



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.

Inside This Issue

PAGE 2 Transition from Cane to Dog Made Easy

PAGE 3 Cole Massie: Spreading the Message of Independence

PAGE 3 Reminders

PAGE 4 International News from ADI

PAGE 5 Puppies in Flight

PAGE 6 Literally a Lifesaver

PAGE 6 Healthcare for Service Animals

PAGE 8 CCI Walks the Talk with ADI Accreditation

PAGE 8 Board Changes for ADI North America

PAGE 9 Job Openings

PAGE 9 Save the Date

Online Obedience Training for Service Dogs

If you want help in training your dog in basic obedience, TOP DOG is the place for you. All you need to do is make the commitment, have the desire, and follow our program, and you will end up with a better-behaved and happier dog. The result is a TEAM!

The course is divided into two sessions, each lasting from three to six months. Section I, Basic Obedience, provides helpful information on canine behavior. Section II – Advanced Training covers service exercises, with individualized assistance from the TOP DOG training staff, and much more. At the end of the course, you may be eligible to take the ADI-approved certification test.

Whether you take the course to make your dog a better companion at home or your goal is a certified service dog, TOP DOG can help you achieve that goal. It's exciting, rewarding and fun to train your own dog, to see their skill level rise and your understanding increase. There is a true sense of accomplishment when you acquire the knowledge and ability to train your own dog. The final goal is to learn to live and work together in harmony and with respect. We welcome you and your dog to TEAMWORK: SERVICE DOGS ONLINE!

For more information, log on to: www.topdogusa.org/onlinecourse.html



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.

Transition from Cane to Dog Made Easy

By Leslie Hamric

Reader's Note: Please note that the tips and tricks mentioned in this article have been devised from personal experience as a blind traveler and may not work for every student. Each student should apply what works best for him/her.

First, take a full course in orientation and mobility. You will first learn safe ways to explore and interact with your indoor and outdoor environment. Once these skills have been mastered, you will learn how to gather information, plan routes, cross streets, orient yourself to unfamiliar areas, and how to politely ask or refuse assistance. Orientation and mobility instructors can be found through your local or state agency for people who are blind or visually impaired.

Listen, listen, listen! I like to call this skill auditory awareness. Being a cane user myself, I know firsthand how easy it is to fall into the trap of relying too heavily on the tactile information obtained from my cane. Keep in mind that although tactile information can give you clues about your immediate surroundings, listening allows you to discover important clues from a distance, such as traffic sounds, voices, loud music, buildings, echoes, trees, and the like. It also helps you to react quicker in situations like finding a particular building. You may have to struggle unnecessarily to find some tactile clue, such as a specific door handle. However, if you can find the same building by an auditory clue, such as the sound of a cash register, you'll get there quicker.

Learn to become aware of what your upper body is doing. I like to call this skill Upper Body Awareness. Are your shoulders turned? Have you changed your direction from where you were originally headed? Is your head up or down? Where is your upper body in relation to the traffic or other sounds you hear? By developing Upper Body Awareness, you will be able to know where you are and what your body is doing while you are traveling. This is especially useful during street crossings or in big open areas, such as parking lots or outdoor malls where there is nothing tactile to follow.

What are your feet doing? Like upper body awareness, I like to call this skill Feet Awareness. Are your feet turned? Regardless of your mobility tool, your feet will take you in the direction they are pointed. What information are your feet trying to tell you? Has the surface under your feet changed unexpectedly? Is it rough, smooth, or slippery? Are you encountering an incline (uphill) or decline (downhill)? Are you encountering a lateral, or side-to-side tilt? With a dog, your cane is gone and your feet are your only tactile communicators with the ground. Often you must respond to their information quickly to get you and your dog out of an undesirable situation, such as a diagonal street crossing.

Practice not using your cane when walking sighted guide. This technique will help you learn to rely less on tactile information. Practice directing your sighted guide to specific destinations. Once mastered successfully, you will be ready to direct your dog to the same destinations. When you walk with your dog, you will find that it will feel as if you're walking sighted guide. However, it is a different kind of sighted guide because your dog can't talk. The only way he/she can communicate with you is through an ever-pulling harness handle. Keep in mind that you and your dog are a team. You are the navigator and your dog keeps you safe. Through the harness handle or life line, as I like to call it, you will know when your dog is leading you in and around obstacles, turning into a familiar building entrance, or stopping at obstructions in your path, such as curbs, steps, or construction. Let me explain this concept of teamwork another way. When you get into someone's car, does it drive itself to a destination? No, of course not. If this were the case, blind people would be out there driving. It's the same thing with a guide dog. You can't say, "Take me to the library," and expect your dog to know the way. You need to know how to get there. Your dog's job is to be the watchful driver. When you put the confident navigator and watchful driver together, you will have an unbeatable team.

