



ADI Newsletter

Assistance Dogs International
Setting Standards for the Assistance Dog Industry since 1987

National Service Dog Training Centre, Inc. *Cambridge, Ontario, Canada*

In 1996, the first Certified Service Dog Team for Autism in North America was formed by National Service Dog Training Centre, Inc., based in Cambridge, Ontario.

With National Service Dogs pioneering the program of breeding, training and placing specialized Certified Service Dogs for children with autism, many questions were raised around the benefit to the child:

- Will it work?
- Will the dog be a valuable asset in working with a child with autism?
- Will the child's behaviours, speech, social skills, and coping abilities improve when working with a Certified Service Dog?

Brodie Morin and his mother Maureen can tell you that it didn't take long to discover that a Certified Service Dog for Autism is capable of all of the above, plus more.

Brodie was born with Autistic Disorder, a diagnosis on the severe end of the autism spectrum. He did not communicate in his early years beyond physical attacks. He was not only abusive to the people around him, but also to himself, from banging his head on hard objects to biting himself.

When Brodie was between the ages of two to four, his parents visited every autism specialist in Ontario, as well as some specialists in the United States. The doctors all told them the same thing: "You should accept that Brodie will never have verbal speech, that he will not be able to function normally in society due to his anxieties and aggressions." Most doctors recommended behaviour modifying drugs and specialized classrooms that would keep Brodie segregated and have the staff to deal with his autism. Instead, the Morin family decided to try something new and unheard of.

At the age of four, Brodie received NSD's first Certified Service Dog for Autism, Shady, a three year old black Labrador Retriever. Brodie and his dog Shady were the first Certified Service Dog Team for Autism. Being a Certified Service Dog, Shady was granted public access. This was very important as Brodie never left his autism at home when he went out, and he never checked his autism at the door when he entered a public building.

When in public, Brodie and Shady were tethered together. Shady became Brodie's constant shadow; the two were inseparable. The strangest thing was that Brodie did not seem to mind that she was with him all the time. Brodie began to trust Shady and slowly learned to trust his family, too. Brodie's aggression towards others began to lessen as Shady blocked his path to attacking people. No matter how upset he was, Brodie would never attack his dog.

Brodie still got lost in his world of autism, but the time spent in that world also shortened. Due to Shady's bond and working time with Brodie, the dog had a sense of when Brodie was having a hard time. There were times when Brodie would become agitated, and no one saw it coming until it was too late. By watching Shady, who was able to sense Brodie's moods and provide warning signs, his parents were provided with reaction time.

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Shadow & Brodie

National Service Dog Training Centre, Inc.

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Issues surrounding Brodie's safety, such as his bolting, were changed by having a routine established by the dog. For Brodie, routines at roads, in parking lots, walking along a sidewalk, in hallways at school, and in crowds were established by Shady. Once routines were established, that was what Brodie would follow.

Consistency, positive reinforcement, immediate correction of a negative action, setting routines - these are the principles that the Service Dog follows, and the principles that apply when teaching a child with autism. This is why the Service Dog Teams for Autism are so successful; the dog and the child work together under the same code of conduct.

When Shady was 10 years old, she retired and Brodie's new Service Dog, Shadow, was certified. Shadow was the perfect dog to move Brodie forward in becoming a teenager. As Brodie learned to trust and enjoy life, his world kept expanding. Fishing and swimming were favourite pastimes for Brodie, which later led to his passion of scuba diving.

During Brodie's grade 7 year, scuba diving was all that he could think of. After a year of in-pool scuba training and instruction with his dog watching every bubble at poolside, Brodie became a certified diver. At the age of 18, he has now completed over 50 dives.

Brodie was never placed on behaviour modifying drugs, nor was he placed in a special class or school for autism. Brodie is fully verbal and is loving, caring, and an absolute joy to be around.

Brodie not only functions in society, but he is an important part of it. He is approaching his final year of high school and just completed a co-op placement with National Service Dogs. Additionally, he is the official ambassador of National Service Dogs. He attends numerous fundraising events each year and does presentations in front of hundreds of people.

Brodie is everything people said he would never be. He does have autism, but more importantly, he has a Service Dog at his side. Brodie has become a wonderful young man. He still needs his family; however, he now wants them in the background, supporting him and his Shadow as they journey through life.

