

Partners Forum

International Association of Assistance Dog Partners

VOLUME FOURTEEN • NUMBER TWO

FOURTH QUARTER 2007

IAADP Attends 2007 ADEu Conference

ADEu Conference Report, 26th to 28th October 2007, Bad Nauheim, Germany

by Wendy Morrell

Assistance Dogs Europe is the umbrella organization of the assistance dog training programs across Europe. Since January 2007 it has been a Region of Assistance Dogs International.

I was delighted to have been asked to speak at the ADEu annual conference for the third year running; I really enjoy attending the conference and the delegates are always so receptive to what I have to say as an assistance dog partner with regard to access for partnerships. In fact, I was flattered and very amused when someone I had met at last years conference who could not remember my name said, "oh you're the access lady"! Good enough for me!

This was the 8th annual ADEu conference and as usual the schedule was jam packed with interesting, quality presentations and workshops. The presentations were on varied subjects such as Spaying and Neutering, Access, Dummy Training for Assistance Dogs, Clever Canines and Dumb Dogs, and the workshops varied including Equip-

ment, Therapy with Animals, Metal Dogs*, Training (for organizations in various stages of growth), Fund-raising, Testing Seizure Pups, Media Strategy and Political Lobbying and a film on Prison Pups.

Lots of networking activities meant that new delegates weren't strangers for long, and unsurprisingly, across Europe assistance dog programs and partnerships alike face many of the same challenges.

* Metal Dogs = A dog simulator developed by KNGF Guide Dogs for the Blind, The Netherlands.

I was most impressed by two sessions in particular, Dummy Training for Assistance Dogs by Werner Haag & Media Strategy & Political Lobbying by Søren Kendlie.

Werner and partnerships from Vita, the hosting organization demonstrated with perfection, dummy training with several different assistance dogs. The dogs all looked as if they were having so much fun! Werner Haag is an internationally known judge from Switzerland and prior to the dummy training demonstration he gave an interesting and informative presentation on the subject. He explained what is expected of the dogs: retrieving dummies, returning quickly to the handler when called or whistled, walking close by a wheelchair, water work, sitting (close by and distance), marking and searching. He explained that it built confidence within the partnership and developed skills that will transfer across to everyday living as an assistance dog

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Editor: Joan Froling
Date of Issue: December 2007
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Service dogs "Caesar" from the UK and "Brooke" from the USA proudly assisted board members, Wendy Morrell and Tanya Eversole, to represent IAADP at the ADEu conference in Germany.



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partnership. The single thing that impressed me most was the confidence of both the human and canine partners in the retrieves and send aways.

Søren & Anna are both partnerships from Norway and explained the introduction of assistance dogs in Norway, their partnership organization, media and political lobbying, making and maintaining political contacts and the road ahead. At the moment, only guide dogs receive any government funding in Norway and it is hoped in future that this will be extended to assistance dog partnerships too. They shared a particularly impressive array of videos of dogs doing task work. I was very impressed by a video of a partnership where the dog was assisting his human partner to go to the toilet by assisting in the operation of a ceiling hoist. The dog led its partner through a series of rooms in the house and eventually into the bathroom so gently, not a single bump! This task demonstrated perfectly how the dog is actually replacing human help and allowing the person with a disability dignity and privacy. An extension of this task was to help the person go to bed; at a time they chose, not a time when human help was available.

The access presentation included an update from Spain detailing a new law in the Barcelona region, the introduction of a multi-lingual law card to be given to partnerships traveling within Europe to help them explain when facing access challenges, an update of the situation in all countries represented at the conference and my own update, examining what we mean by total access, the responsibilities of partnerships when expecting and gaining access, some of the pitfalls involved in total access, such as the risk of zoonotic diseases when exposing dogs to clinical situations, risks to dogs hearing at entertainment venues and also detailing the access difficulties brought about by ever increasing mobility in the workforce, particularly in the service industries due to European Enlargement. Lastly, I made a personal plea to everyone, with the growing trend of smoking bans in European countries that we should encourage



Working in harmony, Robin and Vitus, a young partnership from Vita Assistenzhunde at the dummy training demonstration.

everyone to stub out their cigarette butts to save injury to dogs by inadvertently stepping on glowing butts on the pavements.

This conference was attended by more partnerships from various countries than ever before and I was delighted that Tanya Eversole (our Board Member and Database Manager) accompanied by her assistance dog Brooke traveled from the United States to help me explain the role of IAADP and to promote our first conference to be held outside North America, which is to be held in London on June 25th 2008.

I was delighted that by the end of the conference we had a number of new members from three different European countries and I'll leave it to Tanya to explain the details. Many thanks Tanya for organizing and manning the IAADP information and raffle table throughout the conference, I am sure it was well worth it.

One thing which struck as being very ironic during our time in Germany was the lack of any significant access law for assistance dog partnerships. Apparently there is no law that says dogs are not allowed in shops and food premises, but likewise there is no law which states that partnerships must be allowed in. This really struck home with us when we were rather unceremoniously told to leave a Lidl supermarket in central Frankfurt! The irony here is that it is now some 91 years since the first ever guide dog in the world was trained. . .in Germany!

The Value of Praise

by Tanya Eversole

Are you an IAADP Partner Member? Have you enjoyed your IAADP Partner Member benefits this past year? I have!

Have you thought about saying "Thank You" but didn't know how?

If you have taken advantage of any or all of the benefits offered to Partner Members of IAADP, please take a few moments of your time to write a note of thanks to the great companies donating those products ensuring our dogs' well-being!

When we and our dogs receive praise, it certainly makes us want to keep on doing what we have been doing. The same applies to our sponsors, when they hear these two simple words "Thank You" from our members, it reminds them why they are doing what they are doing for us and our assistance dogs!

Thank You in advance for sending in your notes and emails to the addresses provided below!

Please send your notes of thanks either by email or "snail mail" to the following addresses:

Toni@iaadp.org or Tanya@iaadp.org

IAADP
c/o Tanya Eversole
P.O. Box 531086
Cincinnati, OH 45253

IAADP Welcomes New European Memberships

by Tanya Eversole

In October I was delighted to attend the ADEu Conference held in Bad Nauheim, Germany as a representative of IAADP. Wendy and I organized a small raffle of donated prizes and manned a table full of *Partners Forum* newsletters and information concerning our upcoming conference in London.

In my role as Membership Coordinator for the organization it was an honor to meet some of our newest members who signed up at the conference.

Please join me in welcoming our 28 new European members including the Norwegian Association of Assistance Dog Partners (NAADP) who has signed up all 26 of their members! We also welcome one new member from Sweden and one from Croatia!

We hope to see many of you at the conference in London! Mark your calendars now for June 25, 2008!



Norwegian Association of Assistance Dog Partners, newest European members of IAADP. Wendy Morrell, European Vice President, IAADP; Soren Kendlie, President NAADP and members of NAADP Board of Directors; Tanya Eversole, Membership Coordinator, IAADP

Court Ruling on Proof of Task Training

by Joan Froling

Baughner versus the City of Ellensburg is a case which revolved around the legal status of a dog named "Bun." The dog was owned by a woman who testified she had autism, panic disorder, asthma, a head injury and a hearing impairment. She filed a two million dollar lawsuit "pro se" [by herself, no lawyer] in the state of Washington against a store, the Flying J, for denial of access and against the city for the actions of the police when they arrived on the scene.

According to the case summary, a store employee had asked her to refrain from bringing a dog she had in tow near the deli counter where they sold food. Bun's owner argued she had a legal right to go anywhere she wanted in the store as the dog was her medical alert dog. When the employees did not agree with her, she asked for the police to be called.

