

Partners Forum

International Association of Assistance Dog Partners

VOLUME FOURTEEN • NUMBER ONE

THIRD QUARTER

IAADP Conference Coming to London!

By Wendy Morrell

I am delighted to be able to share with readers that the first IAADP annual conference to be held outside North America will be held in the U.K. in June 2008. The conference will be held in London alongside the IGDF (International Guide Dog Federation) and ADI (Assistance Dogs International) conferences.

It is the first time such conferences have been held in the U.K. and I know that all the organisers are really excited about it. I certainly am. To my knowledge it is the first conference specifically for assistance dog partnerships ever to be held in Europe.

2008 has been designated the Year of the Assistance Dog in the U.K., so it is fitting that we shall be welcoming many visitors with their assistance dogs and those who work in the assistance dog field too.

I truly believe by holding the annual conference in London, IAADP is setting a seal to their commitment to become a truly international organisation. The location will

allow many British and European partnerships to attend the conference for the first time, and I am really looking forward to welcoming North American partnerships on this side of the pond for a change!

If you intend coming to conference with your assistance dog there is no time to lose. You will need to get your dog PETS compliant six months in advance. With the conference due the third week in June, this basically means you need to be compliant before Christmas. No time to waste!

I am writing this just days after having returned from spending just over three

weeks in North America with Caesar my assistance dog and my friend Karen who helps as my P.A. The primary purpose of our trip was to attend the half yearly IAADP Board Meeting; but of course we managed to take some time out for sightseeing too. We flew direct from London to Chicago and spent a week there, a beautiful thriving city, perfect for tourism; however, although we had booked a hotel with a grassy area across the street, on the whole we were saddened by not finding anywhere in the city where we could safely let Caesar off the lead to have a free run. Even the dog beaches demand you hold a city permit to allow your dog off the lead there! Things were a little easier when we flew over to the metro Detroit area for the Board Meeting, and then we spent another week in upstate Michigan, but again the leash laws are, to us, quite restric-

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Thank You to
Fort Dodge
Animal Health
for sponsoring this
issue

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Editor: Joan Froling
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Gadget, a Bouvier service dog, demos an innovative way to enable a dog to differentiate between similar looking objects or find a lost object if told to retrieve an item. For details on how Gadget learned this scent retrieval skill, see article on page 12.

IAADP Conference Coming to London

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tive. After three weeks we flew back from Detroit to London. It's nice to be home and be able to safely free run Caesar several times a day within yards of our home.

We were looked after extremely well on both transatlantic flights from British Airways. Caesar made new friends every step of the way, charming all whom he met! At the moment, I believe it is possible to cross the Atlantic with an ADI / IGDF trained assistance dog with British Airways, Virgin Atlantic Airways and Continental Airlines; although I gather things may well change soon and the American carriers will start to allow assistance dogs in the cabin on transatlantic flights too. I have travelled with BA and Virgin and it is necessary according to the British flight guidelines for the dog to wear a harness and for this to be attached to the passengers seatbelt at times when the seatbelt sign is lit. Although this may sound onerous, it is not at all, and just as we belt ourselves in for safety, it's not a bad idea to belt our precious assistance dogs in too.

Although we are barely home from our trip to U.S.A. I am already thinking ahead to next month when I shall be travelling with Caesar to Bad Nauheim, just outside Frankfurt, Germany for the annual conference of Assistance Dogs Europe. I'm on the program to take part in a presentation on access provision across Europe, and will be taking the opportunity, along with two of our other Board Members, Tanya Eversole and Carol King to publicise our organisation to the program representatives who attend the conference. Hopefully, they will take news of our organisation and also of the 2008 IAADP conference and pass it on to their partnerships.

Just before our trip to the U.S.A. I had the pleasure of being asked to speak at a meeting of partnerships from the organisation Support Dogs up in Sheffield in the North of England. It was great to be able to meet so many partnerships in one place and talk about our common problems and aims, and I am delighted some of their partnerships are now IAADP members.

I was also involved in a whistlestop tour with IGDF / ADI board members to visit the various locations that made the short list as conference venues. It was an exhausting, non stop couple of days, which saw us not only in England but Scotland too, visiting a number of hotels and conference venues. I truly believe we have ended up with the best venue that we visited, both from the practical point of view of the human guests but also from the view of the canine ones too.

I really hope we shall see you in our part of the world next summer. . . meantime, I shall be continuing to work on behalf of all our British and European members.

Remember: London, June 2008 !! (Be prepared by Christmas 2007).

See you there!!

Hope You Will Support IAADP!

Donate by Shopping Through

<http://www.IGIVE.com/IAADP>

Come Join Us in London!

Scholarships Available for Assistance Dog Partner Members for 2008 IAADP / ADI Conferences

IAADP is looking for the future leaders of the assistance dog movement. For the first time since its founding in 1992, the annual conference will be held outside North America. This is part of our commitment to making the organization truly international in scope and purpose. By generously underwriting three scholarships, up to \$1,000 each, Fort Dodge Animal Health is helping IAADP achieve this goal. The scholarships will help defer the costs of travel, hotel, meals and registration for the IAADP and Assistance Dogs International conferences taking place between June 23 and 25, 2008 at the Renaissance Hotel, Heathrow Airport, United Kingdom.

Scholarship grants will be awarded at the conference.

Please provide the following background information:

1. Name
2. Address
3. Telephone
4. Name and breed of assistance dog
5. Type of assistance dog (guide, hearing or service)
6. IAADP Partner Member number

Travel Information:

1. For members not residing in the United Kingdom, you must have a current Passport or other valid travel documents required by the British Government.
2. If you plan to travel with your assistance dog, he/she must be PETS compliant (see explanation elsewhere in this issue)
3. Applications are also welcome from Partner Members choosing not to travel with their assistance dogs.

Please give us your thoughts on the following four questions: (No more than 500 words per question)

1. What has been your involvement with the assistance dog movement?
2. What do you hope to get out of attending the conferences?
3. What do you see as the major issues confronting the assistance dog movement on the international front?
4. What role do you see yourself playing in addressing these issues?

Please e-mail your completed application to Ed and Toni Eames at eeames@csufresno.edu. They can be faxed at 559-224-5851 or mailed to 3376 North Wishon Ave., Fresno, CA 93704. Applications must be received by December 1 2007. Successful applicants will be notified by January 1, 2008.

NOTE: What is a PETS-compliant service animal?

A service animal is PETS-compliant when the passenger can demonstrate that the animal meets the U.K.'s animal health requirements for entry into the U.K. (i.e., it has an embedded microchip ID, it has had a rabies vaccination, a rabies anti-bodies blood test no earlier than 6 months prior to the animal's entry into the U.K., and treatment against certain parasites), and possesses either a European Union (EU) pet passport or a third country official veterinary certificate documenting that these health requirements have been met. Under PETS, only dogs, cats and ferrets that meet these requirements may be transported into the U.K. from outside the EU without a 6-month quarantine upon arrival.

Aviation Enforcement Office - July 17, 2007

<http://airconsumer.ost.dot.gov/rules/guidance.htm>

The Best Bit of Kit This Year!

As a dog owner, I am sure like me you are always on the lookout for new kit. Until recently, I carried my dogs kibble when travelling in the bag it came in. This often left me with bits of kibble and crumbs in my clothes and at the bottom of my bag and wasn't ideal.

At the IAADP conference in Baltimore earlier this year, like many delegates, I was given a Planet Dog "Weekender Feed Bag." Quite different to anything I had seen before, I was keen to try it out. It's so good, it has been in constant use when we travel ever since! It holds approximately thirty cups of food and is machine washable. No more random bits of kibble coming out of my holdall when I get my clothes out and no more crumbs at the bottom either! Great!

I'd really like to thank Planet Dog for kindly donating, what for me, has become the best bit of kit this year!

Wendy Morrell

What qualifies for your "Best Bit of Kit this Year"?

Do write and let the Editor know about it and maybe it will be included in a future edition!

Education is the Answer

By Herma Snider, PAWS® Client

It has been about six years since Jedi arrived in my life. She has been a helpmate, a companion and a dear friend. She listens for sounds I cannot hear, allowing me security at night because I know she will respond to the smoke alarm.