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NATIONAL SERVICE DOGS HAS ONE OF THEIR OWN INDUCTED INTO PURINA 2010 HALL OF FAME

Eight-year-old Cole Heins suffers from a life-threatening and undiagnosed condition that causes him to retch and stop breathing with little to no warning. As Cole was growing up, his parents, Mandi and Dwayne, took him from specialist to specialist, trying to determine what illness was taking hold of their son. Cole was often in the hospital for scans and surgeries, both to help diagnose his illness and to treat its effects. Cole had to be under constant supervision 24 hours a day.

After years of searching for a cure and finding nothing, Mandi decided to enlist the help of a Hearing Dog who would be able to alert them to Cole's retching. After an extensive search and with the help of National Service Dogs, she found Bingo, a 10 year old Jack Russell Terrier. Bingo was specifically trained by NSD to bark whenever she hears Cole retch. Alerting Cole's family to the fact that Cole may have stopped breathing is an amazing feat as most Hearing Dogs tap their deaf owners. With this unique skill set, Bingo has proven herself to be Cole's saviour time and time again.

National Service Dogs is proud to congratulate Bingo, Purina Animal Hall of Fame 2010 Inductee.

Submitted by National Service Dogs, Cambridge, Ontario, Canada



Bingo

*Editor: Robin Dickson, Dogs for the Deaf, Oregon, U.S.A.
Graphic Layout: Kristine Kellogg-Garrison, Dogs for the Deaf, Oregon, U.S.A.*

Canine Companions for Independence A WORLD APART

Portland, Oregon - Circa 1985:

Kerri had been sitting in a rarely-used, musty, back-office elevator. Sitting and waiting patiently as 20 minutes passed, thinking about the appointment she was soon to miss.

The elevator wasn't stuck and Kerri wasn't anxious. She just couldn't reach the elevator buttons from her wheelchair on her own. So she sat there reflecting, waiting for the inevitably helpful stranger to arrive and assist with a simple task that was usually performed by her Assistance Dog, Abdul.

And then it struck her... what used to be a world filled with pitfalls, obstacles, and constantly missed appointments had been transformed by Abdul - who was the first Service Dog, provided by Canine Companions for Independence - by Kerri's side practically every moment for the past 10 years. Except for this day when Abdul had his own appointment with his veterinarian.

"With Abdul by my side, obstacles were the farthest thing from my mind. Because of Abdul, my self-perception shifted from being helpless to being capable, independent, and self-reliant. That day in the elevator, I realized that I'm the person I am because of my dog," Kerri says.



Kerri & Nancy

Today, nearly 35 years after receiving Abdul, Kerri's independence has bloomed. She's travelled extensively to study horses and runs her own adaptive riding institute. Additionally, she enjoys backpacking and white water rafting. Kerri now has her third Canine Companions Assistance Dog, Nancy. But she'll always remember Abdul, and how their partnership changed her life.

"With Abdul, I saw myself as part of the world instead of a world apart. And people began to treat me with admiration and respect instead of confusion and pity. Having Abdul made me the person I am," explains Kerri.

It's been 35 years since Abdul changed Kerri's life, and 35 years since the founding of Canine Companions for Independence.

Since 1975 there's been nearly 3,500 Canine Companions for Independence teams like Kerri and Abdul. We can count and keep track of that. What we can't count and keep track of are the elevator moments. The moments where people felt better about themselves or their lives because of an Assistance Dog.

So, this year as Canine Companions celebrates its 35th birthday, we're celebrating each of those moments. Join us in celebrating 35 years of independence.

***Submitted by Canine Companions for Independence
Santa Rosa, California, U.S.A.***

PUPPIES IN FLIGHT

Our involvement with Puppies in Flight has been positive on so many levels. Since the Guide Dog Foundation has puppy raisers in 16 states across the U.S., our pups spend a lot of time in the air!

Before the implementation of this program, puppies that were travelling out of state would have to fly in the cargo hold of a participating airline. Travel was frequently restricted by exceptionally warm or cold weather, and our volunteer puppy raisers would worry about the comfort of their beloved charges during transit. Thanks to the efforts of the US Airways "Do Crew," we and our volunteers can relax in the knowledge that our puppies are going to be safe and comfortable in the cabin of the plane.

Many pups take their first flight to their volunteer puppy raiser families when they are only 8 weeks old, and then return to us 12 - 14 months later to begin their formal training on our campus. Our puppy raisers have told us time and time again that the "Do Crew" volunteers are professional, courteous, and above all, compassionate when meeting them for a transport. I am constantly amazed at the generosity of the "Do Crew" volunteers. It is not uncommon for some volunteers to spend more than 30 hours, taking multiple flights, simply to help us get our puppies where they need to go!

