, the defendants refused to rent an apartment to a visually-impaired man who used a guide dog.

“Persons who use service animals should not be refused an equal opportunity to find housing. Landlords must understand that they have a responsibility to make reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities,” said Wan J. Kim, Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division. “The federal government is vigilant about preventing discrimination against people with disabilities.”

The Department conducted its investigation through the use of fair-housing testers—individuals who pose as renters for purposes of gathering information about possible discriminatory practices in the rental of apartments.

Under the agreement, the defendants will pay \$25,000 to

compensate victims of discrimination at Sulgrave Manor, pay a \$20,000 civil penalty to the United States government, establish and follow nondiscriminatory tenancy procedures, and undergo fair housing training. The agreement remains subject to court approval.

Through the President’s New Freedom Initiative, the Civil Rights Division is committed to providing greater access for Americans with disabilities. Since January 2001, the Division has filed 193 Fair Housing Act cases, including 93 based on disability.

Individuals who believe that they may have been the victim of housing discrimination at the Sulgrave Manor Apartments should call the Justice Department’s Housing and Civil Enforcement Section at 1-800-896-7743. Anyone wishing to report other unlawful housing discrimination should also contact the Department of Justice or the Department of Housing and Urban Development at 1-800-669-9777. More information about reasonable accommodations under the Fair Housing Act is available at http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/housing/joint_statement_ra.htm.

Service Dog for Narcolepsy & Cataplexy

Tuesday, September 26, 2006

Pirates will honor Oil City man ‘Fan of Day’ at tonight’s game

By Leigh Protivnak, The Derrick.com

An Oil City man has been selected for a special honor during tonight’s Pittsburgh Pirates game against the Houston Astros.

Jacob Manning, 28, was named “Fan of the Day” by the Pirates and will change a base after the second inning of the game. He was chosen for the designation after an article featuring him and his dog, Harley, appeared in an Erie newspaper.

Harley will accompany Manning onto the field.

Actually, the 2-year-old yellow lab never leaves Manning’s side. Harley was placed with Manning in January through Paws With A Cause®, a national non-profit agency that trains assistance dogs for people with disabilities. Harley helps Manning cope with a severe case of narcolepsy and cataplexy.

Manning suffered a head injury as an enlisted Army soldier that caused his narcolepsy (a debilitating sleep disorder characterized by excessive daytime sleepiness) and cata-

plexy (a symptom of narcolepsy that results in a loss of muscle tone).

Harley has been trained to sense Manning’s attacks and warn him before they happen, and Harley wakes Manning when the attacks cause him to fall asleep. If Harley can’t wake Manning, he will get help from the closest person available.

“I have a lot more freedom now,” Manning said.

Manning was chosen as Fan of the Day for his involvement with Paws With A Cause, his volunteer work educating people about sleep disorders, and his service to the country through the Army.

“It’s an honor to be picked. It touches my heart that they want to say thank you...and it shows a person can succeed even with a disability. You don’t have to be down and out all the time,” he said.

continued on page 16...

Service Dog for Narcolepsy & Cataplexy

Continued from page 15

Although Manning grew up in Michigan, he is a huge baseball fan and his 8-year-old son, Mason, is a Pirates fanatic.

"He's so proud, he's told all his friends at school his dad's the fan of the day," Manning said.

Manning's wife, Charity, will also attend the game.

In addition to being the first service dog for narcolepsy, Harley is the first Paws With A Cause graduate paid for by Veterans Affairs, Manning said. Harley was trained in Michigan by the Milne family, which provided Manning with a scrapbook of Harley's training and photos of him as a puppy. Manning intends to send the family a photo of Harley helping out at the baseball game.

"He represents a lot of people and we're honored to be ambassadors for all of them," Manning said.

Manning and Harley will also participate in the second annual Laps for Learning fund-raiser for Paws With A Cause on October 14 at the Mall at Robinson in Pittsburgh.

Proceeds from the fund-raiser will help support the PAWS Community Education Fund, which educates the public on the need for assistance dogs and raises awareness of the legal rights of their partners.

They have already received sponsorships from State Senator Mary Jo White, State Representative Scott Hutchinson, Dr. Charles Romero, many neighbors and several local businesses.

Anyone else wishing to donate may contact Manning at 9 Warren St., Oil City, 16301.

Reprinted with permission

Addresses for Where Do I Send It?

How To Reach Us By E-mail

eames@iaadp.org	IAADP President, Ed Eames, Ph. D.
carol@iaadp.org	IAADP Vice President, Carol King
toni@iaadp.org	IAADP Treasurer, Toni Eames
devon@iaadp.org	IAADP Secretary, Devon Wilkins, Canada
joan@iaadp.org	IAADP Chairperson, Editor, Joan Froling
jill@iaadp.org	IAADP Board Member, Jill Exposito
lynn@iaadp.org	IAADP Board Member, Lynn Houston
tanya@iaadp.org	IAADP Board Member, Tanya Eversole
wendy@iaadp.org	IAADP Board Member, Wendy Morrell
database@iaadp.org	Changes of Address; membership Questions
editor@iaadp.org	Articles, poems, photos for newsletter, website

New Address & Phone Number for Renewals, Other Membership Matters

IAADP c/o Tanya Eversole
P.O. Box 531086, Cincinnati OH 45253
Phone: 513-245-2199

Membership Information

Membership Dues: \$20 - Partner Member, \$20 - Renewal; \$20 - Friend Member; \$25 - Provider Member. Send check with signed application from website at <http://www.iaadp.org/membership.html> to IAADP c/o IAADP c/o Tanya Eversole, P.O. Box 531086, Cincinnati, Ohio 45253. You may also obtain a Membership Application with S.A.S.E., by fax (\$1.00 extra), or send a letter with your signature attesting you're partnered with an assistance dog. Specify Print, Cassette, Disk.

Renewal Date: All members should check their membership expiration date, which now appears on the mailing label of the most recent copy of *Partners Forum*. Partner Members will also find their expiration date on their Membership Card. Renewal notices may or may not be sent out, so members should be careful to renew their memberships 45-60 days in advance of the expiration date to maintain coverage for benefits.

Questions? Contact our Information & Advocacy Center
Call (760) 439-9544 or e-mail IAADP@aol.com or the IAADP website: www.iaadp.org. You can also contact us by mail at IAADP, P.O. Box 1326, Sterling Heights, MI 48311.

International Association of Assistance Dog Partners

% Tanya Eversole
P.O. Box 531086
Cincinnati, OH 45253

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Grand Rapids, MI
Permit No. 1

Return Service Requested