Once the police arrived, the police and store manager talked her into coming out to the parking lot to discuss the matter. It is reported the police asked the woman her name and asked her for some identification, whereupon she angrily decided to leave. The police warned her that she was not free to leave as they were investigating her for criminal trespass. Her refusal to give her name, show ID or stay when ordered not to leave led to her arrest. As soon as she was handcuffed, she fell down to the ground, crying for help and complaining of chest pains. She expressed fear that her dog would die of heatstroke. The police put the dog in an air conditioned squad car and summoned an ambulance. She refused treatment from the paramedics and while still complaining of chest pains, refused treatment at

the Emergency Room as well. Once discharged, the police drove her to the animal shelter to pick up her dog and subsequently released her.

Here is what the judge had to say: "The Court liberally construes Plaintiff's complaint as bringing two claims under Title II: (1) the City of Ellensburg violated the ADA when it failed to enforce her right to bring a service dog into a public accommodation; and (2) the City of Ellensburg violated the ADA when its police officers arrested her on account of her disability.

"Defendant City of Ellensburg does not dispute that Plaintiff may have a qualifying disability; rather, it argues that Plaintiff cannot establish a violation of the ADA because Bun does not qualify as a service animal, and because she was not discriminated against because she was disabled.

"Pursuant to the ADA, a service animal is defined as: Service animal means any guide dog, signal dog, or other animal individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including but not limited to, guiding individuals with impaired vision, alerting individuals with impaired hearing to intruders or sounds, providing minimal protection or rescue work, pulling a wheelchair, or fetching dropped items.

"In support of their argument, Defendants rely on Washington case law, and a federal district court case, *Prindable v. Ass'n of Apartment Owners of 2987 Kalakaua*, 304 F.Supp.2d 1245 (D.Haw.2003). In that case, the district court held that there must be some evidence of individual training to set the service animal apart from the ordinary

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pet. Id. at 1256. Although the Ninth Circuit affirmed the granting of summary judgment in that case, it specifically declined to rule on whether the plaintiffs must prove that the dog is an individually trained service animal. See *DuBois v. Ass'n of Apartment Owners of 2987 Kalakaua*, 453 F.3d 1175, 1179 n. 2 (9th Cir.2006) ([W]e need not and do not reach other issues addressed by the district court, including whether the plaintiffs must prove that [the dog] "is an individually trained service animal.") Moreover, in *Lentini v. California Center for the Arts, Escondido*, the Circuit concluded, without comment, that a small, black Shih Tzu/Poodle mix named Jazz, was a service animal that provided minimal protection and retrieved small dropped items for a quadriplegic, who used a wheelchair for mobility. 370 F.3d 837, 839 (9th Cir.2004).

"Defendants argue that personal training coupled with evidence of outside obedience training and actual observation of the animal exhibiting the learned behavior is required in order to qualify the animal as a service animal. The Court agrees that there must be some evidence to set a service animal apart from an ordinary pet, but disagrees that there must be documented evidence of individual training. In this case, the issue with regard to whether Bun is considered a "service animal" does not necessarily turn on documented evidence, but whether Bun was trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability. Plaintiff asserts that the presence of Bun assisted her in her daily life. However, the record is devoid of any specific work or tasks that Bun was trained to perform for the benefit of Plaintiff, other than to be a presence that would remind Plaintiff to take her medication, or to stay focused."

Footnote #2

The judge expanded on his decision, saying: "Plaintiff asserts that Bun cued her to take her medicine. Plaintiff does not explain the specific cue that Bun was trained to provide when the need to take her medicine arose, nor is there anything in the record that explains the cues that Bun was trained to provide to Plaintiff to keep her focused. Nor does Plaintiff explain how Bun was trained to provide these cues. The Court does not doubt that Bun provided Plaintiff with a sense of security and comfort and helped her cope with her disability, but this does not meet the statutory definition of a service animal, as defined by the ADA. The Court reads the regulation as requiring something more than merely being a presence that provides comfort, companionship, or interaction with an individual. The regulation is clear. The service dog must be trained to perform specific tasks or work and there is nothing in the record to suggest that Bun was trained to perform specific tasks or work for the benefit of Plaintiff. Plaintiff has not presented any admissible evidence that sets Bun apart from the ordinary pet."

A footnote to the case stated: *Footnote #2*: "In opposition to Defendants' motions, Plaintiff submitted a letter from Dr. Janet Arnold, dated March 30, 2004. In the letter, Dr. Arnold states that Plaintiff is her patient, and Plaintiff uses a medical service dog "Bun." Dr. Arnold wrote that she has witnessed that Bun "cues" Plaintiff to take her prescribed medications for her asthma, emphysema and panic attack disorders. Pursuant to Fed.R.Civ.P. 56(e), supporting affidavits shall be made on personal knowledge and shall set forth

such facts as would be admissible in evidence. Dr. Arnold's letter is not admissible because it is hearsay. Moreover, Dr. Arnold's letter does not address how Bun was trained to provide these cues."

There is no explanation as to why this letter was deemed hearsay. It does seem to set a new standard for weighing a doctor's letter as evidence, requiring details on training to be included.

The judge ruled: "Accordingly, Plaintiff has failed to show that Bun is a service dog as defined by the ADA. As such, the City of Ellensburg did not violate the ADA by failing to enforce her right to bring a service dog into a public entity because Bun was not a service animal as defined by the ADA. Additionally, the City of Ellensburg did not violate the ADA because its police officers did not arrest her on account of her disability, because she was not entitled to have Bun in the Flying J.

"To the extent Plaintiff is asserting a retaliation claim against Defendant City of Ellensburg, her claim does not survive because compensatory and punitive damages are not available for retaliation claims under the ADA. *Kramer*, 355 F.3d at 965."

The judge also granted the store a Summary Judgment, citing the fact the plaintiff is not entitled to ask for money under that section of the ADA, only injunctive relief. Since she failed to ask for injunctive relief, even if Bun had qualified as a service dog, the judge could not have found in her favor on the ADA violations she cited.

While Bun's owner obviously believed her dog was a service dog, she was apparently unable to describe any training the dog received, not even obedience training, much less task training when she attended this hearing by conference call. The judge's decision under those circumstances is not a surprise.

This case is available through West Law to the legal profession around the country. It may set a new standard for those who want to bring a claim or contest a claim that a certain animal is a service animal in a case involving a disabled person's access rights in public. That standard is to require explicit evidence of task training, such as detailed information on precisely what the dog does when he performs said task and how it was taught to him.

IAADP and other members of the Coalition of Assistance Dog Organizations (CADO) were told in September that publication of the Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) on the ADA's regulatory language has been postponed by the U.S. Department of Justice from late summer to the end of the year. Regrettably this further delays the long awaited clarification it is supposed to contain on the difference between service animals and pets or comfort animals. CADO anticipates the NPRM will affirm the importance of task training in determining whether or not an animal qualifies as a service animal.

Ultimately, of course, it is the courts that will have the final word on what is legitimate and what is not under the ADA. This court went further than others in validating task training as the defining characteristic of a service animal. As much as I deplore the treatment of the plaintiff by the police in this case, I think this verdict needed to be shared with our community. Providing evidence of a dog's schooling to perform tasks could be crucial to whether or not a public access complaint will be deemed to have merit in future cases.

Update on IAADP Advocacy Efforts

by Ed and Toni Eames

As an organization, IAADP is involved in advocacy efforts on a variety of levels and fronts. These range from international issues such as air travel, to individual ones, such as denials of access to schools, housing and the workplace.

The following cases illustrate the organization's commitment to guaranteeing IAADP members' rights to be accompanied by their assistance dogs in all places of public accommodation and on the job. They also indicate the slow pace at which disputes in the legal system are settled.