We have traveled all over the country together, on planes, trains and in automobiles. If there is anything Jedi loves, it is traveling. She wags with anticipation when we leave the house, and could spend her life in the car, happy at the prospect of seeing new places and new faces.

If she has a fault, it is her sociability. Jedi is a wagger. She has never met anyone she doesn't like, and people respond to her friendliness. In a grocery store or a department store, this can be a problem, as customers approach this friendly little dog. A short leash and a few courteous admonitions to people just wanting to pet her have helped somewhat, but Jedi is still inclined to wag her way through life.

Throughout my years with Jedi, I have found most people to be delighted with the entrance of an Assistance Dog into a store or restaurant. We have been greeted with smiles and kind attention, shown to our seats and given the best of service. However, once in a while, we have encountered hostility from managers and owners that do not want dogs in their facilities, nor do they understand that Hearing Dogs are a part of the huge army of Service Animals. Deafness is a condition that is not visible. It is not a condition you can see with the naked eye. To a store manager, a person who is deaf or hearing impaired looks just like any other customer. . .and he is certain that you are just trying to bring your pet into his establishment.

I carry Jedi's certification card, which has the state and federal laws printed on its back. I also carry a book that has listed the laws in every state and I have found that Canadian laws are similar to American legalities, as are the laws in many countries in the world. This doesn't penetrate the minds some of the hostile people. They either don't read it, or they ignore what is printed. Dogs, they say, are not allowed in restaurants or stores. One lady complained to me that Jedi's wagging tail might sweep the merchandise from the shelves. Even after I explained that I watch Jedi closely to keep her away from merchandise, she was dubious. Then, too, there are the very angry people. They belligerently claim that "no dog will come in my place," and sometimes they are a bit flushed and very upset.

One also encounters diverse cultures where the use of dogs as assistants are not appreciated or understood, in fact they are sometimes feared. One time, in a Florida buffet restaurant, my waitress screeched and ran from the room in fear. The entire time I was there she peeked from the kitchen doorway at Jedi. The establishment's manager politely provided me with service, but I can assure you, it was a very quick meal. This animosity toward dogs was a new experience for me. I had never entered a restaurant or a

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Education is the Answer

Continued from page 3

store with a dog before and I automatically assumed that Assistance Dogs would be welcomed everywhere. So I was not prepared for the negative reaction I found in some people.

At first, I would get angry and reply with frustration and resentment. I showed them Jedi's credentials and repeated my rights as an American citizen and Jedi's rights as a genuine Assistance Dog. I have to admit that part of my resentment was aimed at the hearing world, that world of people who can converse with no problems, sleep well because they can hear the smoke alarm, and chat on the phone with no effort. Then, as time went by, I began to realize that anger was not the remedy for the situation. Education had to be the answer for this problem. So, as I enter a new establishment, one I have never visited before, I stop at the desk or by the doorway and ask to speak to the proprietor. When he or she arrives, I introduce myself and Jedi, present her credentials, explain the laws, and ask if they would help me in educating the public on the need for these wonderful dogs.

Strangely enough, this method works. When I explain to them that I am very hearing impaired; that I have slight hearing in one ear and have learned to read lips so that I can communicate with people, they begin to understand my problems. When I explain to them that PAWS is a large organization with helpful tentacles stretching throughout several states, helping people with disabilities by providing them with well-trained dogs, they accept the literature I carry. When I tell them that I travel with Jedi, that she goes with me everywhere because my life could depend upon this alert little creature, they usually smile at her cute little terrier face and welcome me inside.

It feels better this way, because I have finally understood that Jedi and I are in the front lines of a long educational struggle. The world has learned to accept a Service Dog at the side of a person in a wheelchair or using crutches. Now we have to teach them that all disabilities are not visible, that Hearing Dogs are as necessary as that marvelous animal sitting loyally beside a person with a physical disability. They must also understand that Hearing Dogs are not serene, complacent dogs; Jedi is a wagging live wire. She is alert to everything, day and night. She is always listening for that sound, that summons, that duty. In my mind, this explains (and hopefully excuses) the wagging, the friendliness, the nosy little face. Nothing escapes my Jedi. She is on duty, ready for life's next challenge.

So, Jedi and I move onward through life, both of us with our roles to play. As she watches over me, teaching me what loyalty and love can accomplish, I must watch over her and spread the word everywhere I go.

A hearing loss is a terrible hurdle to surmount in life, but dogs like Jedi can make that struggle a little easier, a little safer. If I can teach one person about the security of sleeping soundly at night, about the ability to answer a door, obey the alarm clock, or realize there may be a prowler around, I will have helped the cause. If I can make one person understand that Jedi is not just a dog, but two good, loving ears making my life easier and better, I will have taken one more step toward my goal.

**Reprinted with permission from Paws With A Cause
Dogs For Dignity Summer 2007*

New VCP Grant Application Rules

Veterinary Care Partnership (VCP) Program

IAADP has established an emergency veterinary fund to provide financial aid to United States IAADP Partner Members whose assistance dogs require **high cost veterinary intervention** beyond their ability to pay. This is a grant, not an insurance or entitlement program. **ONLY** the Veterinarian can initiate the request for a grant to Nutramax Laboratories, administrator of the program. **Members contacting Nutramax Laboratories directly will VOID their eligibility for a grant.**

The goal is to "Save a Partnership." Please realize our funds are very limited. **IAADP asks Assistance Dog Partner members to only apply for funding when conditions of severe financial hardship exist.**

The following guidelines have been developed and adopted by the IAADP Board of Directors to clarify the conditions under which grants will be made: (These changes will go into effect January 1, 2008)

1. You must be a United States IAADP Partner Member in good standing, currently partnered with an adult hearing, guide or service dog. Dogs under 18 months and retired dogs are not eligible.
2. Grants will only be considered if the assistance dog's health problem seriously interferes with the ability to work or has the potential of shortening the dog's working life if left untreated. The proposed treatment should have a high probability of restoring the canine assistant to an active working life.
3. VCP funds will be a capped amount available to members on a calendar year basis from January 1 to December 31.
4. Preexisting conditions are not covered.
5. Routine expenses such as annual exams, vaccinations, flea prevention, heartworm products or routine tests **WILL NOT** be considered for a grant. (Note: Some of these items are included as general member benefits and have separate application procedures).
6. Member must be experiencing a severe financial hardship at the time of the grant request. Remember that the intent is to maintain a partnership threatened by high cost veterinary intervention.
7. Evidence of routine veterinary care during the previous twelve months may be requested to be eligible for grant consideration.
8. **ONLY the Veterinarian can initiate the request for a grant.** Members contacting Nutramax Laboratories directly will VOID their eligibility for a grant.
9. Pre-authorization is required. Exceptions will be evaluated for documented after hour's emergency cases submitted to Nutramax Laboratories on the next business day following such emergency treatment.
10. A minimum of \$200 per grant request, covering no more than one office visit, is required for a grant to be

considered. The IAADP Partner Member is responsible for the first \$100 of expenses, thus the amount of \$100 will be deducted from any grant request, and i.e. for a \$500 grant request a check for \$400 will be issued.

11. If, as part of a diagnosis and treatment plan for the serious health condition affecting the dog's working ability, on-going medications are required, grant requests for the medications will be considered subject to these rules:
 - a. No more than one request per quarter
 - b. Each request must meet the minimum of \$200 per grant request covering no more than one office visit and subject to the \$100 deductible.
 - c. No more than a three month supply per medication can be included in the grant request.
12. As the Administrator of the VCP Program, Nutramax Laboratories has full discretion to approve or decline grants.
13. If any member is found to be abusing the VCP Program, he/she will be barred from any participation in the VCP Program and this abuse may affect membership status in IAADP.

Legacy Wanted

Have you thought about "Leaving a Legacy" to IAADP? If not, here are some things to consider:

1. Planned gifts become part of IAADP's permanent endowment and will ensure that IAADP will continue on for many years.
2. A gift through your will, estate plan or deferred gift will also help meet the needs of those members who have limited incomes.
3. You will also receive tax benefits. Heirs will not be taxed on a bequest.

Here are some ways you can ensure the healthy financial future of IAADP: bequest, wills, Life Insurance, Securities and Property. Your attorney or financial advisor will be able to help you select the gift plan that best suits your individual circumstance.

