



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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Service and Independence

"Having a CCI assistance dog has really changed my life," shared First Lieutenant Jeffrey Adams as he graduated from Canine Companions for Independence Team Training in February 2008 with his new service dog Sharif. This is a powerful statement coming from a man who has experienced major life changes since 2004.

On November 7, 2004, Jeffrey lost his leg to a roadside bomb while serving in Iraq. Since then Jeffrey has recovered from his injury and walks with a prosthetic titanium leg. Additionally, he has learned to ski and is a professional ski instructor helping severely wounded veterans learn to ski and experience the thrill of sports post injury, just as they did before their injuries.

Service seems to be the commonality in these major life changes for Jeffrey. He lost his leg in service for our country. He works to serve other

disabled veterans by showing them they can still learn and enjoy new sports. And now he has a Service Dog, Sharif, from Canine Companions for Independence.



**CANINE COMPANIONS
FOR INDEPENDENCE®**

Independence is a part of who Jeffrey is. Katie, his wife, explains, "He's as independent as his stubborn brain will let him be." Now, Sharif can help Jeffrey express his independence.

"When I first heard about CCI, I thought I don't need a canine companion. Now I know how wonderful it will be and there are new possibilities for me that I didn't expect," shares Jeffrey.

News from the International Board of ADI

Papers for the Members

Members of the Board are currently working on several papers to be presented to the members in the next few weeks prior to discussions at the Members Meeting at the ADI Conference in June. These include:

- A report from the AAT Working Group
- A proposal for a new membership structure after 2010. As you will be aware, the members have decided that only accredited programs will enjoy the membership rights currently open to full members after 2010, so some changes to our membership rules are required.
- A proposal relating to membership fees for 2009 onwards. There are several issues here that members of the Board are looking at. Membership fees have been broadly static for many years and yet costs are going up. In addition, if ADI is to become more professional, provide greater benefits to its members and grow its membership, it will need to employ an ED and this will add significantly to costs. At present, it is not in a position to do that financially. It is inevitable that if members want to develop ADI, fees will have to go up at some point. However, the Board also recognize the need to keep fees as low as possible for small programs and to do nothing to discourage new programs to join ADI and look to its members for support and guidance as they develop. In addition, there are other sources of funding that we may be able to bring into play. Ultimately, membership fee decisions are for the Members to decide and a full discussion and vote will take place at the members Meeting in June.

Accreditation

ADI now has 110 full members of which 42 have been accredited. This means that many programmes still need to be accredited if they are to meet the 2010 deadline and keep their voting status within ADI. In addition, ADI has 47 Provisional Members and many of these may wish to be accredited by the end of 2010. The Accreditation Committee is working hard to ensure they are able to deal with the accreditation requests that will come through over the next few years. We would urge all members who are thinking about accreditation to discuss this as soon as possible with ADI via Clark Pappas at cpappas@cci.org

Regional Chapters

A lot of work is going on to set up three new ADI Regional Chapters. Chapters already exist in North America and Europe, but we hope to have Australia/New Zealand set up in the next few months, followed by Asia in the Autumn and Latin America early next year. Plans are underway to bring together programs in each of these regions over the next few months.

Conference 2008

Final preparations for the 2008 Conference in London (June 22nd-24th) are now taking place and delegates will receive separate information about this. As you will all know, the ADI Conference is overlapping with the International Guide Dog Federation Conference and this will offer both organizations the opportunity to get to know each other better and to work together more effectively in the future for the benefit of the people we serve. In addition the International Association of Assistance Dogs Partners (IAADP) is meeting on the latter end of the conference on June 25th – details on www.iaadp.org.

Peter Gorbing
On Behalf of the Board of ADI.

ADI Has a New Website!

ADI is pleased to announce the launch of a new website. Check it out at: assistancedogsinternational.org.

Assistance Dogs International – North America (ADI-NA) Update

ADI-NA Membership is currently:

- Accredited Members: 30
- Other Members: 30
- Provisional Members: 27

Cabell Youell is working on drafts to establish ADI-NA Board procedures i.e. code of ethic/conflict of interest, attendance requirements etc.

Shelia O'Brian, CEO NEADS and Corey Hudson, CEO CCI met with Congressman Walter Jones in DC in May to encourage the assistance dogs for returning disabled vets from the conflicts in the Middle East. Further contacts have been made with the Veterans Administration on seeking to learn about ADI Standards and the ADI Access Test. Things are moving forward on this front.

