



Setting Standards For The Assistance Dog Industry Since 1987

Mission Statement for Assistance Dogs International (ADI):

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

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Building Partnerships: Canine Companions for Independence Prison Puppy Raising Programs

Since 1995, Canine Companions for Independence (CCI) has been building partnerships with correctional facilities and implementing Prison Puppy Raising Programs. In 2006, CCI partnered with two more facilities and now has puppies being raised in 13 correctional facilities located in Florida, Oregon, Montana, Mississippi, Washington, Ohio, Colorado, and California. Each facility agrees to care for, train and socialize the puppies according to CCI guidelines including providing the puppies with socialization opportunities outside the facility. Additionally, each facility agrees that the puppies' safety will be a top priority to the facility and puppy raiser at all times. As of December 2006, the inmates of these facilities raised 160 CCI puppies whose graduation success rates are consistent with CCI puppies raised in volunteers' homes.

This Prison Puppy Raising Program is often life changing for participating inmates. One participant, Sharon, shared, "Being a puppy raiser was a self-esteem builder for me and kept me from becoming hard hearted. I learned discipline, how to put something ahead of myself, and finally, I took responsibility for my actions. Not only do these puppies open doors for people with disabilities, but also for people with some social ones." The first puppy Sharon raised works as a CCI Skilled Companion assistance dog for Kelsey, a 13-year-old girl with Cerebral Palsy.



CCI Graduate Scott Mitchell with Service Dog Titan II. Titan II was raised in part through the CCI prison puppy raising program at the Coffee Creek Correctional Facility located in Oregon.

The views and articles appearing in the ADI Newsletter do not necessarily reflect the attitudes or policies of Assistance Dogs International, its members, officers, or Board of Directors.

You Can Bank on Canine Partners

They might not be able to help if you forget your PIN, but these dogs can get your money out without pawing for thought.

The pooches are among an army of 'assistance dogs' who have been trained to withdraw money from cash machines for their disabled owners. They are adept at withdrawing cards at ATMs to help owners in wheelchairs who are often not able to stretch far enough to do it themselves.

A spokesman for charity Canine Partners, which trains the dogs, said: 'They put in the card and take it out and take out the money and give it to the person in the wheelchair. They can't put in the PIN, but a person in a wheelchair can go sideways on and do that.'

Up to 30 dogs are trained each year and the charity is hoping to double that figure next year. It takes two years to train them, in which time they also learn to load the washing and pick up items from shop shelves.

One of the graduates is ten-year-old *Endal*, who helped start the ATM service by chance and his own initiative.



The Labrador's owner is Allen Parton, a 1991 Gulf War veteran who lost the feeling down his right side after an accident in 1991 while serving as an officer in the Royal Navy.

Now in a wheelchair, he said that one day he was struggling to retrieve his cash from an ATM when *Endal* jumped up to reach for the card, money and receipt with his mouth. Allen said: 'It was amazing, as he had never been taught to do this.' *Endal* then uniquely learned to put the card in to the ATM, enabling Allen to be totally independent during the procedure. The feat helped *Endal* earn the Dog of the Millennium award in 1999.

<http://www.caninepartners.co.uk/>

Taiwan Guide Dog Association Joins ADI

Taiwan Guide Dog Association (TGDA), the first non-profit organization in Taiwan dedicated to a guide dog program, is pleased to announce its membership with Assistant Dog International.

International Guide Dog Month is in April, and TGDA also celebrating their fifth anniversary that month. In those five years, TGDA has trained 20 guide dog teams and set up the very first puppy raiser program in Taiwan. With the help of public education and guide dog access-related legislation, TGDA is working hard to cement its position in the country. Currently, TGDA maintains four professional guide dog instructors; TGDA trainers received their qualifications in New Zealand, Australia, and the USA. Because of these combined efforts, TGDA is moving forward confidently in the execution of their mission.