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.

Letter to the Editor

News for Travelers

August 21, 2007

Dear Joan:

Last summer I wrote to you about the Rest Areas in South Dakota which denied access to my service dog, Sean, and I. They had signs posted which said "No Dogs Allowed." Sean wore his harness with service dog logo patches and a certification card but they would not make an exception to their rule for him. I came across a couple other service dog teams while I was traveling who told me they had the same terrible experiences that I did because the staff at the Visitors Centers in the Rest Areas were ignorant of the ADA. You asked me to let IAADP know if anything came of the complaint I made.

I'm delighted to be able to share some good news with you and fellow IAADP members! It seems the State of South Dakota took my letter seriously. They just notified me in the email below what they have finally done to correct the problem. It is amazing what one letter can accomplish sometimes!

Yours truly,
Stacie Thornburgh

Stacie:

Posters on service animals and stating service animals are allowed in the rest areas have been posted in every rest area in South Dakota. Staff from the SD Dept. of Tourism & State Development who staff the Visitors Centers in the Rest Areas have been trained on what is a service animal and what isn't. I think if you would travel in South Dakota now and stop at any of our rest areas you would not have a problem. I regret you ran into the problem last summer.

If you have any other questions or concerns, please contact me.

Thank you again for bringing this matter to our attention.

June D. Hansen

Civil Rights Compliance Officer / ADA Coordinator
SD Department of Transportation

e-mail: june.hansen@state.sd.us

phone: 605-773-3540

cell: 605-280-5146

fax: 605-773-3921 or 605-773-2804

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Access Problem?

Contact: ADA Helpline at
800-514-0301

TTY: 800-514-0363

Email: ada.complaint@usdoj.gov

A Tail To Tell

By Toni and Ed Eames

For us, June is an exciting month full of many celebratory events! These included Toni's 63rd birthday, our 20th wedding anniversary and our annual thank you to volunteer drivers and readers and friends who enrich our lives. Thirty-three of us had lunch at a Chinese restaurant and attended a senior citizen cabaret centered on the music of Rogers and Hart and Rogers and Hammerstein.

June also saw the end of Ed's tenure as president of the North Fresno Lions Club. At an outdoor installation dinner held at a beautiful garden, Ed stepped down and Leonard Kessler assumed the role of president. Len, partnered with yellow Lab hearing dog Vana, is an IAADP member and volunteer driver for Ed. This generous service club has been a major supporter of the assistance dog movement. They not only contribute to IAADP's Veterinary Care Partnership fund, but also support Leader Dogs for the Blind, Canine Companions for Independence and the San Francisco SPCA Hearing Dog program. In addition, Lion Gwen Blomgren volunteers as IAADP's assistant treasurer.

Two weeks after the installation of new officers, a speaker was needed for the North Fresno Lions Club lunch meeting. Toni jumped into the void by doing a presentation about Braille. When Toni was 11 in 1955, it was a Bronx, New York, Lions Club which purchased her first Perkins Braille. With several cleanings and overhauls during the intervening 40 years, it is as good as new today. She brought it along to show Ed's fellow Lions what a dedicated group of people can mean to a youngster!

Ed is busily pursuing his Fresno-based career as advocate. In June he evaluated proposals to provide paratransit service in the city of Fresno and served as consumer representative on the committee to select a transportation company. He's also pushing hard to prevent the installation of traffic roundabouts. Ed also appeared on a local National Public Radio program called Quality of Life discussing county-wide public transportation issues. Beginning July 1, 2007 passengers over 65 were invited to ride the buses without charge. A more difficult program to get off the ground is a discounted taxi voucher system for county residents over 70.

With sponsorship from Fort Dodge Animal Health, we traveled to Washington, DC in July to attend the American Veterinary Medical Association annual meeting. Fellow IAADP board member and database manager Tanya Eversole with her black Lab service dog Brooke joined us and our Golden Retriever guide dogs Keebler and Latrell for the conference. The three of us were also able to meet with friends and supporters.

As totally habituated urbanites, a visit with friend Ann Strathern on her 27 acres in Maryland is a trip into exotic rural life. Deer, raccoons and ground hogs freely roam the property. The three dogs got in lots of running time. We even enticed Latrell to swim in the pond on the property. Keebler got her bottom wet but would not swim. She was much more intrigued with eating horse poop! Our furry kids get so little freedom, it was sad to find Latrell had cut his

paw and was on restricted movement for the rest of the visit. Tanya's decision to keep Brooke on leash while our dogs cavorted in the pond was a smart move!

Getting back to the business part of the trip, the three of us visited Nutramax Laboratories at their headquarters in Edgewood, Maryland. Following a publicity photo shoot, we met with Dr. Barbara Eves and her staff to discuss the VCP program (see accompanying article for newly developed guidelines). Later on we learned that one of the photos would be used as part of an exhibit at the New York State Fair in Syracuse in September.

Going on to the AVMA conference at the DC Convention Center, we spent hours prowling the exhibit hall making contacts for IAADP.

Back in the exhibit hall the next day, we headed to the Fort Dodge booth to sign and distribute our *Partners in Independence* book. Having Tanya with us made all the difference from previous book signings. Unable to see passersby, we miss opportunities to chat with people and offer them a book. Tanya provided the visual information we needed and the books were gone in an hour!

The afternoon excursion was to visit and get reacquainted with an attorney we met on an airplane in January while returning from the IAADP conference in Baltimore. Leaving the exhibit hall, there was no problem hailing a taxi, but the return trip was more problematic. The first taxi driver hailed refused to take us and drove off shouting, "No dogs!" Fortunately, the person hailing the taxi for us was an intern at the law firm and is planning to file a complaint against the driver with the DC Taxi Commission.

We had set aside Tuesday to attend the human animal bond sessions and it was time well spent. The theme of the sessions was quality of life and hearing many different perspectives was educational and enjoyable. Several speakers referred to the unique relationship between people with disabilities and their assistance dogs, and the impact on the quality of life for both members of the team. Many of the veterinarians in the audience were old acquaintances and several new contacts were made.

It was difficult saying good-bye to Tanya and Brooke, but we knew we would be seeing them shortly at the IAADP board meeting.

After a short stay at home, we traveled to Troy, Michigan on the 16th of August where we were joined by five other IAADP board members and their assistance dogs. The three days of meetings were intense with full agendas for each day. Social outings each evening went far to provide some needed relaxation! On the last day of our stay, the group was met for dinner by Gretchen Kronsbein, a veterinarian we met several years earlier when she was a student on the Caribbean island of Grenada. She is now the director of a veterinary technician training program at a community college in Michigan. Gretchen's parents rounded out our dinner crew.

During the Michigan stay, Keebler gave us a bit of a scare when she began drinking gobs of water and needing to relieve urgently. Her normal pattern is to urinate only twice a day, so a vet visit was in order. We could not get a Saturday appointment with vets recommended by local resident Joan Froling, IAADP chairperson, so had to go to an emergency hospital. Keebler was diagnosed with a bacterial infection and was put on a course of antibiotics. By the time

we flew home on the 20th, Keebler was back in control. At both the Detroit and Dallas airports, American Airlines personnel took her down the service stairs to give her a relief break, but she didn't have to go!

One of the major issues under discussion at the board meeting was the forthcoming IAADP conference to be held in the United Kingdom in June 2008. Keebler and Latrell have been prepared to meet the requirements of the British travel scheme and we hope some of you will be able to join us there!

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

Membership Dues Increase

By Toni Eames, Treasurer

At its August meeting in Michigan, your board faced a difficult decision. Organizational expenses have been increasing and additional money is needed to keep IAADP going and continue providing the excellent member services you have come to expect. Costs for the production and distribution of *Partners' Forum*, improvement and maintenance of the website, preparation of new member packets, board and conference expenses have all been increasing at a rapid rate. Therefore, the board reluctantly voted to increase assistance dog partner dues. The new membership fee structure beginning January 1, 2008 is:

1. The annual dues for assistance dog partner members will be increased to \$30.
2. The three year dues for assistance dog partner members will be increased to \$60.
3. Assistance dog partners residing outside North America will continue paying \$20 for an annual membership or \$40 for a three year membership.