When you travel, fake it till you make it. By this, I mean you have to act like you totally know where you are at even if you don't know. What do people do in the movies? They act and play the roles of different characters. The people who are watching a movie don't know when the people playing the characters screw up. Deep down inside, they may feel all nervous but it doesn't show. You could be in the worst mood but you are still in charge of directing your dog to a destination.

Once your mobility instructor gives you the necessary skills for safe travel, the rest is up to you. Regardless of your mobility tool, always remember that travel is a full-time job. Any time you are moving, even around your own house, you are practicing the following skills: orientation/knowing where you are and mobility/moving safely and confidently through your environment. Since traveling for a blind person is such an integral process, all parts must work as a team. It is here where auditory, upper body, and feet awareness all come together as one. If you keep everything I mentioned in mind, you are on your way to becoming a successful, independent traveler with a cane and later, a dog. Don't panic if a mistake or two comes your way. You will have good and bad days like everyone else. However, that's what makes life and travel such an adventure. I wish you the best of luck in your transition from cane to dog.

Cole Massie: Spreading the Message of Independence

The Learning Channel (TLC) highlighted Canine Companions for Independence (CCI) Graduate nine-year old Cole Massie in their series "My Life as a Child." Cole documented his life and shared what it's like to be a kid with cerebral palsy. Cole's spirit of independence and determination truly shines as Cole shares his day-to-day life and receives his karate yellow belt on the show.

"Ilia's just changed my life. It makes me feel good to have a partner," says Cole about CCI Skilled Companion Ilia. "He's with me every day and every night. He's my best friend. He's with me for life."

Cole plans on shaping his own future with Ilia by his side. "In my future I see myself walking side by side with my family and Ilia," says Cole. Cole is an inspiration to all those around him and, knowingly or not, spreading a message of acceptance, hope and independence everyday.

Cole and Ilia helped spread

this message as they participated in a video public service announcement (PSA) for CCI. Look for the 30-second PSA featuring Cole and Ilia, and another PSA featuring Service Team Tommy Hollenstein and Hiley on cci.org and to air on your local television station, including Fox, CBS and ABC.



Reminders

- Next newsletter article submissions are due by October 20, 2007. Please send your articles to Nancy Olivas at nolivas@guidedogs.com. Photos accompanying your article are always appreciated.
- Membership Renewals were sent via e-mail on July 12, 2007. If you did not receive your renewal packet, please contact Suzi Hall at info@adionline.org.

International News From ADI

The ADI Board met on 23rd and 24th May in Long Island and we were able to move forward on a number of issues relating to the development of ADI. The ADI North America Board was also present for the meeting and this was extremely helpful. The ADI Board are planning to meet with the European Board in late October.

Website

We are moving ahead with plans to create a more responsive website that has both 'international' and 'regional' pages. We want to have a website that is easy to update so it can provide more useful and time-relevant information for our members. We hope to get the new site operational very soon. There will, inevitably, be some teething troubles, but the website is a key information tool for ADI members and the public, so it is important that we get it right.

Accreditation

As all Members will be aware, after 2010 Full Membership of ADI will only be available to programmes that have been accredited, so it is vital that all programmes that wish to be Full Members seek accreditation before that date. The Accreditation Committee has done a great job to make it as easy as possible for people to sign up for the accreditation process and to ensure that ADI can meet the demand for accreditation. The Board urges you to seek accreditation as soon as reasonably possible to prevent a problem with too many programmes seeking accreditation at the last minute in 2010.

New Regions

As you know, ADI currently has two registered regions (Chapters) – North America and Europe. The ADI Board are working hard to ensure that new regions join ADI within the next year and we are hopeful that the two existing regions will be joined very shortly by Asia, Australia/New Zealand and Latin America.

ADI Conference

It is planned to have the next International Conference in the United Kingdom on 22nd-24th June 2008. The Board have agreed to join with the International Guide Dog Federation (IGDF) which will hold its conference at the same place from 20th-22nd June. Although the ADI and IGDF conferences will be two separate events, we plan to hold some joint plenary and workshop sessions on the 22nd June, enabling ADI and the IGDF to share ideas and good practice and look at how we can work more closely together in the future. The holding of back-to-back conferences will also allow programmes that are members of both ADI and the IGDF to attend the two conferences cost-effectively. Both conferences will be hosted by the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association in the UK. This will be the biggest ever gathering of assistance dog programmes from across the world and promises to be a very exciting event. The exact venue has yet to be finalised, although it is likely to be near Heathrow airport in London, and further details, including information about bringing dogs into the UK, will be available as soon as possible.