Our oldest continuing case involves Laura Otis, an elementary school teacher in Orange County, California. Laura, partnered with service dog Zoe, has not been permitted to bring her to work for the last two years. The school principal, just retired, based her decision to exclude Zoe on the belief that Laura did not need her canine assistant's services, since students or staff could retrieve dropped items or fetch her walking cane. Based on statements made by the principal, it is apparent she did not believe Laura was disabled enough to need a service dog and questioned Zoe's legitimacy because she did not come from a well known program. The school district supported the principal even though guide dog puppy raising teachers in other schools in the same district brought their puppies to work without any problems. Laura's union has provided the legal support needed to fight this case and a court date for the end of October has been set. Keep your fingers crossed!

Another educational access issue concerns Long Island, New York high school student JT Cave. He has been barred from bringing NEADS trained hearing dog Simba to class with him. Once again, school district administrators are saying, "Not in our school!" Mom Nancy updated us at the IAADP Baltimore conference and things have been moving along with the New York State Division of Human Rights taking on the Cave's cause. A hearing is scheduled in early November that hopefully will result in an injunction mandating that school authorities permit Simba to accompany JT to school.

One of our newer cases has some very disturbing elements since it involves employment at a court facility. Sandy Stefan, recently graduated from a paralegal program and was hired on a probationary basis by a traffic court in McComb County, Michigan. She is partnered with hearing dog Ice trained at Paws With A Cause®. When applying for the job, Sandy did not tell them about Ice until she had been employed for three weeks. The initial response of the court administrator when Sandy said she wanted Ice to accompany her at work was that no dogs would be allowed in the office since the court would be liable if Ice bit someone. In addition, it was suggested that people paying traffic fines might be allergic or afraid of the dog. After some discussion, the administrator suggested that Sandy isolate Ice in a crate in an office at the rear of the facility and retrieve him when she went on breaks or for lunch. After consulting with the PAWS staff, Sandy declined the offer. About a

week later she was terminated from the clerical position. Sandy is filing a complaint with the Equal Employment Opportunities Commission, the federal agency responsible for enforcing Title One of the ADA dealing with employment discrimination.

One of the areas in which juries have awarded significant amounts to plaintiffs with assistance dogs is housing. Therefore, it is surprising that Davis Hawn, owner of a condominium in Florida has been told by the condo board that his service dog would not be permitted on the premises. Davis purchased the condo before training Booster and assumed he would have no problem with the condo association or management, since regulations under the Fair Housing Amendments Act even guarantee occupancy rights with emotional support animals. Here again, the board, responsible for establishing policies, does not care what the law states. Initially, Davis filed a complaint with the Florida Commission on Human Relations which investigated the situation and concluded there was sufficient evidence to determine there was a high probability Davis had been discriminated against. Wanting to test the waters and with the consent of his attorney, Davis brought Booster with him in an attempt to rent another unit in the development, since his apartment was occupied by a renter. The rental agency was willing, but the management company said no. As a result, Davis has filed a criminal complaint against the management as well as a civil suit against the board. In the minutes of a board meeting obtained by Davis, representatives indicate they do not have to be concerned because the insurance they have would cover any fines if they lose the case brought against them by Davis. However, it is our belief that insurance companies do not pay claims when their clients have clearly and knowingly violated the law!

In a country supposedly governed by the rule of law, it is unconscionable that people who do not understand the role of an assistance dog in the life of his/her disabled partner can violate our civil rights. It is equally unconscionable that our system of justice is so slow in responding to these illegal activities.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Access Problem?

Contact: ADA Helpline at

800-514-0301

TTY: 800-514-0363

Email: ada.complaint@usdoj.gov

A Journey through Autism

by Rebecca Wilkinson

A lot of people now know or heard of someone with Autism. It is also now well known there are service dogs trained for children with Autism to stop them from running into traffic, searching for the child if he or she is missing, and ground the child both physically and emotionally so the child can function the best they can in society. But what about adults with Autism? Once an Autistic person reaches legal adulthood their problems don't magically dissolve. They will – and I will – always be Autistic.

I began my journey twenty years ago, born to two very happy parents and older brother. My mother knew right from birth that I was different since I never cried and I loathed being held or cuddled. I will state right in the beginning of my story my mother has always been by biggest advocate. She insisted to my pediatrician something was wrong. After eighteen months and much persistence on her part, I was diagnosed with Autism. At that time, Autism was diagnosed in one out of ten thousand.

I did not speak one word until I was almost five. I bit, scratched, and made guttural noises to communicate. My mother understood that was what I was doing, and for that I am most grateful. Nearly every day I had speech therapy and occupational therapy in hopes of developing language. Once I was taught American Sign Language, I began to bridge the gap between the signs and the English language. Within weeks I was reading, so we believe I somehow taught myself to read earlier. I also went to school the very same year. Sadly, my school years were not happy ones. At the time, it was believed that an Autistic person should be stopped from doing those “inappropriate behaviors” called self-stimulation. I was forced to stop spinning, flapping my hands, and other Autistic behaviors. I may have looked more “normal”, but I paid dearly. With the cruelty of other schoolchildren and having no outlet to release stress, I turned to self-mutilation, digging my arms and head until they bled and pulling my hair out. My last day in public school was when my mother picked me up from school in seventh grade with blood running down my face. After then, I was specially schooled one-to-one.

I grew up, graduated from high school, moved out into a little apartment at eighteen, went to college, and got a car. Things looked good, but I suffered whenever I was in public, hearing shrill screams of young children and babies would often lead to a meltdown, my body physically shutting down so I could not move and losing the ability to speak. I could only cry or scream. For me, high pitch and volume together lead to sensory overload.

I had heard of dogs that could help Autistics before, but I started pursuing that option in January 2006. I must have spent hundreds of hours researching service dog tasks and agencies willing to help me. One organization after another turned me down, and finally in July of 2006 I was accepted into a program called My Wonderful Dog, based in Portland, Maine. I just happened to live thirty minutes away and I can't believe it was right under my nose the whole time.

The CEO of My Wonderful Dog, Elsa Larsen, had invited

me back for another interview in October, this time meeting a couple of prospective canine partners. Milo, a handsome chocolate lab, was released into the room we were in. After a few minutes getting to know him, he laid down beside me and enjoyed the attention received. He was taken away and I met another dog. Let's just say she was hyper. Elsa made it very clear that day that Milo and I were to be future partners. It took only four months to teach him all the things he needed to learn for me. He was taught to place his very heavy head on my lap to the cue “snuggle”, place himself between my legs when I am sitting down to act as a physical barrier (not for protection, mind you), touch a note on a door reminding me to have my medicine, bag, keys, etc., and nudging me with his head when he saw me bury my head, which is something I do when I hear a noise that hurts me. While training with him, we taught him to retrieve my keys and handbag on command. After the two-week training process we graduated as an official Assistance Dog team.

Eight months later, we are a cemented team. Reflecting on all the wonderful things he does every day and so many heights we've reached, I didn't realize how much I really needed him until I got him. Remember the meltdown I described earlier, the crying, not moving, no language?

Before him, those meltdowns would affect me an entire evening, sometimes even longer. With Milo placing his body on mine as stimuli and nudging my head to wake my body up, my meltdowns have reduced to five minutes. That to me is nothing short of a miracle.

For those who are curious, this is a list of tasks Milo does for me:

- He finds my keys and handbag on cue
- He taps a note on my door before we leave reminding me to have everything I need since I am forgetful, especially while stressed
- He places his head on my lap as tactile stimuli on silent command
- He nudges my head when I bury my head in stress
- He places his whole body on me for tactile stimuli on the cue “up”
- He immediately retrieves my keys as soon as I drop them. He will stop me if I keep moving and tug on his gentle leader until I turn around and he will bring my keys to me on no command.
- He will nudge my hands if I cringe due to a hurtful noise to wake up my body
- He will tuck himself between my legs facing outward on silent cue
- He will “bother” me, nudging and pawing at me if I were to collapse (this was initially a game we played. I was nervous as to what he might do if I fainted due to a medication mishap so I started that. Milo still thinks it's a game.)

