



## 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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### ADI in Latin America

Although there are a number of assistance dog programs in Latin America, none of them have joined ADI in the past. One of the aspirations of the new ADI regional structure was that ADI would appeal to all programs across the world – Latin America being no exception.



On a recent visit to Chile, ADI President Peter Gorbong took the opportunity to meet with representatives from 10 programs from Latin America to talk to them about the work of ADI, encourage them to join and to consider setting up a regional chapter. The meeting was a great success with programs from Chile, Brazil, Argentina, Columbia, and Ecuador represented.

Following the meeting, the programs pledged to join ADI and to work together more closely with the aim of setting up an ADI regional chapter as soon as possible. A Communications Group has been established and plans to hold a Latin America conference for assistance dog programs in 2009 are already underway. Following the meeting Peter Gorbong said; “I am absolutely delighted with the response I have had from the Latin American programs. They have a great deal to offer ADI and ADI will be much stronger if we have a significant presence in Latin America. We can only uphold our international standards if we are truly international and are attractive to assistance dog programs in all parts of the world. I am very grateful to the Bocalan Foundation in Spain and their Director Teo Mariscal for facilitating the meeting and to Bocalan Confiar in Chile, and their President Cecilia Marre, for hosting the meeting.”

Members will be kept informed with the progress of this exciting development.

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.

## News from the International Board of ADI

### Conference

The ADI Conference in London went well with a packed program and some excellent speakers and presentations. Overlapping with the International Guide Dog Federation conference offered delegates an opportunity to network with a wider range of guide dog programs and the joint plenary session was probably the largest ever gathering of people from assistance dog programs around the world.

Many of the plenary presentations from the conference are now available on the ADI website [www.assistancedogsinternational.org](http://www.assistancedogsinternational.org) in the Members Only section under Presentation Materials 2008.

### Membership Structure and Accreditation

A proposal relating to a new membership structure was agreed unanimously by the Full members at the Conference Business meeting. This has already been circulated to all members. Members must be aware that full voting rights and the right to call your program a member of ADI will only be open to accredited members from 1st January 2011. From 2011, all non-accredited programs will be called Candidates.

The ADI Accreditation Committee and the Assessors are doing their best to get ready for expected rush of programs coming forward at the last minute to be accredited. *Please help ADI by planning for your accreditation as soon as possible.* With the best will in the world, ADI will struggle to get everyone accredited if most of the non-accredited programs leave it until late 2010. Remember; the Accreditation Committee Members and the Assessors are just volunteers – all with their own programs to run just like you! If you want any accreditation advice contact Suzi Hall on [shall@cci.org](mailto:shall@cci.org) or Corey Hudson on [chudson@cci.org](mailto:chudson@cci.org) There will be accreditation workshops at the 2009 ADINA and ADEu Conferences.

### Animal Assisted Therapy (AAT)

The paper on AAT, circulated to all members in advance of the conference, was again agreed in full and unanimously. This means that ADI will start to develop appropriate Standards and Ethics and an Accreditation Assessment for AAT work which is being carried out by assistance dog programs who are members of ADI. This will enable ADI programs active in AAT to be sure they are carrying out this work in line with universally agreed standards and ethics. It was agreed that in future, we would refer to Animal Assisted Interventions (AAI) rather than AAT.

### ADI Plans and Membership Fees

The conference networking session afforded delegates the opportunity to identify what ADI could do to support their programs and the ideas that came forward are being worked on by the Board in preparing an outline three-year plan. It is expected that this plan will be forwarded to members shortly, along with an outline budget which will have implications for the level of fees that programs will have to pay if we are to achieve the plan. Members present at the meeting accepted that membership fees will have to rise at some point in the future, but it was agreed that the entry point for fees must not prohibit new and small programs from joining ADI and the Board recognizes that all programs will want to keep costs down in this difficult economic climate. Proctor and Gamble have expressed a serious interest in providing ADI, and hence its members, with substantial support under its Eukanuba brand and the Board is in discussion with P&G to work out how we might take this forward. This could have a significant effect on ADI's capacity to develop services and the outcome of these talks will be reflected in the Development Plan.