TGDA would also like to take this opportunity to express its gratitude to all overseas guide dog schools who have offered their help and support. The support from the network of international guide dog schools has been critical in establishing the guide dog program in Taiwan. Once fully established, TGDA hopes to be able to offer similar help to other guide dog schools in the future.



Left to right: *Endal*, an 11 year old Labrador Retriever, *Ikea*, an 8 year old Golden Retriever, pet dog owned by Sandra Parton, and *Gaia*, a 2 year old Poodle cross, pet dog owned by the CEO of Canine partners.

Canine Partners in the Dog House

Last summer, the rural calm of Canine Partners' Training Centre in West Sussex was shattered by the sound of teenagers screaming and swearing. Five youngsters had arrived to be taught how to become dog trainers. They were disruptive, violent, or painfully shy, and each had agreed to be part of a unique experiment. This experiment resulted in the BBC Documentary "Dog House," which aired this past April.

The head trainer at the time, Nina Bondarenko, who made her name training Rottweilers in her native Australia, had dealt with "stropky" teenagers before and thought the teenagers would not be too much of a problem. "Then I met them and I thought OK, this is going to be a bit more difficult," she says.

It was to be the start of a traumatic learning curve for her and an emotional journey for the youngsters. The idea was simple. Kids really like dogs, and the skills involved in training – patience, consistency, and positive rewards – could provide the young people with the discipline they needed. This kind of project had been tried in America with problem kids in high schools. The results achieved were impressive: school attendance up by more than 70% and major increases in self-esteem. The teenagers involved in the UK experiment were put forward by local schools in West Sussex, who had run out of ideas of how to deal with them.

Sullen and aggressive

Liam was typical: 14 years old, sullen, aggressive, foul-mouthed, and about to be permanently excluded from school. Allie, Rob and Ellie, while completely different characters, had similar problems: an inability to concentrate, dislike of being told what to do, and serious anger problems.

Only Katrina was different. Painfully shy to the point of agoraphobia, Katrina suffered from depression and had taken herself out of mainstream education.

Gradually, working with the dogs began to have an impact, but in order to fully appreciate the significance of what they were doing, the kids needed to meet the disabled people who benefited so much from having these dogs. And the meetings had a profound impact. After a journey to London to meet Eileen Hobson and her dog Sailor, Liam changed his ways. An unlikely friendship with

severely disabled wheelchair user Eileen blossomed. Two months into the course, Liam began to connect with the dogs too – particularly a young yellow Labrador called Aero. The relationship flourished to such an extent the dog often knew instinctively what the teenager wanted him to do before he'd even asked. "He just knows," said Liam.

His school noticed a phenomenal change in his whole outlook. "More than anything I see a confident and happy young man, any negative feelings I had about him have gone - it's been superb," says his year head Nick Brown.

The course had a profound effect on Katrina too. At the beginning she was so shy she struggled to even leave her house. After only a couple of months with Canine Partners, she confronted her fears and gave a talk about the charity to an audience of more than 40 college students. Her parents were overwhelmed with the transformation.

Serious lessons

All of the kids went through an emotional journey and each gained something real from the experiment. Whether three or four months can change them forever remains to be seen, but so far the signs look good. Ellie is now doing work experience at a kennels and Liam is working one day a week at Canine Partners itself. They are all more focused at school. It might not be practical to roll out such a scheme on a national scale, but there are serious lessons to be learnt from it and increasingly youth workers are seeing the value of animals in working with kids.



Leader Dog Continues Its Kennel Enrichment Program

The kennel enrichment program at Leader Dogs for the Blind is an on-going process that is geared toward building a less stressful environment for the dogs (it helps the staff too). With recent research in the areas of stress reduction along with an improved selection of dog toys being produced, Leader Dog has been able to kick their Kennel Enrichment program up a few notches.