I am a firm believer in God, and I believe He has blessed me with my sweet, clever, laid back, furry partner-for-life Milo. We have come so far already – yet, I know our journey has only begun.

A Tail To Tell

By Toni and Ed Eames

We took to the skies on Friday, August 31, for a week-long visit to Ohio. Toni's Bronx, New York high school friend Eileen Schonfeld was to be mother of the bride the following day.

During their freshman year, Eileen and Toni developed an intense friendship that has been maintained for more than 50 years.

Another long-term friend of Eileen, Patti Vassia, met us at the Cleveland airport and drove us to the hotel. We had met Patti before, but this visit gave us time to get to know one another and hopefully stay in touch.

Everyone raved about the Geneva on the Lake Hotel, and we, as blind people, mistakenly thought the lake was a man-made body. Patti laughed when Ed suggested she and he take a walk around the lake, since it turned out to be Lake Erie, bordering on Canada!

The wedding of Jennifer Schonfeld and Jim Barnhouse was lovely and low key. The music was soft during dinner enabling us to talk to Eileen's extended family.

After a scrumptious buffet breakfast the next day, hosted by Eileen and husband Steve, their son Jonathan drove us, with our Golden Retriever guide dogs Keebler and Latrell, for a rendezvous with fellow IAADP board member Tanya Eversole. Although each of us had a long drive, amazingly we met within five minutes at the agreed on meeting place. What did we ever do without cell phones?

Arriving at our Columbus hotel, it was too early to check in, so we went to Target for a shopping spree! Finally settling in the hotel room, Toni unpacked and chatted with Tanya, while our dogs played with Labrador Retriever Brooke, Tanya's service dog. Apparently, in the haste to clean the room, the housekeeper moved the box spring and mattress away from the frame, leaving a long metal rod exposed. Poor Tanya tripped backwards over this protrusion bruising and cutting her leg. An emergency call to the desk by Ed brought the maintenance man on the run with medical supplies.

That evening, we had dinner with Kate Sniderman, the new executive director of the *Newsreel*, a monthly cassette magazine by and for the blind. Our chosen restaurant was Schmidt's, Ed's favorite Columbus eatery. Of course, Ed couldn't be in the area without dining at this German restaurant with a buffet of delectable sausages and other goodies. Schmidt's is the home of the Bahama Mama sausage, Columbus' claim to culinary fame! It was fun getting to know Kate during the course of a leisurely meal with great service!

On Monday, the first event of a marathon eating day was lunch with several *Newsreelers*. Bob and Mickey Prahin are on the *Newsreel* board, Irwin Hott is the editor and his sister Miki was the driver. Keebler, Latrell and Brooke were delighted to greet their friend Xanto, Irwin's German Shepherd guide dog.

Later that day, we had a Labor Day barbecue at the home of Tanya's son Shane and his wife Jessica. Their 11-month old daughter Payton, Tanya's first grandchild, was a

bubbly, contented little girl. Tanya's other son Sean, his wife Paula and several members of Paula's family joined the group. It was a pleasant family get-together!

We need to learn to meet people without involving food, but that's impossible since both of us love to eat! Tuesday morning it was breakfast with Patty and Dick Luchtenberg. Patty is the retired *Newsreel* office manager. She is the wonderful voice behind the recorded version of IAADP's newsletter, *Partners' Forum*. We ate at Bob Evans, a restaurant chain we love, but don't have in Fresno. Disregarding our vow not to expand our waistlines or increase our cholesterol, we gave into temptation when Tanya mentioned the pumpkin bread, only available at this time of year. Wow, was it fabulous!

After checking out of the hotel, we met Tanya's sons and Payton for a touch tour of some of the animals at the Columbus Zoo. This hands on experience was arranged by Julie Hanna, daughter of animal expert, television personality and Director Emeritus of the Columbus Zoo, Jack Hanna. We met the Hanna family on our second trip to South Africa when Jack and his wife Suzi took our dogs for walks around the airplane cabin during our 16 hour non-stop trip to Capetown.

Columbus zoo keepers Brian and Jo got as much pleasure from baby sitting for Keebler, Latrell and Brooke, as we did from touching an armadillo, kit fox, snow leopard, civet, alligator, legless lizard, flamingo and jackass penguin. The latter was particularly interesting, since Ed got to swim with some jackass penguins on our first trip to South Africa. Toni's favorite was the civet who hopped from shoulder to shoulder.

Tuesday's evening's venue was a board meeting at *Newsreel* headquarters in downtown Columbus. Ed is president of the board and it was great being present at the meeting rather than on conference call. After a lively discussion and a pizza dinner, it was off to Cincinnati in Tanya's car.

The next day, it was mostly IAADP business with a bit of shopping thrown in. The evening meal at Tanya's was fun with her two sisters and their families.

The big adventure on Thursday was a luncheon ride on a riverboat with the added attraction of a banjo player. The ride was smooth, the buffet tasty and the entertainment great!

It was up at the crack of dawn the next day for the ride to the airport and the flights home. In Salt Lake City, we whiled away the three hour lay over in the first class lounge where Keebler and Latrell are honored guests! Home by two with the chauffeur service provided by Len Kessler, an IAADP member partnered with hearing dog Vana, we had time for Lanie Levenson to read the mail followed by a session of cuddling with the kitties!

Our plans to diet when we were home were limited by several outings. There was a dinner party at a friend's home, a fund raising dinner and lecture for the Fresno Free

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A Tale to Tell

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College Foundation, a pot luck dinner with our Fresno State sociology colleagues and a spaghetti dinner fund raiser for a Lions Club.

On the entertainment front, we chose to go to two different events on the 22nd. Toni and Keebler attended a folk concert performed by April Verch, a virtuoso fiddler and clog dancer. Ed went to a performance of the San Francisco Mime Troupe. They actually do more political satire and commentary, rather than miming, and the laughs were generated by stinging barbs at our current political mess.

Ed and Latrell spent most of September 25 at a City Council meeting, where the fate of our paratransit service was being debated. After several hours, City Council told the Fresno transportation department and the current provider, MV Transportation, to get together and negotiate a contract that would be acceptable to everyone. Ed and several other members of the disability community were adamant in their urging that the current provider be retained, so the final outcome went along with those expressed desires. It's nice when governmental authorities listen to what we want!

It's been a while since we've done a presentation for a college class other than those at veterinary schools. Fresno State colleague Linda Vang invited us to be guest speakers at her class in the sociology of communication. We were able to spend three hours talking about preferred forms of communicating and interacting with people with disabilities. They were a lively bunch of undergraduates and we thoroughly enjoyed the evening!

In the early 90s we met Sister Pauline Quinn, the Dominican nun, instrumental in founding the Prison Pet Partnership Program at the women's prison in Gig Harbor, Washington. This program pioneered the concept of service dogs alerting to the onset of seizures. Since that time, Sister Pauline has become the Johnny Appleseed of raising and training dogs in prisons for assistance work. Whenever she is in California, Sister Pauline makes a side trip to visit us in Fresno. After years of training dogs to work with people with disabilities, she has trained her own service dog, a Doberman Pinscher named Reni. Now dealing with a number of physical disabilities, Reni, at 28 inches, is a perfect balance and support assistant. It was a pretty funny scene when our Golden ignored Reni's efforts to engage them in play. She loves toys, retrieved anything thrown or requested and enjoyed interacting with our four cats. At one point she did engage Keebler in a game of tug. Sister Pauline joked that Reni's playful and engaging personality was reminiscent of a Golden in the disguise of a Doberman!

In our next column we'll tell you about the Golden Retriever symposium we will be speaking at in Chicago sponsored by the dog food company Royal Canin.