Below is a note from one of the "Do Crew" volunteers that perfectly exemplifies why these folks blow us away on a regular basis. Two volunteers worked together for more than 50 hours to make sure that our puppy arrived safely and comfortably at his destination.

**Grete Eide, Director of Canine Care
Guide Dog Foundation for the Blind, Inc., Smithtown, New York, U.S.A.**

Good morning to all,

I really enjoyed my weekend with Skippy Friday night and Virgil Saturday night at my home. After 3 days, 7 flights, 2 great dogs, and lots of smiles, Skippy is, of course, in New York at GDF, and Virgil is in ATL with Lucy.

The best I can figure out is my journey started Friday morning at 6:00 am when I left for the airport the first time, and got home the last time 54 hours later on Sunday about 12 noon, leaving me with enough time to still see all of my football on Sunday.

I am still very grateful to be allowed the opportunity to take part in this program. I really enjoy everything about it. After now completing 25 total transports, I look forward to many more.

A few photos are attached.

David R., Member of the "Do Crew", US Airways



David, US Airways "Do Crew" member, with Skippy



Virgil

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON SEIZURE DOGS

Worldwide, some 50 million people suffer from epilepsy. In Belgium, that comes down to a rate of 1 in 150, 70-80 percent of whom are seizure-free, thanks to adequate medication. Half of the epileptic patients sense an oncoming seizure in advance, and are thus (sometimes) able to ask for help or make sure they will be more or less safe during the episode. Unfortunately, the other half are not, thus being at risk at any given time.

Seizure Dogs - probably the least known type of Assistance Dogs - are especially educated for the benefit of people suffering from epilepsy. They make their handlers leave their homes from time to time to go for a soothing walk together, thus making sure that the both of them get enough exercise. As any other Assistance Dog does, the Seizure Dog favours social contacts; people stop to talk easier, if only about the dog. They are often a source of humour and turn out to be a true companion, offering the necessary emotional support.

Epilepsy is still greatly taboo, and patients often feel shame at having seizures. That is where the Seizure Dog comes in. The dog's presence indicates the handler suffers from epilepsy, and inside the dog's harness there is a little informative note for people passing by.

Most Seizure Dogs learn to start barking when their handlers are experiencing a seizure. The barking sound not only alerts other people, it is also recognizable for the handlers returning to their senses. At that moment, the dog's presence is often reassuring. Some dogs learn how to fetch help or push an alarm button. Such a Seizure Response Dog can also get the handler's mobile phone or fetch the necessary medication. Hachiko also trains them in "street work" so that they can prevent their handlers from crossing the street when not being alert enough, and keep them away from chasms or flows.

When handler and dog bond closely, some dogs start predicting seizures, thus being called "Seizure Alert Dogs." Such dogs give a signal the handlers can recognise, so that they have time to take the necessary precautions. At the start of a dog's training, it is not clear whether the dog will have that ability in the future.

Hachiko pioneers in Seizure Dog training and gets requests for help from patients all over Belgium and abroad. Taken into account the need for intensive, individual training and guidance, it is impossible for them to respond to all of these requests. That is why they invited dog trainers and epileptics to an International Congress on Seizure Dogs on May 20 and 21, 2010. Their colleagues from Stichting Hulphond Nederland (The Netherlands) also shared their experiences. Thanks to the support of the pharmaceutical company UCB, Hachiko was able to invite the most renowned American experts from Canine Assistants. They represent one of the most important organisations for Seizure Dog training in the entire world.

Participants from The Netherlands, France, Switzerland, Chechnya, Norway, Germany, Austria, and the United Kingdom came to Ghent (Belgium) to share experiences and attend workshops on different themes, such as:

- Attribution criteria for Seizure Dogs
- Selection criteria for dogs eligible for Seizure Dog training
- Skills Seizure Dogs need to acquire

Two of Hachiko's clients testified to how their Seizure Dog changed their life.

The congress turned out to be very instructive for all of those present.

Submitted by Hachiko, Belgium



Assistance Dogs International Report from the Board

Conference: The 2010 conference in Toronto was a great success, and particular thanks must go to Sandy Turney and her team at Dog Guides Canada for all their work in setting up the conference venue and providing a great team of staff and volunteers. Thanks must also go to Richard Lord for coordinating the conference program and Suzi Hall for the huge amount of work she did to get the conference up and running.