Some of our latest improvements include:

- Increased visual stimuli using colorful kites and flags that move as the air circulates throughout the kennel. Even though dogs cannot see the full color spectrum that humans do, the multiple colors of the kites and flags are noticeable to them.
- Changing the music in the kennel from contemporary to classical. Though this initially elicited an almost universal groan from the staff, they now buy-in to the change since observing an increased level of relaxation among the dogs.
- Introducing dog beds into the individual stalls. Though the dogs are all young and healthy enough to sleep on the floor, research has proven that some dogs feel more secure when they can be raised a few inches off the floor.
- Adding a variety of toys to the stalls and runs. Wider assortments of shapes are now available in Nylabones® and Kongs® which are both Leader Dog approved toys. Soon the runs will be getting suspended barrels, large buckets, and step ledges to make play time more fun. Staff always keeps the dog's safety in mind when adding any new items to the kennel.
- Increased time spent out of the stall. Though all the dogs receive human contact and time to exercise on a daily basis, their time spent outside the stall and in varying environments is being increased. This includes installing tie-downs in the halls and lobby of the kennel so dogs have more time to interact in different environments with staff and volunteers.



Leader Dog staff are always looking for ways to improve the quality of life for the dogs in the kennel. From having volunteer dog walkers spend time exercising and interacting with the dogs to having open air access for fresh breezes in the kennel, the health and welfare of the dogs is always paramount to the Training, Veterinary and Kennel staff.

www.leaderdog.org

Assistance Dogs Japan Moves to the Next Stage for Assistance Dogs

Assistance Dogs Japan (ADJ) was established in January 2001 when Moto Arima, the President of Japan Hearing Dogs for Deaf People assumed the post of ADI Director. It's been six years since the first two schools joined ADJ, and eight more schools in Japan have since joined the organization.

In October 2002, a new law for assistance dogs for people with physical disabilities went into effect in Japan. The law specifies that all assistance dogs, including guide dogs and hearing dogs, have the right of access to public places. Before the law was implemented, disabled people assisted by dogs were often barred from restaurants, shops, hospitals, and many other public places. Now, individuals with assistance dogs are empowered to communicate their rights under the law and what the role of their dog is to the general public. Interest in what an assistance dog is and how assistance dogs should be regarded in public has soared. Currently there are about 950 guide dogs, 13 hearing dogs, and 36 service dogs in Japan.

Many obstacles remain to be overcome, however: a disabled person requiring an assistance dog must apply to the local government rather than directly to a specific school. The local government then refers them to a specific rehabilitation facility where applicants undergo a medical evaluation for which they are charged a fee. The medical evaluation team then determines whether or not the applicant is suitable to receive an assistance dog.

ADJ has conducted two workshops to study the purpose of the medical assessment of the disabled seeking assistance dogs and an authorization examination both for assistance dogs and their partners. Guidance was offered by an occupational therapist and a licensed veterinarian.

Last April, ADJ began lobbying the Japanese government for the first time on behalf of those who use assistance dogs. ADJ will continue to pinpoint inconsistencies in the law so that disabled people will be able to achieve real independence through the help of their dogs. Eight members of ADJ have lobbied the Ministry of Health and Welfare and a member of the Diet, emphasizing the need to improve the contents of the accreditation examination required to be an assistance dog partner and the examination system currently in place to evaluate assistance dog teams.

The Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare appear to be cautiously optimistic about the establishment of the ADJ as an official association of assistance dog schools. A member of the Diet has also pledged her support of ADJ and helping the assistance dog movement. ADJ will continue to expand its efforts in educating the Japanese government and the general public in regards to the rights of assistance dog teams.

Guide Dogs for the Blind Salutes a Retiring Hero



Roselle, a Guide Dog of more than seven years, was officially retired in a brief ceremony in March of 2007. *Roselle* and Michael Hingson navigated safely from the 78th floor of the World Trade Center in New York City on September 11, 2001 when a plane struck their building just 18 floors above them. After making it safely out of the building and then out of the city, Michael and *Roselle* attained a level of celebrity as their story began to circulate across the United States.