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

ATTENTION MEMBERS

Membership Dues Increase 2008

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. The annual dues for programs purchasing membership for their current year graduates will be increased to \$25.
4. The three year dues for programs purchasing membership for their current year graduates will be increased to \$50.
5. 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 fundraisers 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.

MEMBERSHIP QUERIES? CHANGE OF ADDRESS?

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

A Day in the Life of a Dog for the Disabled

by Jill Brown

I am fortunate to have had Yates, my wonderful Dog for the Disabled for the past four years. He is a great successor to my first Assistance dog, Astrid. Yates is extremely bright and has continued to give me independence and a great quality of life despite a congenital myopathy and osteoporosis.

I depend on an electric wheelchair to get out and although I can't move my shoulders, with Yates' help to do numerous tasks around the house we enjoy life and go out and meet many new friends. This has increased my self confidence, happiness and morale. Yates also makes me laugh — he is quite a lad and sometimes gets up to mischief. I will let him tell you how he helps me and about some of his adventures, if we have time.

“Yates story”

My name is Yates and I am a handsome black labrador crossed with retriever. I look after my Mum and wag my tail to show how happy I am with her. We are lucky to live in a town called Salisbury, Wiltshire, which is ideal for me as I love swimming and five rivers meet in Salisbury. We also go to a beach if one of Mum's friends drives us there, as Salisbury is only an hour's ride from the sea. Actually we live on a small island but our garden is fenced in so I can't have a dip before breakfast!

My day starts with Mum calling me from my basket near her bed. I love my basket so usually don't get up till I have to, then it is only two steps to fetch Mum's slippers. Occasionally I get up before Mum calls if I sense another dog going past our house: I rush to the door and ask Mum to unlock it. She has a clever gadget which undoes the lock though she is lying in bed, then I pull the rope on the door and, hey presto, I am out on our front path. When I have said “good day” to passers by I run back to Mum. Next I fetch the phone from the charger and take it to Mum — she usually keeps it in her pocket. Then it is time to get Mum's PJ's off and help her get dressed. That is fun as I get treats, so I am always keen to help. Next we have our breakfast — delicious and I always ask for some banana when Mum has hers — I love fruit and vegetables as well as biscuits — actually I like all food and never refuse anything.

As soon as I hear the mail drop through the letter box, off I go and fetch that — I really like parcels but take anything, in case I get a treat. When we have finished breakfast it is teeth cleaning time — I love the chicken flavour toothpaste but am not keen on any others, but Mum says I must have my teeth done so I can chew food when I get older.

We always have a walk — now that is fun! First I pull open our door to let us out, then close it pulling my outside rope and bang goes the door. Then I pull open the front gate and out we go, Mum in her wheelchair with me by her side. I sit at the roadside to wait till the traffic has gone, then off we go. If we go one way I'll get a serious swim

which is fun, but if the other, it could be shopping first. Mum is good for if we go shopping I get a run on our way home — either by the river in the park near our house, or the school grounds.

If it is shopping, I have work to do, pressing the traffic control buttons (Mum can't do that). I jump up and press the stick Mum holds. Then I pay when Mum has chosen what she wants. She puts money in my shopping purse and I jump up and give it to the assistant, then fetch it back after. I do that at the bank too and love it as I have to take the purse to and fro a few times so get lots of biscuit treats — yummy!

I like town as there is often edible rubbish on the ground and although Mum doesn't like me having people's leftover food, I try to get it — naughty me!

Then it could be one of three walks home — the park, the Close or the cricket field. That's longer but more exciting as we walk across what human call the water meadows with streams for paddling, then get to the deep river for a good swim, also a run and if I am lucky, apples to eat. When it is getting colder apples fall off trees and I eat them quick — yummy. Sometimes Mum picks some up and tosses them in the river — that is fun as I swim to catch the apples — I like that.

If Mum drops anything, I pick it up, and if she wants her coat off I do that too. That is fun as I just pull and pull, then off it comes. If Mum is cold again and wants her clothes on I help too — told you, I am really smart. Sometimes she tells me to “speak” — I know that is important as it is my signal Mum needs help. There may be a nasty person around, or we need to attract attention — whichever reason, I know I must make a big noise — woof, woof and then I get a tasty treat!

Some days we go to a big place called “La La” — there are lots of people, some dressed in nighties — even the men. I to sit quietly next to Mum on the blanket she brings for me while they sing songs and go to sleep. When I hear the word “Amen” I know it is time to go, so pick up my blanket for Mum and hope for a treat! I get lots of fuss there and strangers come and ask my name and what I do. People notice me because I have my smart yellow coat on and usually am the only dog there.

We go to school some days — that is fun and the little people fuss me and bring me sticks to chew. I like them, and we sometimes go into their classroom and Mum tells them what I do to help her. I feel really proud.

Mum goes to the swimming pool sometimes — I like the river and sea, but Mum likes the pools. I go and watch and get anxious as I am not allowed to go near so couldn't help if she needed me. However I watch and am relieved when she gets out. One day though we went with Auntie to the seaside — I was so excited. To my amazement Mum went into the sea and although Auntie was holding her, I was worried so grabbed hold of Mum's neck float and dragged

continued on page 10...

A Day in the Life of a Dog for the Disabled

Continued from page 9

her safely to the beach. I was relieved and gave her lots of love. She gave me a cuddle and said how good I was, but I was only saving Mum as I love her.

When we return home, I open the gate for Mum — poor Mum can't reach the latch, and in we go. If I am wet, I get what we call a "rub-dub" — that is such fun and I roll over on my back as I love having my tummy rubbed. Then I fetch the cordless phone for Mum. I also fetch Mum's indoor shoes. It is much easier being a dog — don't have to bother with shoes. My next job is to fetch some wires — one is black and the other white and Mum joins them to her chair. I used to watch her struggling and thought "bet I can do that" and sure enough I can and get a treat.

There is always more work to do- picking up things for Mum and doing the washing. I put the clothes into the washing machine, then later we get them all out again- usually a bit wet but I don't care, as I get treats.

Sometimes we go away on holiday- that is really good fun and I could tell you lots of stories about holidays.

So the days go by and when at bedtime I pull Mum's clothes off, and fetch all she needs. It is a busy life but I love helping Mum.

I am a lucky chap: I like my work and have lots of fun and different outings which my doggie friends don't have. We have adventures too, but you will have to wait to hear those as right now it is time to sleep.

Paws Across The Pond, Part One

by Oak Wilkins

Hello, fellow assistance dogs. In the Fall of 2004, Mum and I, along with a whole bunch of other people and pooches, travelled to Matsumoto, Japan to speak to the first-ever conference of assistance dog partners in Asia. Actually, Mum and the other humans did the speaking, but I made the kids laugh by turning up side down on the stage.

Now, we're getting ready to head to London, England next June for the first-ever conference to be hosted in Europe by the International Association of Assistance Dog Partners. I guess the humans are doing some of the work to get everything ready, but I think the real host with the most will be my good friend, Caesar who lives in Dorset, England. Anyway, Mum thought it would be a good idea for me to keep you updated as to the preparations we're making to take that trip so that if you and your human ever want to do it, you'll know the steps you need to take. Yes, it's only October at the moment, but it isn't too soon for us to get preparations underway.

On October 4th, we paid a visit to Dr. Jacquie's office so that she could verify that I had a microchip. That is very first thing you have to do if you want to visit the U.K., get a microchip or ask the vet to scan you with a hand held microchip reader to make sure a previously implanted microchip can easily be found. The vet must write down the microchip number on your paperwork before you get vaccinated or blood tested. If you get a rabies shot or do the blood test before you have a microchip, DEFRA - the U.K.'s Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs will insist you start the procedure all over again. Please make sure your human partner does it in the right sequence the first time (i.e. microchip, then a rabies shot, then the blood test).