We hope to load up a number of the presentations on the “members-only” part of the website very soon.

Web Development: At the conference, a group met to discuss the development of the website and their suggestions will come to the Board very shortly for discussion. We continue to look at ways of making the web a valuable resource for members.

Regional Development: During the ADI Conference, we held the international launch of ANZAD (Australia and New Zealand) as a formal chapter of ADI.

AAI/AAT Issues: The AAI Working Group has continued to be active, although the focus of work has shifted for some members to working with a potential new international organisation called Animals Assisted Intervention International (AAII). There was a very valuable workshop held in Toronto, and a group has emerged to continue to work on AAI issues.

Membership Issues: The following three motions were approved at the members meeting and are now in force.

Motion 1

1. That from 1 January 2011, candidates should have a maximum of 7 years to achieve accreditation and become members of ADI. During that time, candidates must show clear evidence that they are working towards achieving accreditation and at a minimum must undertake the following to retain candidate status:
 - a) To apply for candidate status, the organization must have a name and a written mission statement indicating the intent to provide Assistance Dogs. The organization does not have to have non-profit status (or charitable equivalent) for the first year.
 - b) To apply for second year candidate status, the organization must have applied for charitable status or its equivalent. It must have written bylaws and/or written constitution.
 - c) To apply for fourth year status, the organization must have placed 3 dogs
 - d) To apply for sixth year status, the organization must outline its timetable for becoming accredited.
 - e) To apply for seventh year status organizations must also apply and pay for accreditation process. Candidates agree to abide by all ADI Ethics and Standards, contribute to the annual ADI census and administer the ADI Public Access test to all their graduating teams.

Motion 2

Existing full members who do not attempt accreditation before 31 December 2010, will revert to candidate status on 1 January 2011 and will be given until 31 December 2012 to achieve accreditation otherwise they will be set free from ADI. They must wait 2 years before they can apply for candidate status.

Motion 3

Existing candidates have 7 years minus the number of years they have already been a candidate (provisional member) to achieve accreditation. If a candidate (provisional member) does not attempt to become accredited within the 7 years they will be set free from ADI. They must wait 2 years before they can apply to become a candidate.

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June, 2010 - Toronto ADI Conference

Assistance Dogs International Report from the Board

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Bylaws: A number of amendments to the bylaws were agreed upon at the members meeting. These were primarily to tidy things up in accordance with the decision of members at the London conference to have just members and candidates from 1 January 2011. The new bylaws will be available on the “members only” part of the website shortly.

Membership Processing: Membership forms were revised during 2009 to reflect the new membership categories. The census was completed and the current membership count is as follows:

Total membership = 156

Europe – 55

North America – 82

Asia – 7

Latin America – 1

Australia/NZ – 11

Full members = 118

Candidates = 38

During 2009 and 2010, 15 new programs joined ADI. All new member applications were scrutinized by the boards.

2012 Conference: No decisions have yet been made about the 2012 conference. If any program is interested in hosting a conference in the future, please get in touch with Suzi Hall for further details.

ADI Board - July 2010

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ARE YOU INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT ADI ACCREDITATION?

Please visit the ADI website (www.assistedogsinternational.org) “Members Only” section and review the following:

- ADI Accreditation Survey Procedures
- ADI Accreditation Process Steps
- ADI Instructions for Accreditation Pre-Packet
- ADI Accreditation Manual
- Common Questions and Answers about ADI Accreditation

Please send inquiries to ADI at this e-mail address: info@assistedogsinternational.org, and a member of the Accreditation Review Committee will contact you.

PLEASE NOTE: ADI Members in Europe should contact the ADEu secretariat at this e-mail address: info@assistedogseurope.org, for an application and further information about accreditation in the ADEu Regional Chapter.

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Bergin University of Canine Studies has a new address:

BerginU.edu

Having been recently awarded national accreditation through an agency of the U.S. Department of Education, Bergin University has now replaced its former *BerginU.org* with the exclusive domain name of *.edu*, a moniker whose permitted usage is limited to accredited universities and post secondary institutions only.



Mission Statement for Assistance Dogs International (ADI):

- **Promote** standards of excellence in all areas of Assistance Dog programs
- **Educate** the public to the benefits of these programs
- **Facilitate** communication and learning among organizations