"Donation Dog" is a non-profit organization being founded by Rob Patterson with a goal toward funding ADI accredited members. The organization has filed for non profit status. More news on this at the conference in London.

ADI-NA has founded the following Board Committees to process the business of the Region:

- Advocacy/Access Committee - Darlene Sullivan, Chair
- Website Committee - Nancy Fierer, Chair
- Membership - Chris Fowler, Chair
- Treasurer - Currently Vacant

ADI-NA Board was saddened to learn that Chris Diefenthaler has resigned from Assistance Dogs of America and hence from the ADI-NA Board. Chris worked very hard on the planning of several ADI conferences, the Accreditation effort and was always willing to go the extra mile for ADI. We will miss her friendship, her "can do attitude" and her professionalism.

Planning is underway for an ADI Conference in Orlando in either January or February 2009 so keep you planners open for this first ever ADI-NA Conference. Exact date soon to be nailed down with the hotel. Robin Dickson, ED, Dogs for the Deaf and Suzi Hall are chairing this project.

ADI-NA will meet as a Region in June at the London ADI Conference and we look forward to seeing all of those attending.

Corey Hudson, ADI-NA President

Save the Date

FOR ADI MEMBERS ONLY: ADI Spirit Conference

October 4, 5, and 6, 2008

Hosted by Paws with a Cause, Wayland, MI

Check the ADI website under "Members Only" for updated information

ADI North America Conference

Join us in Orlando Florida!

January 12, 13, and 14, 2009

Be sure to check the ADI web site for conference updates as it unfolds: www.assistancedogsinternational.org.

From Rejection to the Ritz

Freedom Service Dogs-in-Training Enjoy a World-Class Facility

Most Freedom Service Dogs come to us because they are homeless. Many lived tough lives as strays, or they were abandoned, unwanted and relinquished to animal shelters. Now when they arrive at FSD, they are welcomed into one of the premier animal care facilities in the state.



“Our new training center provides an exceptional environment for our dogs,” trainer Stephanie Baigent said. “It’s geared toward letting us train and place dogs more quickly.”

FSD knew we needed dramatic improvements in our kennel area to succeed in our plans to pair more client-dog teams. Fortunately, we had plenty of expertise on our board of directors. Dr. Rhea Dodd, a veterinarian and animal behavior expert, and Pam Alford, manager of the Aurora Animal Shelter collaborated with FSD staff to envision a facility to maximize our output. Then, trainer Stephanie Baigent worked with other service dog organizations across the country, adapting their best practices to our unique situation. “It pays to have good relationships with area shelters. We saw things we liked,” she said. Shelters made suggestions and pointed her toward resources and vendors.

The result? “We not only doubled our kennel capacity. We quintupled our training time with each dog.” New dogs stay in a separate intake area for 30 days, so their fresh-from-the-shelter bad habits such as barking and jumping do not influence dogs further along in their training.

An isolation area keeps new dogs from spreading respiratory illness to other dogs. “Many dogs come out of the shelter with kennel cough and other illnesses that spread rapidly among other dogs. By keeping new dogs apart, we limit exposure for dogs in training. The dogs don’t get sick, so training isn’t interrupted.” That also saves in veterinary bills.

FSD now has 39 spacious kennels in three areas. Privacy panels on every kennel reduce kennel stress. A removable plastic partition with doggie door provides a separate area within the kennel for the dogs to “do their business.” This means trainers can focus on training rather than taking dogs out several times a day. The innovative kennel systems are lightweight, durable and easy to clean. Cleaning does not disturb the dogs or disrupt training.

Dogs enjoy a massive increase in play yard space. The dogs can romp and visit, while learning social skills. Trainers can evaluate dogs’ temperaments better, because the dogs are in a more natural environment.

Despite the excellent treatment the dogs get in the new facility, the goal is to move them quickly to their permanent homes. “The extra space concentrates quality training time,” said Executive Director Sharan Wilson. “We’ll place more dogs with more clients more quickly.”

Good to Know . . . About TSA

Michelle Godwin is responsible for making US airport Transportation Security Administration (TSA) contacts for any traveler or group with special needs requiring special support. She taps into a resource group including Guide Dogs for the Blind (US), and Leader Dogs as well as a dialysis patient group, breast cancer patients, etc. Michelle’s responsibilities also include setting up training for TSA to make them aware of as many of the assistive devices that will be moving through airports, to make the security check process most effective and efficient.