Since that day, *Roselle* has visited international dignitaries, been to the Oval Office to honor veterans and meet with President George W. Bush, took a cruise to Alaska with 22 other Guide Dogs, and has won many distinguished awards, including the British Dickin Medal. *Roselle* represents all the canine heroes honored every April on International Guide Dog Day, and every day by their human partners. Her resolve has captured the hearts of many, and her loyalty and service will be honored for a long time to come—even her footprints remain in a path on the Guide Dogs for the Blind's campus.

But due to some health issues that may be the result of the dust she inhaled on that fateful September day, Michael decided to retire *Roselle*. "Because we're retiring her, she'll live longer," said Hingson. "It's a good decision."

Michael graduated with his new Guide Dog, *Meryl*, on April 14, and continues to be an avid promoter of the Guide Dog lifestyle. *Roselle* now faces a quiet and serene life as Michael's pet. She has long lazy days stretching out ahead of her, and occasional volunteering opportunities as a docent on Guide Dogs for the Blind's campus in San Rafael, California. Thanks to Guide Dogs like *Roselle*, people all over the world are learning to embrace their amazing spirits and becoming educated about the services that Guide Dogs provide.

www.guidedogs.com

SPIRIT Conference Hosts Wanted

What is SPIRIT?

The Concept: The SPIRIT conference is an educational seminar offered exclusively to members of Assistance Dogs International. The conference began in 1999 when a group of instructors and program directors got together to see how the other groups trained. The conference focused on those dog/client training issues that could not be found in books. Things most professional assistance dog instructors and trainers only learn through years of direct experience or through word of mouth.

The Format: The host chooses a main topic or focus for the conference (for example: team training, task training, prison pups, etc.) Hosts are welcome to bring in guest speakers for discussions and demos. It is up to the host to provide all participants with written copies of all material covered in the topics that will be presented at SPIRIT so attendees will not be distracted by note-taking. Hosts are asked to be flexible with scheduling so that additional topics that come up in group discussion may be pursued if the group desires.

The format is informal and friendly, with all participants sharing and brainstorming and problem solving on any issues or problems that are presented by the program or that come up as a result of group discussions or demos. Host staff and participants have a lot to learn from one another and everyone is encouraged to question methods, procedures, standards and forms and try out new ideas on the spot. The host is encouraged to share its training methods as well as its best and worst dogs so everyone can see how dogs working at the highest standards behave and learn what's not acceptable. Attendees are welcome to share any problems they may be having and obtain feedback from the group.

Interested in being a SPIRIT Conference Host?

The Board would be pleased to hear from programs that would like to host a SPIRIT Conference. To help consider this, we have produced a specification that relates to the requirements of the conference venue. Any venue will need to be able to meet this specification.

All information shared may be used by the attendees once they return home.

There are some other issues to consider:

- Hosting a conference can offer program publicity opportunities that may help to raise your profile.
- Conferences have been self-funding, so there should be no significant cost implications for the host program other than the time spent organizing certain things. ADI will reimburse up to \$1,000 with receipts.
- It is important that ADI is associated with high quality programs, so ADI will need to be assured that the host program works to a high standard.
- Host organizations are responsible for the practical conference arrangements. The conference program is the responsibility of the host, although the Board's SPIRIT Coordinator will be willing to work on program ideas with the host.

We hope that you would consider hosting a SPIRIT conference and we would welcome any indications of interest. If you are interested, we can discuss the issues with you in more detail. Please reply to Linda Jennings at lindaj@lovingpaws.org or Suzi Hall, ADI, PO Box 5174, Santa Rosa, CA 95402.

Assistance Dogs International Specifications for a SPIRIT Conference

Length of Conference: 3 days / Attendees: 70 to 100

Room Requirements

- Rooms for 60 to 100 persons
- Some accessible rooms with either tub with shower or roll-in shower and 36" wide bathroom doors. Grab bars located in tubs.
- Wheelchair access space around beds.
- Daily room rate not to exceed \$100 – \$130 US.
- Rooms to be booked individually by delegates.
- 'No smoking' rooms available.