For those of you who want to extend your membership before the new rates go into effect on January 1, 2008, you can do so by applying with a credit card online at www.iaadp.org or by downloading the application and sending it with your check or money order to Tanya Eversole, PO Box 531086, Cincinnati, OH 45253.

To keep IAADP financially secure, we urge all of you to become fund raisers for our outstanding nonprofit organization. You all have friends, relatives, employers, medical service providers, store managers and other contacts who could become important financial contributors to the organization. Simply have them make a check out to IAADP and send them to Tanya Eversole or have them contribute on the website, www.iaadp.org. In another article, we will talk about legacies and bequests that could help ensure the financial future of IAADP.

Meet Your Board Member

Interview by Wendy Morrell

Your name: Jill Exposito

Your assistance dog's name and breed: Uriah - Golden Retriever

Current location: Overland Park, Kansas

Is Uriah your first dog and how long have you been together? Uriah is my first Hearing Dog and we have been partners for 7.5 years.



Is Uriah owner trained or program trained? Uriah is program trained by Canine Companions For Independence.

Briefly, how did you become involved with IAADP? I have been an IAADP member since graduating from CCI with Uriah. In 2002 I met Toni and Ed Eames at a Veterinary Conference and I let them know that I was very interested in having more of an active role in IAADP to help promote the assistance dog movement. A few months later when I attended my first IAADP/ADI conference I was asked to become a board member to fill a vacancy on the board.

In terms of the assistance dog movement, what excites you the most? I think it is most exciting to find that many disabled people partnered with their assistance dogs want to be proactive in helping the assistance dog movement and that they want to get involved in terms of asserting their independence with their assistance dog.

Again, in terms of the assistance dog movement, what frustrates you the most? I am most frustrated by access issues and the lack of education and awareness regarding the rights of the disabled with their assistance dogs.

And now to the nitty gritty questions!

Not many people know this, but I am quite good at: Quickly resolving a situation before it becomes a problem.

My favourite holiday destination is: Scottsdale, Arizona

Reality tv or a good film? Good film

Hamburger or Hot Dog? Hamburger

Pizza or Pasta? Pizza

Beer, wine or soft drink? Wine

My last meal out was in? Rochester Hills, Michigan

When relaxing, Uriah and I like to: Play catch with one of his many balls.

Temporary Victory in California

By Beth Shea and Ed and Toni Eames

IAADP has been involved in a legislative battle at the California state capitol which, if lost, would have had a devastating impact on the assistance dog movement in the United States. The attempt to pass Assembly Bill 1634, mislabeled the California Healthy Pets Act, drew national attention, since many dog and cat owners realize that as California goes, so goes the nation!

In its initial version, AB1634 required early spaying or neutering at four months of age for all cats and dogs with no exceptions meaning no next generation. Eventually, after many revisions, the age was raised to six months and although it was meant to appear that assistance dog breeding programs and their stock were exempt, questions remained on the viability of the exemption granted. In addition there still were no exemptions for the dedicated hobby breeders who are the preservationists of their breeds' working ability and the lifeblood of diversity for program breeding colonies.

Although neutering is essential for a pet population, a controlled well-designed breeding program is necessary to maintain a healthy gene pool. Recognizing the longer term impact on breeding programs, Canine Companions for Independence, Assistance Dogs International and Guide Dogs for the Blind joined the coalition organized to oppose the bill. IAADP was an early and leading opponent, not only based on the breeding implications of the proposed ban on future reproduction, but also because of its implications for smaller programs and owner trainers. If hobby breeders were limited in their ability to continue producing healthy puppies, many smaller programs depending on contributions from this source and many owner trainers would be faced by a scarcity of dogs suitable for training. Giving decision making power to animal control officers over who could and who could not continue breeding dogs was a truly frightening prospect!

Beth, an IAADP member partnered with service dog Remy, brought this bill to the Eames attention, and after reading it carefully, Ed and Toni recommended to the IAADP board that we actively oppose it. The board readily agreed and Ed, with the aid of Toni, Beth and other IAADP board members, drafted a letter to California legislators stating the reasons for our opposition. That letter was published in the previous issue of *Partners' Forum* and can be viewed on the website, www.iaadp.org.

With the help of database manager, board member Tanya Eversole, IAADP members on our alert e-mail list residing in California were asked to join the letter writing campaign.

Beth and Remy took on responsibility for the major efforts at the state capitol. They visited assembly members and senators of the various committees who would have to endorse the legislation. Beth also allied with PetPac, a newly formed coalition created to protect the rights of pets and owners through public awareness education, grassroots organizing, and advocacy at the local, state and national level. Through PetPac she was able to speak for our interests at several of the committee meetings, a press confer-

ence and two public rallies held for opponents of AB1634.

Also because of Beth's relationship with PetPac, Ed and Toni, as representatives of the assistance dog partner community were asked to participate in making an anti-AB1634 commercial to be aired just prior to the Senate hearing. The three of us made the 150 mile drive to Sacramento where the filming took place in a local park. It took more than two hours to produce a 30 second commercial! Ed also stayed in touch with Paul Mundell of Canine Companions for Independence and Brian Francis of Guide Dogs for the Blind to reconfirm their continuing opposition to the bill.

The bill's author made numerous attempts to try to neutralize the growing opposition by constantly amending it with increasingly contradictory and often more draconian provisions. However, PetPac, IAADP and the assistance dog programs remained committed to defeating this flawed piece of legislation.

Recognizing the bill was facing growing opposition, Assemblyman Levine, sponsor of AB1634, kept bringing in amendments on an almost daily basis. Every time an amendment was made, IAADP's letter had to be rewritten and resubmitted.

Proponents of the bill continually pointed out that the California Veterinary Medical Association had endorsed it. Beth felt that veterinarians could not have known the unintended consequences of this bill so she and several other folks started a campaign to educate veterinarians and their clients and to get CVMA to withdraw its endorsement. As more California veterinarians became aware of the implications of the bill for pet breeders, owners and working dog partners and the dogs under their care, we were told that their organization had not properly informed them and they were not in support of the bill.

Despite mounting opposition, AB1634 succeeded in getting through the Assembly and was sent to the Senate on June 6th. The hearing was scheduled for July 11th giving us a bit more time to lobby but still a bare month to get to a whole new population of politicians. Then on July 2nd a ray of hope appeared — word spread we had succeeded in getting CVMA to withdraw its support.

Beth and Paul Mundell were to testify on July 11th. The morning news broke the story that Levine was pulling his bill — yet strangely the hearing was still scheduled. Some considered this a new strategy by Levine to get opponents not to show up. We will never know his motivations but he did try to get the bill voted through despite his public statement of withdrawal. Thanks to Republican Senator Cox and Democratic Senator Negrete-McLeod he was challenged and forced to make AB1634 a two year bill. Because of very strict time limits in the hearing neither Beth nor Paul was able to testify. However, there was a PetPac rally immediately after the hearing with the press present where Beth had the opportunity to speak.

What's next? The bill will definitely be back in January. The proponents have targeted the California assembly and

senate members with advertising since the day the bill was withdrawn. They continue to solidify their support with well known Animal Rights groups. Levine will be termed out of the assembly and is running for state senate next year. He plans to use the promotion and publicity from this bill to further his senate campaign. In other words we have a long tough fight ahead of us but IAADP will be there to oppose this bill!

For further information we suggest you check these two websites — www.PetPac.net and www.saveourdogs.net

Partner Member Benefits

Free benefits unless otherwise noted

All Members Worldwide

- “Partners Forum” Newsletter
- Emergency Recovery Kit - funded by Bayer Animal Health
- International Help-line [call or write]

Available in United States

- Sentinel Flavor Tabs from Novartis Animal Health
- Advantage or Advantix from Bayer Animal Health
- Dasuquin, Cosequin, Welactin and Denosyl from Nutramax Laboratories
- AVID Microchip - Avid Microchip ID Systems, Inc.
- Registration in PETtrac and/or the AKC Companion Animal Recovery Program
- Veterinary Care Partnership Grant (eligibility guidelines on website)
- KV Vet Supply offers 15% off all non-pharmaceutical products
- Veterinary Centers of America (VCA) - 10% discount
- Kansas State University Veterinary Diagnostic Labs - 50% discount on titer testing.
- Fort Dodge Animal Health - vaccine rebate up to \$20
- Access & Education brochure

Available in Canada

- Advantage or Advantage-Multi from Bayer Animal Health Canada
- Wyeth Animal Health - vaccine rebate up to \$20

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

U.K. Paperwork Clarification & Other News

By Joan Froling

I'm currently preparing my Samoyed service dog, Spirit, for travel to the U.K. It is quite a learning curve for those of us going through the process for the first time.