My vet discovered my microchip, which was implanted between my shoulder blades before I became a guide dog, had migrated to a new location. It can now be found on the right side of my rib cage. My partner needs to tell the quarantine inspectors in the U.K. to look for it in that spot when they scan me with a microchip reader.

If you have a microchip that does not conform to international standards, which is the case with most dogs microchipped in North America, including me, your partner can rent a scanner from the microchip company and bring it along when you travel overseas. This ensures your microchip number can be read upon arrival, if the scanner used by officials in countries outside the USA and Canada only read those chips which conform to the international standard. Fortunately, the scanner in use at Heathrow airport in the U.K. is sensitive enough to pick up on Avid and Home Again chips from North America, so my mom won't need to rent a scanner when we travel to the U.K. in June 2008 for the IAADP Conference.

Speaking of rabies, I had my last three-year shot on April 17th of 2006, but Dr. Jacquie gave me a booster in preparation for the blood test I'll have in a couple of weeks, a rabies titer test. I'll tell you all about that test next time.

I guess the only other thing I can say at the moment is that if you and your human are planning a trip to the United Kingdom, you might want to encourage your human to get in touch with Dr. Liz Shickle at Elizabeth.Shickle@animalhealth.gsi.gov.uk and take guidance from her. Humans in the know, like Michael Osborn of Laguna Beach, California, say that she takes a real interest in how we progress through the process, and that she even refers to us as her assistance dogs. How can we go wrong with someone like that on our side?

Well, as they say in England, ta-ta for now.

Hope You Will Support IAADP!

Donate by Shopping Through

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

Meet Your Board Member

Interview by Wendy Morrell

Your name: Ed Eames

Your assistance dog's name and breed: Latrell, Golden Retriever

Current location: Fresno, California

Is Latrell your first dog and how long have you been together? Latrell is my fifth dog and we have been together for four years

Is Latrell owner-trained or program-trained? Latrell was trained by Guide Dogs for the Blind, San Rafael, California

Is Latrell a Guide, Hearing or Service Dog? Guide dog
Briefly, how did you become involved with IAADP? As one favoring the concept of cross-disability advocacy, I became aware of the role of hearing and service dogs in the lives of their disabled partners. With a commitment to advocacy, education and political activism, with the help of my wife Toni and Joan Froling, we established IAADP in 1993. I am currently president of the organization.

In terms of the assistance dog movement, what excites you most? It has always been my contention that partnering with an assistance dog results in feelings of empowerment and advocacy, initially on behalf of the canine partner, then on behalf of oneself, then extended to the rights of the larger disabled community. I see that happening all over the world at the present time. If we can continue pulling together, what a wonderful world this will be!

Again, in terms of the assistance dog movement, what frustrates you most? Continuing to hear about access problems and realizing the larger society remains unaware of the capabilities of our canine assistants.

And now to the nitty gritty questions!

Not many people know this, but I am quite good at: juggling numbers in my head!

My favourite holiday destination is: the Caribbean

Reality tv or a good film? A good film. Just saw Sea Biscuit with a friend who narrated it and it was almost as good as the book!

Hamburger or Hot Dog? A Bahama Mama sausage found at Schmidts, a renowned Columbus, Ohio German restaurant

Pizza or Pasta? Pizza, with a beer

Beer, wine or soft drink? I prefer water

My last meal out was in? The Black Angus, a steak house, in Fresno

When relaxing, Latrell and I like to: take a leisurely walk with no other dogs or squirrels in the vicinity



Photo Contest!

We are looking for good "action shots" of Service, Hearing and Guide Dogs at work for *Partners' Forum* and/or our website and other possible venues, like a brochure or display board someday. Will also accept photos of dogs being schooled to perform tasks, sound alerts or skills. Everyone is welcome to enter.

We have some terrific prize items donated by companies like Planet Dog. If we use your photo, we will send you a prize with our thanks for helping us to educate people about the wonderful work these dogs can perform!

Wait! This gets even better! After we publish the top ten photos, our Photo Committee will select the one that gets top honors for an additional Cash Prize of \$50.

You are welcome to send multiple entries. Please send entries in the body of an email [we cannot download attachments due to our virus protection protocol]. Email to editor@iaadp.org or alternatively, mail snapshots to IAADP headquarters, P.O. Box 1326, Sterling Hts., MI 48311, USA. Email or envelope must clearly be labeled "PHOTO CONTEST" for photos to be eligible.

Please enclose the customary S.A.S.E., a self addressed envelope with proper postage, if you wish the photo to be returned.

For captioning purposes, please describe the skill, sound or task being demonstrated by the type of assistance dog in the photo [for example: Guide dog - leading blind partner to the nearest elevator, Hearing dog - alerting hard of hearing partner to an oven timer, Service dog - pulls up blanket on his partner, who is quadriplegic from cerebral palsy]. We ask but do not require you to identify the disability the dog is assisting with. Optional: may provide the dog's name, breed or breed mix and program affiliation, if any.

Be sure to include your name, address, phone number and/or email address for prize notification. Entry in the contest constitutes unrestricted written permission for IAADP to publish the photo and to crop it for space or aesthetic considerations. IAADP cannot be held responsible for copyright verification or incorrect or outdated contact information or lost entries or any other problems arising from our acceptance of and/or use of a photo in good faith.

NOTE: Sorry, we cannot accept copyrighted photos without a written release from the photographer who holds the copyright.

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.

The Other Woman

by Marilyn Pike

She was young, blond, and beautiful and even though she was intelligent, she couldn't help falling in love with someone's husband. . . mine!

I should probably shoulder some of the blame since I was the one who had arranged for their first meeting and encouraged their working relationship. All the same, it was obvious from the onset that she couldn't wait to get her paws on my husband.

The story really begins on the morning of July 13, 1998. To get a head start on the busy schedule planned for the day, I got up first to shower and dress. When I returned to the bedroom, I noticed that my husband was still sitting in his pajamas on the edge of the bed. Jokingly, I remarked that he'd better get a move on because the boss can't be late.

"Something is wrong," he replied as he began rubbing his right hand. "My hand is numb."

Fearing that he was having a heart attack, I called 911. At the ER, we were told that he had suffered a stroke. But it wasn't until the next morning that we realized the extent of the seriousness of the stroke. It not only left him paralyzed on his right side, he was unable to breathe on his own. I waited anxiously for the test results. On the fourth day his vital signs stabilized. I was happy to also learn that the stroke had not affected his cognitive or memory skills.

By the end of the week, his breathing tube was removed, and he was ready to begin physical therapy.

But after only three weeks of treatment, our optimism faded. Arnie had not made any physical improvement. The doctors decided that there wasn't anything more they could do for him and recommended that he be placed in a nursing home.

Ignoring their recommendations, I brought Arnie home. To combat his depression and to give him hope, I sought out alternative treatments. For the next two years, we followed both tried and true therapy programs and programs that were strictly experimental. Even though Arnie made amazing progress, far above what the doctors had predicted, his depression remained. He still didn't have control of his right side, and so he felt helpless. Then, I came across an article that lauded a service dog's ability to help the physical and emotional needs of a person with disabilities.

In researching service dogs on the computer, Arnie was disappointed to discover that, at the time, only the Assistance Dog Institute was accepting applications. ADI informed him that the wait might be long because dogs were placed according to compatibility and not on a first come-first serve basis. That didn't matter. He sent in his paperwork, attended a qualifying interview, and proceeded to wait.

To pass the time, a friend suggested that Arnie join the Disability Advisory Committee in Placentia. With encouragement from everyone, he did. Volunteerism agreed with him. Within months he became involved with other organizations as well. Moving about in our city independently was not easy. Constantly encountering access barriers: steps instead of ramps, narrow pathways, heavy doors, no curb cuts, etc., he became frustrated. Realizing that these barriers

were the handicap, not his disability, his focus changed. Gradually, trying to make his world accessible consumed all his time and energy.