AAT

The AAT Working Group is making some progress with the task of looking at AAT provision across the world and the best way to go forward in terms of setting standards for AAT work. The Group hope to report on the first phase of their work before the end of the year.

Finances

The Board, and specifically our Treasurer Wells Jones, are working hard to find the best way to harmonize the financial systems of ADI so that it can operate easily across many different regions of the world. We hope to have these issues resolved by early August so that everything can be put into place for the next financial year.

Peter Gorbing
Chair – ADI Board
July 2007

Puppies in Flight

By Kristy Siefkin, Guide Dogs for the Blind, and Jennifer A. Rogers, PAALS

At this year's annual ADI conference, ADI announced an exciting opportunity for organizations to partner with US Airways. Kelli Case, US Airways' Community Relations Coordinator, presented the Puppies In Flight program idea to a large audience of conference attendees. During the session we learned that US Airways has a 10-year old volunteer corps program called the "Do Crew." The group offered to come to three training sessions at designated US Airways hubs to learn basic dog handling skills in order to take assistance dogs-in-training on practice flights and to pick up and deliver new puppies to puppy raisers across the United States, Spain and Canada.

The development and execution of the Puppies In Flight Program was the result of an incredible collaborative effort. After much coordination on Kelli's part, ADI selected groups to bring dogs and make puppy handling presentations at each location, reserved spaces to hold the sessions, organized flight and hotel arrangements for the presenters with dogs, and created a presentation to use at all three sessions. The difference among the organizations became clear: almost every group uses a different word to cue an assistance dog to relieve itself, uses different equipment, and works with different types of dogs. However, all groups shared the common need to familiarize assistance dogs-in-training with planes and air travel and/or transport puppies from litters to raisers. As collective ADI representatives, we attempted to teach consistent methods to all Do Crew volunteers. In order to accomplish this task, several ADI organizations worked together to teach others how to travel with dogs from various programs.

Guide Dogs for the Blind (San Rafael, CA) staff and volunteers kicked-off the first Puppies In Flight training session at the US Airways Corporate Headquarters. Over the course of a day, over 20 Guide Dogs puppy raisers from the Phoenix Guide Dog Raisers group worked with Do Crew volunteers to give them hands-on training in a wide variety of topics from cleaning up after a dog and navigating through security, to boarding and deplaning with a dog. ADI President Linda Jennings flew in to attend the training and personally thank the volunteers for their commitment to serving ADI. Residents of the greater Phoenix area had a chance to witness the training when the story aired on the evening news!

Peggy Gibbons from the Seeing Eye in New Jersey took on the challenge of finding two great locations for additional sessions. Palmetto Animal Assisted Life Services (PAALS, Columbia, SC) flew to Philadelphia to meet those from the Seeing Eye and a group from Susquehanna Service Dogs headed up by Nancy Fierer. Two sessions were held at a firehouse for forty Do Crew members in Philadelphia. Puppies as young as eight weeks old and full grown dogs up to two years of age helped teach new dog handlers how to work through the challenge of juggling luggage and a puppy/dog-in-training. ADI staff and volunteers had a great time role playing as disgruntled airport security personnel.

Shortly after the Philadelphia afternoon session ended, Peggy and German Shepherd "Gabore" from Seeing Eye flew back with Jen Rogers from PAALS to get ready for the last US Airways training sessions in Charlotte, NC. Lifeline Canines (North Carolina) and Several PAALS dogs and foster volunteers arrived to assist with this session. During the first session, three different television stations interviewed participants about the training program.



Throughout the various trainings in all three locations, the Do Crew volunteers offered many compliments about the professionalism of the presentations and how well the young dogs handled all the stimuli associated with the activity. One of the most rewarding parts of the training program was collaborating with various ADI organizations from around the country to attain a common goal. Hopefully the Puppies in Flight program is just one example of many other ADI collaborations to occur in the future. US Airways was an outstanding partner throughout the training process, and ADI is extremely grateful to all the Do Crew volunteers for the dedication and generosity.

For more information on how to get your ADI program involved in flying with the Do Crew, please contact Kelli Case at kelli.case@usairways.com.

Literally a Lifesaver

By Carlene White, Service Dog Project, Inc.