My veterinarian and I were puzzled about the information I brought her from the website of the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) in the U.K. pertaining to a critically important form I will need to have completed prior to leaving the USA. The form is titled: **Veterinary Certificate for domestic dogs entering the European Community for non commercial movements.** (Reg (EC) No 998/2003).

Here was my dilemma. The DEFRA Fact Sheet #4 for veterinarians and the public said this official form for a veterinarian to fill out in a non EU [European] country must be a single sheet. When I tried to find a copy of the one page version, people sent me links to the DEFRA and USDA websites which showed a “model health certificate” from the magazine, *The Official Journal of the European Union*, which was 3 pages in length when printed out. My veterinarian did not know if it would be legal for her to use a three page sample certificate from a magazine. She told me I needed to locate the one page version listed in the DEFRA Fact Sheet.

I subsequently contacted Liz Shickle, the Veterinary Officer at the Heathrow Border Inspection Post for Live Animals. I asked for clarification and I let her know that I would share her reply with IAADP members from the USA, Canada and other countries outside the European Union included in the quarantine exemption plan. I know all of us want to make sure we have the proper Veterinary Certificate, one acceptable to the U.K. when we arrive in that country.

Liz graciously took time to not only answer my question, but she provided additional information for those seeking to travel to the U.K. with an assistance dog from a non EU country like the USA. She also invites IAADP members to contact her directly if they plan to travel to the U.K. I will publish her letter and contact information as part of this report.

I think it is wonderful that Liz is willing to give some of her time to each IAADP member who wants to travel to the U.K. with an assistance dog. We suggest keeping emails as succinct as possible to this busy official.

Those who are thinking about attending the IAADP conference in June 2008 and need a rabies titer test done fast should copy the article / letter in the Benefits section on IAADP's website and ask your veterinarian to enclose it with a copy of your IAADP Membership Card. This should ensure your blood sample will be put ahead of all the others

continued on page 10...

US Paperwork Clarification

Continued from page 9

waiting in line, thanks to the pilot program [benefit] initiated by Kansas State University for 2007 for our members after Ed and Toni Eames visited there. We've heard the lab often has quite a backlog on samples waiting to be tested, so this benefit could be a godsend, as you'll need the results a minimum of six months before your travel date. You also will receive a 50% discount on the fee for the titer test till the end of 2007.

Hoping this report will come in handy for some of our members. Fort Dodge Animal Health which generously sponsored this issue of *Partners Forum*, will be sponsoring three scholarships for the upcoming conference in the U.K. These grants will be awarded at the conference in June 2008 to help defray the cost of registration and some of the travel expenses. If interested in the details on how Partner Members can enter the scholarship essay contest IAADP will hold to determine the winners, see Page 2. For more information on how to prepare an assistance dog for travel on Continental Airlines or one of the British airlines who are legally permitted to transport them in the plane cabin, please consult the U.S. DOT UK Guidance document [see link on our website in the air travel section], DEFRA's website and/or your veterinarian

Liz Shickle's Reply to IAADP's Editor

Hi

My apologies for the delay in replying - been a bit busy.

Your local USDA-APHIS office may have a version of the EU certificate. However you may use either version of the EU certificate (from the DEFRA website or USDA website)

While ALL certification should be on a single page, it is exceedingly rare for that to be the case for any US certification and the certificates are usually copied from the sample in the EU Official Journal. What is contained in the Fact Sheet refers to an ideal world.

If the certificate is spread over more than one page, the pages should be linked by having the certificate Serial number (see later!) on each page as well as the USDA-APHIS endorsement (embossed stamp) on each page. The form

should only be completed by a USDA Accredited Vet and then endorsed by the USDA above the sections for Tick and Echinococcus treatments. Once endorsed the form is valid for 4 months

The Tick and Echinococcus (Praziquantel) tapeworm treatments may be given by any Vet and MUST both be done 24 - 48 hours prior to check-in

Serial number - In the USA this is given by the USDA-APHIS official Vets when they endorse the certificate after it has been signed by your own USDA Accredited Vet

I hope my comments help

Please may I remind you that the following sequence must be followed

1st - Microchip

2nd - Rabies vaccination

3rd - blood draw for testing at an approved Lab for rabies serology

If OK then eligible to travel 6 months later

4th - EU certificate issued by USDA Accredited vet and endorsed by USDA-APHIS

5th - Tick and Echinococcus tapeworm treatments done 24 - 48 hours prior to check in on approved route and recorded on the EU certificate.

Please ask all your members who wish to travel to the UK to get in touch with me so I may help them get everything right !!

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

kind regards

Liz

Liz Shickle Veterinary Officer

Animal Health

Heathrow Border Inspection Post - Live Animal

P- + 44 (0) 208 759 7002 F- + 44 (0) 208 564 8939

Elizabeth.Shickle@animalhealth.gsi.gov.uk

Editor's Note: Here is the url for an acceptable copy of the *Veterinary Certificate for domestic dogs entering the European Community for non commercial movement*, from the DEFRA website. http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/ncie/iregs/animals/ee_cn_fe-cert-english.pdf

A Memorable Outing!

By Ashley Foster

Although she's now living a life of retired luxury, the days when my first hearing & assistance dog, Piper — a large, sturdy, but of course, stately Rough Collie — accompanied me nearly everywhere remain fresh in my mind.

We learned together — I trained her, and she trained me every bit as much.

I am hard of hearing, and in addition, at the time was also experiencing severe balance issues, including vertigo, constant unsteadiness on my feet, and extreme fatigue.

She shopped with me — when I'd experience vertigo,

she learned not only to help me balance as I walked, but to help me find the way we came in as quickly as possible. And, I could swear she always found the shortest check-out lane!

We traveled all over — she learned about elevators and how to lie under a desk at my university, and I learned that she saved a special smile for the local pharmacy we frequented.

Even the most embarrassing situation was never so bad with her by my side. . .

Keep in mind, she was trained to help me walk and bal-

ance, keeping an even pace and pull in harness. Nothing fazed her, she could balance on slick floors, navigate rocks, and as I learned, demonstrate her own form of intelligent disobedience.

On a crowded Saturday, we were at the local aquarium. We had our photo taken at the entrance — Piper looking so proud in her harness — and were greeted very warmly! As we walked through the various exhibits, I realized that there would be at least a dozen small, excited children who would probably remember nothing of their visit except the “doggie”!

I think Piper and the fish were equally interested in each other — I believe that eye contact was made!

All was well, until the beautiful exhibit designed to give us humans the ability to look down into the “ocean” — a dark piece of glass designed to be as invisible as possible, so that it appeared to be simply a hole in the ground. Piper walked easily toward it — and proceeded to stop on a dime within one inch of that edge.

And refused to budge.

Coaxing? No.

Pleading? No.

Firmly commanding? Nope.

So this, I thought, is far from the image of an assistance dog I want to project. As my embarrassment and anxiety mounted, a man standing nearby said — she simply thinks it’s a hole — and is refusing to take you into it.

Quick thinking on the part of my date for the trip saved the day — like a gallant gentleman in a classic movie, he removed his coat and placed it over the offending “hole”. And like the graceful lady she is, Piper stepped over it ... to the cheers of an audience of about 15 or so people watching.

I have a suspicion that she enjoyed that applause just a little too much. . .the look on her face and her happy body language gave her away!

So to those of you with dogs who embarrass you or seem to completely ignore what they should be doing at times, and in the most inopportune places, perhaps they just have grand plans you just don’t happen to be privy to - maybe they’re just looking for the public applause and recognition they deserve!