If at any time your organization would like to include an opportunity to have your client/dog teams practice going through security at a US airport, please contact Michelle. She will make sure that you are connected to the appropriate TSA representative at that airport to set up training.

Work: 571-227-2691

E-mail: michelle.godwin@dhs.gov

Heman G. Stark Youth Correctional Facility Conducts Prison Pup Program

The Prison Pup Dog Shelter Program at the Heman G. Stark Youth Correctional Facility (YCF) in Chino celebrated its first graduation today in a special ceremony involving the pups and the juvenile handlers. The innovative program focuses on instilling positive care-giving techniques to the youth involved and gives back to the community. The next step will be providing adoption of the pups to the public.

The first four dogs in the program at the Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) facility in Chino have completed 12 weeks of training with the juveniles and are ready to be adopted.

The dogs in the program are rehabilitated from past neglect and abuse and then retrained for basic obedience and proper socialization for re-adoption into the community. Now that these dogs are fully trained in obedience, the first cycle of the program has come to a conclusion.

"This is a worthy cause enabling our youth to give back to the community and teaches them about caring and responsibility," said Bernard Warner, Chief Deputy Secretary for the Division of Juvenile Justice. "We are proud to be part of this program and are hopeful that the dogs in our care can be given to appropriate citizens in need, to ease them in life's challenges."

"The Prison Pup Program at Heman G. Stark is positive for our young men. It teaches them how to provide care while training the dogs", said the facility's Superintendent, Ramon Martinez. "Our young men learn patience, discipline and this program offers them skills for everyday life and the future. The Restorative Justice Model is exemplified by this program."

The program began on Sept. 25, 2008 with 13 juvenile canine participants. The youth initially went through intensive canine-handling theory training for five straight weeks. The dogs, from the Orange County Humane Society were selected and started socializing with the trainers from Canine Support Team at about the same time. The dogs and handlers were matched up by the end of October.

Today's graduation ceremony featured a dog handlers' demonstration by the program participants, slide show presentations, and testimonials of the people involved in the program.



According to Superintendent Martinez, "It is apparent the youth have learned and achieved significant values from participating in this program. The young men have described the experience as developing talents in compassion, dog training, patience, responsibility, parenting and most of all unconditional love," Martinez said.

The dogs were anticipated to graduate at the conclusion of six months, but the great dedication and care provided these animals by their juvenile handlers has them ready at three months. "This quicker than anticipated life cycle will allow for more rescued animals to cycle through the program," said Heman G. Stark YCF Treatment Team Supervisor, Michelle Lee, who supervises the program. Lee said the institution expected to add more handlers and dogs during the next cycle in March 2008.

The program received much community and media recognition for being the first program of its type in a Juvenile Justice setting.

The Orange County Humane Society is scheduled to hold its adoption fair on Mar. 1, when these four dogs will be presented to the public for their first opportunity at adoption.

It's Official: Assistance Dogs are First Class!

A set of UK Royal Mail stamps which were released in February pays tribute to working dogs and featured two dogs representing the Assistance Dog movement. This is the first time in the UK a special set of stamps has been devoted entirely to working dogs and it also helped to mark the UK's 'Year of the Assistance Dog' run collaboratively by the five UK full members of ADI - Canine Partners, Dogs for the Disabled, Guide Dogs for the Blind, Hearing Dogs for Deaf People and Support Dogs.

The First Class stamp (see photo) featured Rowan, an assistance dog trained by Dogs for the Disabled who is collecting the post for his owner. The 78 pence stamp featured Warwick, a guide dog trained by The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association.



During 2008, the UK members of ADI are holding a series of activities to highlight the role of Assistance Dogs helping to improve awareness and access requirements to assist their owners in day-to-day activities.

Commenting on the stamps, Dogs for the Disabled's Chief Executive and President of ADI, Peter Gorbing said; "This set of stamps created a lot of interest in the work of assistance dogs in UK and it is great to receive letters that have an assistance dog stamp on them!"

Greetings from Guide Dogs for the Blind's President and CEO

Dear Friends:

It has been quite an honor to be chosen to lead Guide Dogs for the Blind (GDB) as the CEO/President, and I have enjoyed the past eight months immensely. I am truly excited about the work of this stellar organization.