At first, he joined forces with the Californians for Disability Rights Organization. Then he formed the CDR Orange County Chapter. As time past, most of the neighboring city councils came to know my husband on a first name basis. Successful at removing his barriers, he began helping other people with disabilities remove theirs.

Four years elapsed before we heard from ADI. We left for Santa Rosa the last week of July 2006.

Arnie spent the first four days training with different dogs. At the end of the fourth day, he and the staff choose one as his working companion. She was a golden retriever-yellow lab mix. On the fifth night, Arnie brought Fort to our hotel room. It was easy to see why Arnie had fallen in love with her. She was blond, beautiful, and intelligent.

For the next several days, she and my husband were attached by a short leash. No one, including the staff, was allowed to speak to, feed, or touch her except for Arnie until graduation day.

Arnie and Fort spent the next eleven days working as a team. Arnie attended classes with Fort in the morning getting instructions, feedback, and rationale. In the afternoons, Fort and Arnie went on supervised field trips to practice the lessons of the day. Fort had been given two years to master her commands, but Arnie had only two weeks. Yet, she did not have any empathy for him. At the end of each day, however, she would reward his hard work by snuggling next to him on the bed in the hotel room. Needless to say, there was barely enough space on the bed for me. In fact, the bed issue became the first major friction between Fort and me.

When we arrived home after graduation, I purchased a dog bed and informed everyone that I expected Fort to sleep on it. I decided that the bed scenario of Santa Rosa wouldn't be repeated in my own home, in my own bed. That first night, Fort appeared at my side of the bed and began nudging me. Thinking she had to "better hurry" I got up to let her out. However, instead of following me, she jumped up on my side of the bed and pretended she was asleep. Laughing at her ingenuity, I nevertheless, made Arnie get her off. However, when she pulled the same stunt several nights in a row, it was no longer a laughing matter. I finally conceded round one with the stipulation that she had to sleep on Arnie's side. This was only the beginning of the struggle for alpha position.

It is obvious to everyone that this beautiful young blond with the soft brown eyes is the new love in Arnie's life and he in hers. She often sits and stares at him and then for no apparent reason, nudges his hand or kisses his cheek. She is always doing things to please him and never lets him out of her sight for more than a few minutes. When he was hospitalized for a few days, she cuddled next to him in the hospital bed for hours at a time.

During this past year, I have come to recognize that Fort is the other woman in my life. In the beginning it was not

easy for me accept the fact that I had to share my husband's love.

In fact, I've learned to suppress my true feelings on several issues. I show no envy when Arnie praises her and tells her thank you or please. Moreover, I try not to let it bother me when she receives more hugs and kisses than I do or when he spends our money buying her trinkets and treats. What's more I've had to make many concessions to keep the peace. For instance, I don't wait to be told to move over anymore. I just routinely make room so she can sit next to him.

On the other hand, she has brought about phenomenal changes in our lives. Because he has to feed Fort, groom her, and take care of all her needs, Arnie has discovered that he can do more and now helps me around the house. His manners have also improved because Fort demands to be spoken to in soft polite words. His bouts with depression are shorter and further apart because she is there to comfort him without judgment. She has taught him patience.

Given that Fort is a natural people magnet, she has trans-

formed Arnie socially. We once again enjoy going to movies, theaters, restaurants, and other events just because he wants to show off Fort. Furthermore, without hesitation, he will carry on conversations with complete strangers about his new love. As a result, his speech has improved.

Most importantly, as Arnie's care giver, I had focused all my energy on his daily needs and requests. I was left with little time for myself. Fort not only took over the job of fetching and retrieving, she has made Arnie feel independent and self-reliant. He and Fort now continue the work for disability rights together on a state wide level.

I still continue to struggle with the issues of who gets more attention and affection. That being said, I cannot help but love and admire Fort because she has the distinction of doing what I wasn't able to do. She has given my husband back his independence, and by doing so, she helped me regain mine as well. Our home is once again a happy place.

Yes, there is much to be said about the other woman, and it starts with "Isn't she wonderful?"

UK: 2008 Designated as the Year of the Assistance Dog

Five charities which train assistance dogs in the United Kingdom have announced plans to designate 2008 Year of the Assistance Dog, campaigning for the rights of assistance dog partnerships.

The five organisations that comprise Assistance Dogs UK (ADUK); Dogs for the Disabled, Support Dogs, Canine Partners, Guide Dogs, and Hearing Dogs, will work together to promote rights of access to services for all assistance dog partnerships. Partnerships will be encouraged to nominate retailers, leisure facilities, public premises, parks and transport operators for Dog Stars, giving service providers with an incentive to make their premises assistance dog friendly.

Dog Star Awards will be symbols of service excellence, given in recognition that premises and services meet the needs of all assistance dog partnerships. For example, provision of wheelchair access, Braille menus for blind and partially-sighted people, induction loops for customers with hearing impairment, and of course — water bowls for assistance dogs!

On the whole access in the UK for assistance dog partnerships is good, but there remain challenges which can lead to disadvantage and unlawful discrimination towards partnerships, by highlighting good practice with Dog Star Awards it is hoped that such good practice will become the norm from service providers.

The Institute of Environmental Health Officers advises

that assistance dogs should not be a risk to hygiene. These dogs are regularly groomed to the highest standard and the health and condition of every dog is checked regularly by a vet. It is the responsibility of the person partnered with the dog to ensure that their dog meet the highest level of hygiene.

Background

Since December 1996, it has been unlawful for hoteliers and restaurant owners to refuse to serve a disabled person or offer a lower standard of service for reasons related to the person's disability. Since October 2004, the law also requires that service providers make reasonable adjustments to the physical features of their premises to overcome barriers to access.

Taxi drivers — since 31 March 2001 (31 March 2003 in Scotland) — are required to carry, free of charge, assistance dogs travelling with their owner. A similar duty has applied since 31 March 2004 to drivers and operators of private hire vehicles (private hire cars in Scotland).

Additionally, since 4 December 2006, under Part 3 of the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA), it has been unlawful for them to refuse service to a disabled person, or offer a lower standard of service for reasons related to the person's disability. The law also requires them to make reasonable adjustments for disabled people in the way that their services are provided — though that does not include physical alterations to the vehicles.

Fund Raising Tips

by Debi Davis

Introduction

Debi Davis is a pioneer in the utilization of small service dogs. Her Papillon Peek was an outstanding example of the variety of disability-related tasks a small service dog can perform. Debi was always willing to share her humane and innovative training methods with others.

The article below first prepared by Debi has been adapted to provide suggestions to help raise funds to obtain an assistance dog. The techniques could also be used to finance your trip to the IAADP conference in London on June 25, 2008!

Many people with disabilities have developed fundraising drives to have their needs met. Having an organized plan and a website is a good start. Here are a few thoughts I offer to get you started.

Plan a SPONSORSHIP campaign on paper and list possible sponsors in your community, such as local businesses you support; grocery stores, convenience stores, gas stations, hair salons, churches, civic organizations, etc.

Make up an information packet with a well-designed flyer and picture to present your information, including contact information and instructions on how sponsors can contribute easily via PayPal. Also, you can include assistance dog information by printing out the IAADP brochure and including this information in your packet. You can do this inexpensively with folders, and have a nicely designed label on the front you make on your own computer.

Get out in person to hand out your flyers, meet your potential sponsors and put your dog through a few paces.

If you do not already have professionally done photographs, perhaps you could make one of your first business sponsorship visits to a local photographer, to see if he/she might offer to take the photos as part of the sponsorship. If you have no luck with a professional photographer, visit your local community college photography department and see if you can network there, finding a student who could take a series of shots in exchange for a release for him/her to use those photos in a portfolio.

Making up a sponsorship appreciation award can also be

effective. Many different types with attractive borders are available in office supply stores and you just fill in the names and words on your computer. This is something tangible that the sponsor can display on the business' wall.