Letter to the Editor

ADA Service Animal Definition

Dr. B. Gayle Twiname
P. O. Box 2419
Georgetown, TX 78627

Tuesday, May 27, 2007

Dear Ms. Froling:

Thank you for providing information about the CADO meeting with the DOJ. [U.S. Dept. Of Justice]. I’ve recently had some disturbing interactions with a few people relating to this issue. I have a Papillon service dog who is able to provide me with a great deal of assistance. With the help of a trainer, and two years of hard work and socialization, she is able to pick things up, bring me the phone, remove my shoes/socks, help with laundry etc. Her abilities continue to amaze me. As a wheelchair user I rely on her assistance every day.

In the past two weeks I have spoken with 3 people who intend to masquerade their family pet as a service dog. One individual said she doesn’t want to leave her dog at home so bought a vest and is training her dog as a hearing dog as it has “acute hearing.” Since we were carrying on a conversation and since I wasn’t sure if she was lip reading, I asked her if she was hearing impaired. She said “no” but thought she “might be slightly deaf in her left ear.” When I told her of all the training my dog Gracie had been through she said “well, all I did was buy a vest, an ID card, and now I can take my dog wherever I want.”

Within a week I’d met another woman who already had a vest for her pet and planned on taking the dog with her because she couldn’t leave it in the car due to the heat. When I asked what tasks her dog performed, she told me her dog “is a comfort to me.”

The third person I spoke with, and I hate to admit this, was a relative. This individual is well aware of the training I have put into my service dog and also aware of the tasks Gracie can perform. She told me she was going to travel this summer and needed to bring her dog indoors because of the heat in the car. A friend of hers told her where to buy a vest and that if her dog had one, she could take it everywhere with her. I was appalled by the fact that not one of these individuals saw anything wrong with taking a “fake” service dog wherever they went.

For years, those of us with disabilities have had to put up with all kinds of individuals getting and using illegitimate disabled parking placards. Now, it looks as though society will be invaded by individuals wanting to take their pets everywhere and calling them “service animals.”

I wanted to let you know that I am behind you 100% and plan to respond during the Public Comment period when the DOJ issues the Notice of Proposed Rule-making on the ADA regulations. Those of us who have service animals need to be aware that if we don’t limit the definition of what a service animal is, we may be inundated with untrained pets masquerading as service animals. These untrained pets may or may not leave a bad impression which will negatively reflect on our well-trained, well-behaved service animals.

Sincerely yours,
Dr. B. Gayle Twiname.

Using Scenting Skills for Retrievals

By Sharon Wachsler

Sock? Slipper? What's the Diff?

Many service dogs find one of the most difficult tasks to learn or retain is a retrieve of a specific object, especially if that object is not always kept in the same place. Neither of my assistance dogs, both Bouvier des Flandres whom I've trained myself, have been particularly good at remembering noun vocabulary. In other words, they learned "fetch" (the action) easily enough, but have had trouble remembering what "sock," "shoe," or "slipper" was or distinguishing among them. So if I say, "Fetch slipper," to my current service dog, Gadget, now seven years old, I might be brought one of my shoes. This is pretty understandable, as my slippers and shoes look quite similar, but it's still frustrating.

I discovered the same problem in trying to teach a retrieve for my remote controls. I have three of them! One for the television, one for the satellite, and one for the VCR. They all look very similar — same sizes, same shapes, similar colors, and they all "live" in the same area — in, on, or around the coffee table or couch.

In fact, unlike my "emergency phone," which is always kept on its charger in the same place, these other items might be anywhere (especially if I wandered off with the remote in hand and left it accidentally in the kitchen, for instance). This means that in order to do a successful retrieve, Gadget would have to do an exhaustive search of my messy home, including looking on raised surfaces or underneath clutter. The remotes often get buried under the quilt on the sofa or even jammed under the cushions. In such cases, it becomes almost impossible to expect a service dog to find the desired object.

However, I have come up with one solution for this conundrum, which I have applied to retrieving the remote controls. Other service dog partners could easily use a similar method for cell phones or other objects. I had actually given up on "specific name retrieves" for Gadget for anything other than the emergency phone (which he knows reliably) until I hit upon this idea.

Walkie-Talkie, Not Searchy-Talkie!

Necessity is the mother of invention, and it was because finding a reliable system for a "search the house retrieve" became necessary that I gave this technique a try. My partner, Betsy, lives in a separate part of the house from me. Because I have a fatiguing illness, it's too tiring for me to yell to her if I need her, so we bought walkie-talkies (two-way radios) to communicate with each other when we are in separate parts of the house.

The problem I ran into right away was that she'd ring me on my walkie-talkie, and I'd be resting in bed or I'd be using the bathroom, and the radio would be on the coffee table or the kitchen counter. When I didn't answer, Betsy would ring me over and over, thinking I couldn't hear her, when actually the problem was that I was too tired to get up and find the walkie-talkie or that I was rushing around

searching for it (and thus wearing myself out). Our difficulties were compounded by my memory problems, which are part of my disability: the radio is very small, so it's easy for me to put it down, forget where I put it, and then not be able to find it once the mail or something else obscures it from sight.

I realized pretty quickly that I needed to teach Gadget to retrieve my walkie-talkie. I'd already trained Gadget to use senses other than sight to aid me. For instance, because of my memory issues, I trained him to alert me to the sound of a timer going off until I get up and go to the kitchen, because otherwise I am likely to forget I heard the timer almost the instant it's done ringing. Then whatever I am cooking burns. Not so if Gadget is bugging me to get up and go to the kitchen. (More about this in a future article.)

But sight and sound are not a dog's best sense; smell is. So I thought, why not have him retrieve the walkie-talkie by smell? I'd read up on tracking and other scent training a few years ago. I decided to put that knowledge to the test.

It turned out to be one of the easiest skills I ever trained! Gadget thinks it's a marvelous game. He adores getting praise for using his nose, instead of getting scolded for following it to the garbage can.

A Pouch for Your Pooch

Here's how I did it. Gadget likes soft toys, so I took a cotton pouch and poured nutmeg in it — a pungent-smelling spice. If your dog likes a different kind of toy, such as a rope or a tennis ball, I'd suggest attaching some spice to that instead. (More on how to do that below.) You can use any size pouch you like, although it's best if it's something small enough to be easily attached to the object. I have some two-inch-wide by four-inch-long pouches that were souvenirs from my parents' trip to Hungary (they originally contained paprika, appropriately enough) that I find handy for this purpose. I put about a teaspoon of spice in the pouch. In the beginning it's important to just use one pouch and one spice. Make sure to wear gloves when handling the spice and pouch, then throw them out and wash your hands, so your dog doesn't get confused and search for the spice on you.

I just fold the long end of the pouch over and put in a couple of stitches across the fold to keep the spice in, but you could also use Velcro so that when you want to wash the pouches (they get slimy with training!) or refresh the spice, you don't have to rip out the stitches. In a pinch (when I couldn't find one of the pouches because the rubber band broke, so the remote and pouch got separated), I cut the finger off of an old lightweight cotton glove and filled that with spice. I also write the name of the spice and to which object it belongs on the pouch so that if it ever comes off, I know what to refill it with and where to put it.

The most important aspect of your scent object is that it is permeable (allows scent through). It's also helpful if it's washable — in case you want to change the scent or just

wash off dirt and slobber. So, any type of thin cloth would work — a square from an old bedsheet sewn on three sides to form a pouch, for example, or the tips of thin socks or gloves. A metal or hard plastic object with a few small holes in it would also work. You don't want to use something like a plastic bag or a hard plastic or metal object that doesn't have holes, because it's not permeable. However, you also don't want to use something too permeable — like a sieve or mesh — because then the spice will fall or sprinkle out of it, and the scent will get everywhere, confusing your dog (and making a mess).

If you want to put a scent on something that doesn't lend itself to having a pouch attached to it, or if you don't sew, there are easy solutions. For instance, if you want to use a dog toy instead of a pouch, you can just pour a couple drops of vanilla extract, almond extract, or peppermint extract on the toy or directly onto the object to be found itself, if it is permeable (wood, plush, tennis ball, rope would all work, but a hard plastic toy would not — the liquid would run off and just create a scent pull underneath it). If the object does not lend itself to scent, pour a drop or two of your extract onto a simple bit of cloth, and attach the bit of cloth to the object with glue or a rubber band. This option also has the advantage that, if you don't mind your slippers smelling like vanilla, you can pour a drop of vanilla onto each slipper, and voila! — you have made them exciting scent objects to be found.