Peggity was destined to become a "wonderful washout" from the Service Dog Project, Inc.'s program. Peggity is the typical lighter-boned American show type Dane who landed on our door as payment of a stud fee. For balance work to assist adults, we are trying to produce the shorter heavier variety Dane more common in Europe. Peggity was a cute little thing who the volunteers loved having here at the farm; she was a popular spectacle at the nursing homes.

I was afraid Peggity would become just one more permanent farm dog when:

1. We got a grant from Alces Foundation to sponsor 5 pups and
2. A young lady named Tiffany applied for a service dog.



Tiffany is TALL, completely deaf and has a vertigo problem that causes her to stagger. Her problem did not require bulk and strength but height with a steady handle to prevent Tiffany from looking intoxicated.

We already knew that the Dane is perhaps the worst choice for a deaf person, because their casual demeanor is not what you'd call ALERT. It is necessary to wake up some of these Danes and tell them someone is knocking at the front door. It was a big challenge to get Peggity to alert to a repetitive noise, but with enough training and rewards of cheese we did that. Peggity's ability to provide the stability Tiffany needed came much more naturally- and she was easily trained to provide that service. The partnership of Peg and Tiffany passed inspection. In the 8 months Tiffany and Peggity have been together their silent communication has become remarkable. Luckily, because when Tiffany's apartment building caught fire she could not hear the alarm or the fire and police banging on her door. Peggity leaped on Tiffany's bed, alerting her it was time to grab the cat and get out of there!

Health Care for Service Animals

By Gary C. Norman, Esq., CEO & President, Maryland Area Guide Dog Users, Inc.

Assistance dogs deserve our earnest respect and commitment in assuring their longevity and welfare. Several issues confronting assistance dogs in which we can be in collaboration are the premium cost of providing medical and medical related services, and the extent to which uncontrolled pets, which are ever increasing in the general public, interfere with a team working in the field. Innovative collaboration by members of the veterinarian community and organizations representing the interests of assistance dogs, such as the Maryland Area Guide Dog Users, Inc. (MAGDUI), can include the following: establishing a central charitable fund from which veterinarians can draw to defray the cost of providing free or discount services, an understanding of the

importance of furnishing free or discounted services to service animals, and a joint educational campaign. Mahatma Gandhi stated, "You must be the change you wish to see...."

There are approximately 10,000 guide dog teams in the field. While providers of guide dogs typically place these specially bred and trained animals at no expense to the individual person with a sight disability, they typically do not provide for the cost of veterinarian services. And if provided for, the annual stipend for routine veterinarian care does not range above \$250.00 on average. This amount of reimbursement is quickly exhausted by one temporary illness or annual physical with accompanying vaccinations.

Maryland provides for a tax deduction equaling approximately 15% for costs incurred in relation to a disability. Deductions are far worse tax incentives than credits. This reduction in total taxable income constitutes a de minimis recovery tool in any given year in light of the additional expenses incurred by persons with disabilities, particularly, should a service animal befall a serious illness or be attacked by an uncontrolled animal.

The benefits that will redound from collaboration among veterinarians and the assistance dog movement, include, but are not limited to: creative strategies and mechanisms for resolving issues of common concern, such as the cost of health care, enhanced education and dialogue among veterinarians, the handlers of service animals and the public as a whole, engaging the public in addressing problems that are detrimental to the longevity of service animal, such as the crisis of uncontrolled pets, and an overall ability of the veterinarian and service animal community to assure the sustainable welfare of a special class of our furry companions. Economic, including enhanced reputation, supports furnishing services at a reduced charge. According to statistics captured by the Humane Society of the United States, 39% of U.S. households include at least one dog, and 35% have two or more. Furnishing reduced services to beloved furry assistants will therefore influence handlers to communicate positive experiences to their network of family and friends. This potentially but likely means an increased numbers of pet owners bringing their non-service animal pet to the office for for-pay medical care.

The notion that veterinarians, as members of a learned class, owe an ethical duty to perform public service supports reduced or pro bono services. Whether one believes in Utilitarianism, the virtue-based ethics of Aristotle, or the duty-based system of Kant, one who is able ought to provide such services.

A survey entitled, Veterinary Teaching Hospital Fee Structure for Disabled Clients Partnered with Guide, Hearing and Service Dogs, prepared by Ed Eames, Ph.D., who serves as President of the International Association of Assistance Dog Partners, reports there are 26 animal veterinary teaching hospitals that provide free or discounted services to the service animal community. The Animal Medical Center of New York, an animal teaching hospital, has instituted a no charge policy for guide dogs. The Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine provides a 20% reduction in all fees for guide dogs. In addition to collaborating with MAGDUI in serving as the presenting hospital for a pilot ambulance service for injured or ill guide dogs in Baltimore County, the Pet E.R. of Towson, Maryland, reduces fees to guide and police dogs.