Dog Needs

- Acceptance of assistance dogs at hotel or conference center.
- Accessible dog relief area close to seminar site.

Conference/Hotel Facilities

- Main conference room for 100+ delegates.
- Plenty of elevators.
- Safe area of the city.
- Wheelchair accessible transportation from the airport.
- Easy access to major airport.
- Restaurants, food market, grocery store, drug store near by.
- Close to assistance dog program.

Help Required from Host Programs

- Liaison with hotel/conference facility.
- Supply of volunteers for registration, miscellaneous.
- Organization of any local trips.
- Organization of transportation to/from the seminar or evening events.
- Organization of dog toilet areas.
- Help putting together "goody" bags - local products and information.
- Help putting together SPIRIT program, speakers, literature, activities.

Children's Project Extends Its Boundaries

A project run by Dogs for the Disabled to train dogs for physically disabled children has taken another step in widening the service by training dogs for two children with no formal verbal communication. Jack Smith was partnered with his dog a chocolate Labrador called *Ghana* while Ryan Harriman was partnered with black Labrador *Megan*.

By using hand signals and body language, the dogs are helping the children with practical tasks. For instance, if Jack puts his hands on his head, *Ghana* will 'speak' on command, alerting Jack's parents that he needs help with something in particular. The children are also learning to whistle-feed their dogs giving them a sense of responsibility in their care and also helping the partnership with recall in the park.

Both partnerships are still very much in the early days, but it's hoped that as a bond is established the children will benefit from a range of task work activities and therapeutic needs, such as play activities and affection through the bond with their dog.

Peter Gorbing, chief executive of Dogs for the Disabled and current chair of ADI said: "This is a real progression in the service that we offer for disabled children. Obviously, it's very well-known that dogs pick up on a huge amount



of our own body language, so this new development in the service really does make the most of the dog's skills and building a partnership between child and dog."

Reminders

- Next newsletter article submissions are due by July 20, 2007. Please send your articles to Nancy Olivas at nolivas@guidedogs.com. Photos accompanying your article are always appreciated.
- Watch your e-mail inboxes! Membership Renewals for the 2007/2008 ADI fiscal year will be e-mailed during the last week of June beginning of July. If you have had any e-mail changes now is a good time to update your information with Suzi at info@adionline.org.
- If you're a fifth year Provisional Member you will be required to apply for Full Membership during this upcoming renewal. If you aren't sure what year Provisional Member you are, please contact Suzi at info@adionline.org.

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Job Openings

Texas Hearing and Service Dogs is hiring!

Texas Hearing and Service Dogs is searching for candidates for two training positions near Austin, Texas. Please email resumes to sheri@servicedogs.org. Knowledge of positive reinforcement based operant conditioning necessary. Salary commensurate with skill level and experience. Deadline for submissions June 1, 2007. Must be able to attend interview at training center.

Do you enjoy working with people and love dogs?

Explore Canine Companions for Independence's Instructor Assistant Opportunities

Company Overview: Canine Companions for Independence (CCI), a nonprofit founded in 1975, is dedicated to enhancing the lives of people with disabilities by providing highly trained assistance dogs. Join the Instructor training program as an Instructor Assistant.

The Instructor Assistant is responsible for assisting in the care and training of dogs in advanced training. The position is the first step towards a career as a CCI Apprentice Instructor.

Essential Functions:

1. Maintain and clean kennel facilities.
2. Assist in maintaining canine health care and well-being.
3. Perform advanced communication skills.
4. Learn basic canine handling skills.
5. Build disability awareness.

Qualifications:

1. College coursework in biological and behavioral sciences preferred.
2. Prior experience working with people with disabilities and dog training helpful.

The Instructor Assistant position can last from 6 months to 1.5 years. If promoted to Instructor Apprentice, relocation to one of five regional offices is required.

Send a cover letter and resume to:

Program Department at Canine Companions for Independence-National Headquarters
2965 Dutton Ave., Santa Rosa, CA 95407