A couple of warnings regarding liquid scents: If you use something like vanilla extract, which is preserved in alcohol, your dog might initially recoil at the smell of alcohol. This is easily overcome. Simply ignore his repugnance (at least it's a clear indication that he took a sniff!) and click and treat each time you hold the item to his nose. Soon, he will be perfectly happy to smell it.

Secondly, I do not recommend using scents such as perfume or aftershave. For one thing, if you also use these scents on yourself, they will have permeated your clothes, skin, carpet, etc., and they will not come out because most have chemicals with adhesive qualities. This will confuse your dog because the smell will be everywhere. Further, almost all scented cosmetic products (perfumes, essential oils or aromatherapy oils, soaps, fabric softeners, etc.) contain toxic chemicals derived from petroleum. (Even so-called "natural" essential oils are often processed with the highly toxic chemical, benzene.) These scents are an assault on your dog's sensitive nasal passages. They may overwhelm or confuse him, cause damage to his nose or brain over time, or even dampen his sense of smell. ("Air fresheners," for instance, sometimes contain anesthetics, so that, when sprayed, you are not actually eliminating the odor, but making it harder for your nose to smell the odors around you.)

Find It!

Once you have your scent object — in my case, the cotton pouch — you make it a very desired thing. I held the pouch out to Gadget, saying "Radio!" in an excited voice and let him smell it. When I saw his nostrils quiver, I clicked and treated. Then I threw the pouch on the floor in front of him, saying "Radio!" and when he looked, I clicked and treated and made a big fuss. Immediately he delighted in

pouncing on the "toy," which brought on more clicks and treats.

Then I started on the retrieve. I did the first three or four retrieves with the pouch visible — letting him see where I put it — so he'd be sure to succeed. But after that I put him in a sit-stay and hid the pouch out of sight because I wanted him to learn right away to rely on his nose, not his eyes, to find it. You'll know right away if he is using his nose because you will see him follow the scent in the air with his nose. He might start out following the trail from the previous search, but when the object is not there, he should start sniffing around to pick up the trail for the new location. Be still and quiet and give him time to nose it out.

For example, I'd put Gadget in a stay in the bathroom, then put the pouch on my bed in my bedroom or on a chair in the kitchen. The first couple of times he did a "blind retrieve" I put the nutmeg bottle in front of his nose to remind him what he was searching for before I gave the command, "Radio!" He'd race off, sniffing away. When he found it, he naturally wanted to bring it to me to get a click, lavish praise, and treats. Once he got the "game," I put the nutmeg bottle away. The smell was locked into his memory.

Hide and Seek!

Next I attached the pouch to the walkie-talkie with a rubber band. I used the same technique — hiding the object, then telling him "Radio!" Once he got the idea that bringing me the smell object brought goodies, he loved it, and I got more creative with where I put the radio. Because scent pools the longer a scented object is left somewhere, even if the scented device was on a high counter, under a pillow on the sofa, or behind the TV, he could find the nutmeg smell, nudge the obstructions aside, and bring back the nutmeg-scented walkie-talkie. Gadget learned this "game" within one session. It only took a couple more for him to learn the command ("Radio!").

On a personal note, I have to say that it is a thrilling thing to watch this skill take hold because scenting seems to bring dogs such joy, and it is not something we usually ask assistance dogs to do. In fact, we often punish them for using their sense of smell — we don't want them sniffing strangers when we are out or being distracted by the smells of food or other animals when they are supposed to be working. Giving your assistance dog the green light to follow her nose can be immensely rewarding for both of you. I had friends and family participate in the training by having them hide the scent object when Gadget and I were in another room. This meant that I couldn't give Gadget unintentional clues about where to look, so it most closely mimics a real situation of the object being lost. My friends and family thought it a terrific "game."

This technique does not have to be limited to one item. A dog's sense of smell is several million times more acute than a person's. Thus, asking your dog to distinguish between cinnamon and nutmeg is like asking you to tell the difference between your Great-Aunt Sue and your baby nephew George. It's ridiculously easy. The only complexities are (1) connecting each smell to its retrieval object, and (2) putting the scent on command. In other words, you could have your cell phone smell like nutmeg, your keys like

continued on page 14...

paprika, your TV remote like curry, and your pill box like cinnamon. The longest part of training will be what it usually is, in my experience: attaching the cue or command to the behavior.

In fact, I have taught Gadget to retrieve two of my remote controls. The satellite remote has a cinnamon pouch, and the TV remote has a curry pouch. Gadget took to finding each object by scent like a duck takes to water. However, he did initially get confused when I introduced the second scented object and asked him to find it when the first object was also out. It wasn't that he had trouble distinguishing the smells; he knows curry from cinnamon. It was that he was used to finding and being rewarded for nutmeg. So, when I asked him to find a pouch with curry, he brought me the walkie-talkie (nutmeg). However, when I hid the curry remote again and had him smell the curry bottle (and held onto the walkie-talkies), he found the remote without a problem. I had to train him on both quite a bit so that he knew the difference.

After that, he knew to search only for the curry remote, even when the walkie-talkie was sitting out. He could distinguish them even if I had them cross paths or lie next to each other and even after I had used several different scents with him, so they were all still hanging in the air. The work was to get him to realize that he was only going to be rewarded for the scent item I asked for. In other words, it came down to him learning which smell I wanted him to go after; when he knew that, finding the correct item (even outdoors or up high or hidden) was a cakewalk.

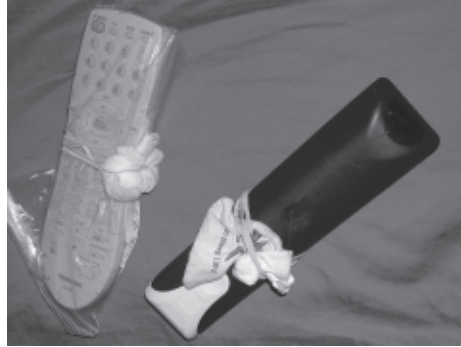
I haven't trained Gadget to search for multiple items, each with a different scent, because I haven't needed to. However, because of my tests with searching for different scents, even when other scented items were around, I feel confident that although it would take time, he'd eventually master it. Although Gadget has always loved learning, this skill is probably the one for which he shows the most joy and alacrity. Clearly, for Gadget, scent is a much more compelling trigger than, for instance, sound. We achieved in minutes with scenting what had taken weeks with sound (the microwave beeper). Additionally, he learned the vocabulary for the skill ("Radio!") much faster than he's ever learned any other word command, which makes me think that because the word was associated with a scent, it made a much bigger impression than most commands. I suspect that most dogs, because they are such master sniffers, would also be more likely to learn scent-related commands faster than those that involve vision, touch, or other senses, although I'm sure that there would be some individual variation, as some dogs are more tuned in to one sense than another. Nevertheless, I believe that once a dog has learned that "Keys!" means "paprika smell" and "Remote!" means "nutmeg smell," she or he will have no trouble targeting the right item.

Helpful Hints

A couple of important things to remember, in closing:

First, keep the scent item on the object at all times. This is easy for phones, remotes, key rings, purses, or wallets — a small pouch of spice could be inserted into or rubber-banded or glued onto your possession and left there permanently. It's a little more complicated for something like clothing or shoes. You might not want to walk around with your pumps or workboots sprinkled with curry or wearing a nutmeg sachet, so you'd have to remember to take the scent off when you're wearing them, then put it back on when you're done.

Secondly, keep in mind that a dog's sense of smell is much, much stronger than yours. So, it's important not to overwhelm them with scent; that's why it's best to use a small amount of spice and not to get it directly on your dog's nose. For the same reason, although you do have to periodically refresh your scent item, you don't need to do it often. How often will depend on your dog, how many scent items you're using, and the strength of the smell. To start with, you probably want to refresh the smell when, if you put the item to your nose, you can't smell it. Just dampening the pouch or rolling it between your fingers to crush the spice a little is often enough. Even if it smells faint to you, if



Scent pouches attached to remote controls

your service dog is used to searching for that smell, he or she will smell it "loud and clear."