Concerning reduced veterinarian fee structures, the veterinarian and service animal communities can collaborate to establish a central fund from which veterinarians and organizations providing services to or conferences about service animals can draw to defray costs and reduce or eliminate charges to handlers. Established in 2003, the Guide Dog Assistance Fund, operated under the auspices of the Canadian National Institute for the Blind, pays for "extraordinary veterinary expenses," including, euthanizing a working guide dog, and financially supports special events pertaining to guide dogs. Extraordinary veterinary expenses, include, emergency or unexpected expenses that are not routine care, such as, surgical procedures, treatment for infections, and on-going medications. Guide dogs are eligible when they have been trained at a recognized school and they are in active service. Like in Canada, cross-assistance dog advocacy organizations should continue forward with the work of the Eames in the establishment of public policy to ensure reduced costs for veterinarian services. It is also critical that such organizations collaborate with the veterinarian community to contain costs.

It is equally true that medical associations representing the veterinarian community are considered to be conservative. Resistance or reluctance to explore innovative reimbursement mechanisms can be addressed through, among others, recognizing the proactive dedication that has been demonstrated by veterinarians who have arisen above parochial and financial interests to ensure unrivaled care to assistance dogs. MAGDUI will establish a new annual award honoring veterinarians who have performed extraordinary services to the service animal community.

CCI Walks the Talk with ADI Accreditation

Canine Companions for Independence (CCI) was the first assistance dog organization to be accredited by Assistance Dogs International (ADI) five years ago, and is now the first to be reaccredited. The accreditation and reaccreditation processes are comprehensive and can take several months to complete. An organization that is ADI-accredited has proven itself to uphold the highest standards of the assistance dog industry.

On June 27, 2007 CCI underwent an Assistance Dog International [ADI] Accreditation Survey, with experienced ADI surveyor Shelia O'Brien, Executive Director of NEADS. CCI was then awarded a full five-year accreditation by Peter Gorbing, President of ADI, and Chief Executive of Dogs for the Disabled, in the UK.

The ADI Accreditation is an intense evaluation process that assures the agency is fulfilling the highest standards concerning applicant and graduate relations, canine care, and safety standards. It is the gold star in the assistance dog industry and will be required of all voting ADI members by the year 2010. CCI Chief Executive Officer Corey Hudson and National Director of Participant Programs Clark Pappas have been instrumental in creating and implementing the ADI accreditation process.

Board Changes for ADI North America

Updates from Corey Hudson, President ADI NA

Bob Phillips, President and CEO of Guide Dogs for the Blind (GDB) in San Rafael, California has stepped down from the ADI NA Board as he will be retiring from GDB in the fall of 2007. All the members of the Assistance Dog International want to thank Bob for his hard work and dedication to the mission of ADI. Bob has been a great collaborator, a dedicated servant of people with disabilities, a visionary and a strong and good friend. Bob-we will miss you and wish you the best in your new pursuits.

At the same time I am pleased to announce that Cabell Youell has accepted an appointment to fill the vacancy created by Bob's departure. Cabell Youell is the Executive Director at Saint Francis of Assisi Service Dog Foundation in Roanoke, Virginia. Cabell joined Saint Francis after practicing corporate law at firms in Richmond and Roanoke. She graduated from the University of Virginia and Washington and Lee University School of Law and lives in Roanoke with her husband and two dogs. Please join me in welcoming Cabell.



Save the Date

Events for ADI Members:

October 16-19, 2007

SPIRIT Conference- Susquehanna Service Dogs will be hosting the next Spirit conference in Harrisburg PA. For More information please contact Nancy Fierer at nfierer@keystonehumanservices.org.

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Job Openings and Notices

Instructor Assistants Wanted at CCI

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 our Instructor training program as an Instructor Assistant.

Summary: 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.

Job Advancement Details: 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
www.cci.org

Breeding Bitches Sought for Hearing and Service Dogs of Minnesota

Hearing and Service Dogs of Minnesota is looking to purchase or lease breeding bitches (Labrador Retrievers and Golden Retrievers). They are looking for dogs with a very mellow temperament and will consider dogs of any age. They do prefer lines that can become part of their foundation stock and will require history of hips, elbows, and eye clearances. Please contact Kim Hyde or Julianne Larsen at 612-729-5986.