Put flyers up in local grocery store bulletin boards to garner more community support. If you belong to a church group, see if you can organize a bake sale or rummage sale on the weekend. On the tables with the goodies you are selling, have more flyers, pictures and information that buyers of the goods can take home and read.

Consider enlisting the help of a Scout, or 4-H club. Members get badges for community work. Be sure to check on local permits to do things like this. A local grocery store here recently had a small group selling hot dogs and soda in front of the store. The store donated the space, sodas, paper plates and cups, and ice. The group bought the hot dogs, buns and condiments. All proceeds went to the group.

You may also want to consider visiting a couple of Toastmaster meetings, where you will have an opportunity to talk for a minute or two about your passion for this endeavor. This will likely not only garner you interest and possible sponsors from the members, but also give you some tips on public speaking. Toastmasters is fantastic, and they are an international group with meetings in most towns I've ever been in. They are excellent resources for helping people refine speaking skills, learning how to use eye contact and body language effectively, as well as organizing and presenting any type of speech.

Service clubs like Lions, Rotary and Kiwanis are committed to community service and are always looking for speakers. You are part of the community and these organizations can help in your campaign and by contributing financially to your cause.

Though time may be short, if you really put your efforts toward fundraising in your own community, you should be able to amass the funds you need in short order. I suggest following through with a thank you letter for sponsorship support.

Good luck!

VCP Guidelines Revision

Please note the following revision to the VCP Guidelines:

Guideline #2: To be considered an IAADP Partner Member in good standing, eligible to apply for a VCP Grant, a New or Lapsed Renewal Member must be enrolled a minimum of 45 days prior to the veterinarian's application to VCP. The 45 days will be determined according to the records in IAADP's database showing the enrollment date, the precise date when the Membership ID card was first issued by the Database Manager.

IAADP's Latest Benefit:

Central Life Sciences to Donate 1,200 Comfort Zone® with D.A.P.® Diffusers

by Carrie Foote, Public Relations Manager

Toni and Ed Eames were featured speakers at the Cat Writers Association conference in Foster City, CA., last month where they spoke with the assembled writers about "Writing About Disabilities." I had the pleasure of talking with them later that evening after describing the benefits of using a product from Central Life Sciences called Comfort Zone® with D.A.P.® (Dog Appeasing Pheromone).

Their interest in the product was peaked, they explained, because as they get older, many assistance dogs suffer from a fear of sudden, loud noises such as thunderstorms and fireworks. They also described situations where the bond between teammates was so strong that when they must be separated, the dogs suffered stress due to the separation.

Comfort Zone® with D.A.P.® was developed by veterinarians to help soothe dogs in situations just like these... and more. The result of this conversation was that it was agreed that Central Life Sciences would donate 1,200 Comfort Zone® with D.A.P.® Diffusers to IAADP to distribute to their members whose canine assistants could benefit from the product.

Comfort Zone® with D.A.P.® mimics a natural pheromone released by a nursing mother dog that acts to reassure and calm her puppies. This pheromone continues to have the same effect on dogs through adulthood. Comfort Zone® with D.A.P.® gives you the power to soothe and calm your dog whenever necessary – to help reduce or eliminate certain fears and stress such as loud noises or stress due to separation from his/her partner.

Comfort Zone® with D.A.P.® is clinically proven to effectively control fear and stress-related behavior and is recommended by veterinarians and dog trainers.

Comfort Zone® with D.A.P.® is available in two easy-to-use applications; a diffuser and a spray.

Just plug the Comfort Zone® with D.A.P.® diffuser into the room in which the dog spends most of his/her time, as close to the floor as possible, for constant calming and reassurance all day – and all night. This provides comfort while you are away from home and calms and reassures your assistance dog during thunderstorms, fireworks displays as well as loud street traffic, low-flying aircraft or noisy household appliances – such as vacuum cleaners.

If a loud noise is anticipated during a special event, such as Independence Day – plug the diffuser in a week prior to the event and leave it plugged in for a week afterwards. One diffuser bottle lasts 30 days and covers up to 650 square feet. Refills are available.

Comfort Zone® with D.A.P.®

Spray is ideal for reducing stress when traveling, during visits to the veterinarian or introducing your partner to new people or other animals. To keep dogs calm and reassured, spray 8-10 pumps inside the car where the dog will be sitting 15 minutes before putting the dog in the car, or spray a bandana then wait 15 minutes before tying it around the dog's neck.

To learn more about Comfort Zone® with D.A.P.® please visit www.petcomfortzone.com.

In addition to the Comfort Zone® with D.A.P.® Diffusers, IAADP members who would like to try the product will be sent a reference guide which discusses additional situations when Comfort Zone® with D.A.P.® may be helpful. A brochure containing a product sample, in wipe form, for use when Comfort Zone® with D.A.P.® Spray would be of assistance will also be sent.

D.A.P.® is a registered trademark of Ceva Santé Animale.

Members participating in this free distributional program will initially be provided with one donated Comfort Zone® with D.A.P.® Diffuser and asked to participate in an IAADP sponsored survey concerning product results.

To request your free Comfort Zone® with D.A.P.® Diffuser, please either email Tanya at Tanya@iaadp.org or mail your request to the following address:

IAADP
c/o Tanya Eversole
P.O. Box 531086
Cincinnati, OH 45253



Retirement Lessons

by Joan Froling

Keeping your retired service dog when you obtain a successor dog may not be feasible. Sometimes the older dog would be happier in a new home where he could be the center of attention. However, if you do try it, don't do what I naively did to my first service dog, Nikki.

I expected this intelligent, highly food motivated Samoyed to go "cold turkey" and turn into a pet overnight. I worried it would be cruel to let him go on performing service dog tasks. Wouldn't it just confuse him and delay his acceptance of retirement? Wasn't it best to stop it?

The expression in Nikki's eyes branded me a traitor whenever I sent Dakota to do a task for me. Nikki sometimes growled at his successor over who had the right to bring me a beverage. We were so miserable, I feared I'd have to give up Nikki until one day I experimented with rewarding him for NOT doing the task! After that, whenever I called Dakota, Nikki hurried over and did a Sit Stay to eagerly earn HIS reward. He no longer felt cheated. He did not mind if Dakota was rewarded first for the delivery, as long as I made a fuss over HIM right afterwards. Every dog since Nikki has been willing to let the new dog do tasks, as long as he could earn a reward for not interfering with the retrieval of a beverage, phone or some other object.

Another idea is to give the retired dog a job to do twice a day, even if it is only to carry a shoe or balance a treat on his nose, so he can enjoy the delicious thrill of your praise, your admiration and still feel important. Friends who have tried this kindness report it can eliminate jealousy.

A third way to enhance a retiree's quality of life is to dress him in uniform and occasionally take him on a short excursion. A trip to the drugstore will mean so much to him, the old dog's happiness may bring tears to your eyes. My initial belief it might worsen Nikki's discontent when I took the successor dog on an outing proved to be utter hog-wash.

These retirement strategies have given me a much gentler way to ease a canine partner into the last stage of his life. Hopefully they can someday help other teams as well.

Who Do I Ask? Where Do I Send It?

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Thank you notes

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Membership
Benefits, VCP

Jill Exposito, Board Member
jill@iaadp.org 913-469-6063

New Projects

Membership Information

Membership Dues: Partner Member \$30; Renewal \$30; or join/renew, 3 years for the price of 2 years! \$60; Partners outside North America \$20 per year or \$40 for 3 years; Friend \$20; Provider \$35. 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 data CD. 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

Call (513)245-2199 or email tanya@iaadp.org or see contact info on IAADP Website: www.iaadp.org
You can also contact us by mail at IAADP, P.O. Box 1326, Sterling Hts., MI 48311

International Association of Assistance Dog Partners

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