Third, think carefully before choosing what scent you will be attaching to an object. Try to use one that you don't use often in cooking. It would be too much to expect your service dog to distinguish between the cinnamon on your French toast (or the bottle left open on the kitchen counter) and the cinnamon in the pouch on the remote next to you. Whatever scents you use, keep them put away and sealed as much as possible when not in use so as to limit confusion.

You might also have to do some "untraining" with this skill. If your dog has learned that it's bad behavior to get on the furniture or to move things around on the table, you will have to encourage him to do these things when he is following his nose. For instance, often my remote is in the quilt on the couch. To find it, Gadget often has to get on the couch and move the quilt around to get at it. The first few times that I intentionally hid it under the quilt, he would get to the quilt, hone right in on the smell, then try to lean as far toward the smell as he could without getting on the couch. He even had a tentative paw in the air above the quilt: "Can I?" I just said, "Yeah, yeah, where is the TV? Find the TV!" and he got the idea. (I call the TV remote, "TV" and the satellite remote, "Satellite.")

Finally, if your service dog stops to take a drink while learning this skill or while searching for something for you, don't scold. Keeping their noses and mouths moist and clear is essential for scent work. Sometimes when they are concentrating really hard on scenting, dogs need to stop to drink.

Scent Knows No Bounds

If your dog takes to scent training, you can use it for other skills. For instance, right now I am training Gadget to turn

on and off two light switches that are next to each other, which is confusing. Rather, it's confusing for him to learn which is "kitchen" and which is "living room."

I am dealing with this by scent-identifying them for him. Here's how I'm doing it:

I took two plastic Ziploc baggies. Wearing disposable nitrile gloves, I poured a few drops of vanilla extract onto a piece of cloth and put it in the baggie which I had labeled "Living Room = Vanilla." Then I sealed it. I threw out those gloves, put on a second pair and poured a couple of drops of peppermint extract on a cloth in the other bag, which I had labeled "Kitchen = Peppermint." Then I threw out those gloves, too. Each light switch has a wooden block at the end of it. Since wood is permeable, I put a drop of peppermint extract on the kitchen switch block and a couple drops of vanilla on the living room switch. I made sure not to touch the switches or to get the extract on my hand. If you cross-contaminate your scent objects by getting more than one scent on them, your dog won't know what to smell for. If you think you might accidentally spill, put on gloves for this, too, and hold a paper towel or other absorbent material under the block so that any spill-off will be caught and can be disposed of.

To train Gadget, I'd open one bag, say "Kitchen" and put the bag under his nose; when he sniffed, I clicked and treated. I did this several times. Then I took him to the kitchen switch's wood block and said "Kitchen." If he looked at, sniffed, or touched the block, I clicked and treated. I did this several times. Over time, I moved farther away from the switch and clicked and treated for him going to the correct switch. I started first on the side closest to the kitchen switch (as opposed to the living room switch), so he'd be more likely to get to it first and touch it first. When he was doing well, I moved to the other side.

I train each smell at different sessions until he really knows the word (kitchen), the smell (peppermint), and the correct switch all mean the same thing. When you first start out scent training, only work one scent at a time until that one is one-hundred percent reliable.

Train-Yourself!

There are many books and videos on training dogs for scent work. If you are used to training your dog in retrieval, the steps outlined in this article might be all the information you need to try your hand at it. For additional information on scent training, I recommend *Practical Scent Dog Training* by Lue Button or one of the clicker-training scenting books or DVDs. I also highly recommend the DVDs "Clicker Train Your Own Assistance Dog" by Barbara Handelman. You can find them at ClickerTraining.com or by contacting Sunshine Books, 49 River St., Suite 3, Waltham, MA 02453, 1-800-47-CLICK. The way I taught Gadget to find the walkie-talkie is the same way police train K-9s to find drugs, so you can also buy a handbook for teaching drug scenting dogs and use that as your guide.

To see scent clicker training in action and the light extension switches, order a copy of the DVD, *Take a Bow Wow! and Bow Wow Take 2* (it's two videos on one DVD), for \$35 from Virginia Broitman of North Star Canines. Go to www.takeabowwow.com or call 804-798-4068. You can place an order by Visa or Mastercard over the phone at 800-269-9692.

Successful Advocacy With the Department of Transportation

By Ed and Toni Eames

We hope you have prepared your dogs to be PETS compliant so you can join us next June for the IAADP conference in London! During 2007 the United States Department of Transportation (DOT) has spent considerable time developing regulations about bringing service animals into the United Kingdom in the cabin of an airplane. These are the rules that we and the airline industry will have to follow in the future.

The latest in these documents is titled, "Carriage of Service Animals in Air Transportation into the United Kingdom." After publishing guidelines in February 2007, DOT indicated there were many issues needing further clarification raised by the airline industry and by disabled passengers. Using the question and answer format, DOT addressed many of these issues relating to service animals meeting the UK PETS scheme who could be denied passage in the cabin because of inappropriate behavior or large size. As many of you are aware, the size issue has been one that brought IAADP into conflict with DOT in the past.

In April 2007, DOT sent a preliminary draft of this latest document to IAADP requesting our comments. Question one dealt with the requirements for a service animal to be PETS compliant. Question two dealt with the conditions under which a PETS compliant service animal could be denied access to the cabin because of inappropriate behavior or large size. Under these circumstances, they could be transported in the cargo hold. The rest of the questions dealt with the proper way of transporting a service animal in the cargo hold.

In reading the document the phrase "blocking access to the aisle" caught the attention of IAADP board members. If a disabled person is seated in an aisle seat, his/her service animal could be perceived as preventing the passengers seated in the middle and window seats from having access to the aisle. There is a difference between a row and an aisle. Under no circumstances is an aisle allowed to be blocked.

If the language were not changed, airline personnel might interpret this phrase as the basis for denying passengers with disabilities accompanied by assistance dogs the right to sit in an aisle seat or in the middle seat of a three passenger row. IAADP pointed out that many people with physical disabilities prefer the aisle seat and accommodate their fellow passengers by moving the assistance dog when these passengers want to get by and enter the main aisle. That's the way it's been done for years!

We may seem overly concerned with the seating issue, but we were delighted years ago when DOT published

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Successful Advocacy With DOT

Continued from page 15

clear guidelines that passengers with disabilities accompanied by service animals could sit anywhere in the cabin with the exception of an exit row. Before these guidelines were published, on a single trip involving four planes the authors were told on one flight that we could not sit in an aisle seat, on another that we could not sit in a window seat and on a third that we could not sit together! This inconsistent and discriminatory treatment resulted in our filing a formal complaint with the DOT. The seating situation has improved and we do not want to see a reintroduction of inconsistent and inappropriate seating arrangements.

In a letter to DOT, IAADP requested making an important change in the wording. The concern was to make it clear that an assistance dog could not protrude into the main aisle or block the main aisle. We suggested eliminating the words "access to" from the phrase "blocking access to the aisle" in the proposed guidelines. This would accomplish their goal of informing passengers and airline personnel that assistance dogs would not be allowed to block the main aisle. To our delight, within a week we were informed the recommended change was made.

When the new DOT guidelines were circulated in July 2007 they reflected IAADP's concerns on this issue. If you travel to the UK on a United States carrier in the future, you will be permitted to sit in any seat, excluding the exit row. This is one of those occasions when the investment of time in advocacy work yielded a positive outcome!

NEW - a CD-ROM of *Partners' Forum*

Responding to member requests, a CD-Rom version of *Partners' Forum* is now available. Contact database@iaadp.org to switch from print, cassette or disk to this new format if desired.

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New Projects

Membership Information

Membership Dues: Partner Member \$20; Renewal \$20; or join/renew, 3 years for the price of 2 years! \$40; Friend \$20; Provider \$25. Send check with signed application from website at <http://www.iaadp.org/membership/html> to IAADP c/o Tanya Eversole, P.O. Box 531086, Cincinnati, Ohio 45253. You may also obtain membership application with S.A.S.E., or send a letter with your signature affirming you're partnered with an assistance dog and who trained it. Credit Cards accepted online! Specify newsletter format - Print, Cassette, Disk or CD-Rom. Renewal notices may or may not be sent out. Please renew 45 days in advance of the Expiration Date on Partner Membership Card to maintain your eligibility for benefits. Change of dog? Must update database file!

IAADP Information & Advocacy Center

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