I'd like to tell you a little about my background. I most recently served for 15 years as the Executive Director of North Bay Regional Center, a private, non-profit organization serving nearly 7,000 people with developmental disabilities. The majority of my career has been spent in the field of disabilities and in the non-profit world. I have a deep personal passion as well as a professional interest in the mission and values of GDB and our sister associations and organizations. I hope you will share your knowledge and expertise with me as I travel this learning path.



For those with whom I have already spoken, please accept my appreciation for making me feel welcome and for sharing your thoughts on our shared efforts and projects.

Sincerely yours,
Nancy E. S. Gardner

US Dog Guide Schools Band Together to Help Stop Dog Attacks

Submitted by the Council of US Dog Guide Schools

Imagine that you are blind and use a guide dog to assist you in making your way through this world. Now imagine what it would be like for you or your dog guide to be attacked by an aggressive dog that you can hear but cannot see. In practical terms, it could mean a temporary or permanent loss of your essential guide and beloved companion. In emotional terms, the experience would be nothing short of terrifying.

In February 2007, the Council of United States Dog Guide Schools appointed a special task force to investigate the growing concern for blind individuals and their dog guides to safely travel without being obstructed or harmed due to harassment or attack by loose or uncontrolled dogs.

As a first step in its investigative effort, the Council's task force identified the need for greater education amongst law enforcement officials. "One of our goals is to ensure that police and animal control officers understand that a blind person's physical health and safety are being put in jeopardy when a loose or uncontrolled dog interferes with or attacks a guide dog," said Emily Simone, licensed guide dog instructor and chairperson of the special task force. "All too frequently, law enforcement officers don't take these attacks seriously enough."

For people who use assistance dogs, attacks and interference are far more dangerous than simple dog-to-dog altercations. The eminent danger to a blind individual whose guide dog is being attacked or subjected to interference is potentially far greater than that of pet owners who do not require the services of their dogs to travel safely and independently. Moreover, blind people must face these emergencies without the opportunity to use vision to defend themselves or their guide dogs.

During an attack, the blind person's travel is suddenly and severely restricted, often without any warning. And either or both team members become instantly vulnerable to bodily injury inflicted by the attacking dog. In the confusion of the attack and its aftermath, either or both team members can also be exposed to vehicular traffic or other environmental dangers without being safely oriented to their surroundings.

Dog guides, like other assistance dogs, are valuable property. The cost of the dog and services from a dog guide school can range up to \$50,000 per person/dog team. Attacks and interference can also be costly in terms of injury, veterinary care, medical care, retraining, replacement, emotional trauma and loss of mobility for the blind handler.

To date, the four-member task force has compiled and distributed packets of information to all of The Council's affiliate schools. These packets provide guidance and resources for contacting and educating local and state law enforcement agencies about the serious, and often under-addressed national epidemic of dog attacks and interference against dog guide teams.



The task force is also working with the International Association of Directors of Law Enforcement Standards and Training (IADLEST). The association primarily focuses on the development and training of law enforcement or criminal justice personnel. The task force enlisted the help of Ginger Kutsch, dog guide user and founding member of The Seeing Eye's Advocacy Council, to write an article for the IADLEST newsletter. The article explains the dangers of dog attacks on dog guide teams and appears in the Association's 2008 spring edition.

The Council of U.S. Dog Guide Schools began to provide a forum in the 1980s whereby the schools could share best practices and collaborate to address common issues. Today, the work of the Council continues through the efforts of licensed guide dog instructors from all over the country. To learn more about the work of the task force, contact Emily Simone at 800.295.4050 or esimone@guidedogs.com.

More information on is available at: guidedogs.com/access and seeingeye.org/access

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Dogs for the Disabled Launches Autism Assistance Dog Programme

Earlier this year, Dogs for the Disabled (UK) launched a new project training assistance dogs to help reach out to children with autism and their families. The charity's first autism assistance dog partnership William and Percy represented the charity at the UK's prestigious dog show Cruft's 2008 in their annual 'Friends for Life' competition.

William is 5 years old and was born with characteristics of autism combined with learning difficulties. For William and his family, everyday situations such as going to the shops, visiting friends or going on holiday frequently become exhausting, isolating and even depressing experiences. Now, with assistance dog Percy by his side, a contented William will go almost anywhere.

Dogs for the Disabled expects to train a total of 16 autism assistance dogs by the end of next year. The charity is teaming up with the UK's National Autistic Society to carry out research on the project and to see how the project could be developed to help many more children and their families in forthcoming years.