Peter Gorbing  
On behalf of the Board of ADI

## My First Year with Merlin – Nothing Less Than Magic

by Akiji Koiwalakai, Support Dogs, Inc. (SDI) client since 2007

As an accomplished tennis instructor, father and family man, with a second degree black belt in Tae Kwon Do and a career computer tech, my life changed overnight after I was hit by a truck that rendered me a paraplegic. I had a new lifestyle to deal with and new challenges. I needed a drastic change of attitude as well as an action plan when it came to being disabled. I didn't want to depend on anyone for my everyday care and I refused to let any conversation veer toward sympathy. As time went on and the reality of my disability set in, I gained a new respect for people who are disabled. My doctor suggested that I look into getting a service dog to support me.



I knew that dogs are affectionate and loyal, but I soon learned a trained service dog can offer greater independence and self-confidence. I talked to many people and after serious consideration I decided to start the process of applying. I was impressed with what I found out about Support Dogs, so I started the process. I sent in a video about my life, sharing why I needed a service dog. Once my application was accepted, I was put on a waiting list. About eight months later I received a call from SDI asking me to come for training.

My first day at Support Dogs was exciting, even though I was a little scared. I was happy to see the care and love that the dogs receive from the staff, and they were friendly, knowledgeable, and willing to answer my questions. Next, I learned the commands necessary to manage my dog.

Then I had the pleasure of being matched with Merlin. He had lots of energy, and we worked well together and bonded quickly. I soon started to feel confident in my training and with Merlin. He's been trained to carry my bags, ride in an elevator, and hold open a heavy door so that I may enter the building.

On graduation day, many people were there to celebrate, including Merlin's volunteer puppy raiser, Debbe Goldie. Merlin must have remembered her from the way he wagged his tail. When my name was announced, I received my certificate knowing that Merlin and I were now an official team. We had made it!

Once home, we began to adjust to our new life. Merlin wasn't just a companion—he was a part of my life now. I began to understand his personality and realized that he "talks" to me in his own way. Yet when it comes to work, Merlin is a totally different dog. He stays close to my side at all times and is quick to respond to my commands. He looks after my needs and accompanies me everywhere I go—to work, shopping, and doctor visits.

I now work for an Internet company called Disaboom, an online community for the disabled ([www.disaboom.com](http://www.disaboom.com)). Everyone at the office loves that I bring Merlin to work, and he has a nice spot under my desk. My third-floor office location posed a problem one day when a fire alarm sounded in the building. Naturally, the elevators shut down and I was unable to leave the building. I had to wait at the top of the stairs for help. Merlin wasn't trained to handle fire alarms that I knew of, but overall, he did well, staying at my side the whole time until coworkers came to my aid. They carried me and my chair down to the ground level. Merlin continued to look out for my well-being while staying at my side.



These are a few of the events that have happened during our first year together. Merlin's birthday was last August and he is now 2 years old. Merlin has helped me to become fully independent and has magically uplifted my spirit toward life. Because of Merlin, I am a better person.

Support Dogs, Inc. is located in St. Louis, Missouri. SDI places dogs nationally and each year will place 15-20 dogs like Merlin free-of-charge to deserving individuals with disabilities. This is made possible through the generosity of SDI's supporters across the nation. To learn more about this and other programs provided by Support Dogs, Inc. visit [www.supportdogs.org](http://www.supportdogs.org).

## Assistance Dogs International – North America Conference



January 12 - 14, 2009

The Regal Sun Resort  
Orlando Florida  
1850 Hotel Plaza Blvd.  
Lake Buena Vista, Florida

### Conference Topics:

ADI – two years in progress	ADA - Updates and Changes in the Law
Deaf Culture- where it started and where it is now	Keeping Staff Motivated
Managing Staff Performance	Setting up a Puppy Raising Program
Autism Dogs	Dog Database
Fundraising	Applicant Interviewing
Dogs for Veterans	Positive Training Methods
Getting Ready for ADI Accreditation	Outcome of Measurements
Temperament Testing	Grant Writing
IAADP	Having an Assistance Dog – from a client perspective
Successor Dogs	Board Recruitment
Donation Dogs	

\*Conference topics are subject to change. A full schedule will be available soon.

Please visit our web site at [www.assistancedogsinternational.org](http://www.assistancedogsinternational.org) for information and registration packet.

### Dear Members:

At the ADI Conference in London 2008, many noted the convenience and economy of having some of the meals included in the total conferences package. This feature made it possible for attendees to avoid long hikes to local restaurants and remain local to the conference site and get back into conference sessions quickly. Hearing this feedback from the membership, the developers of the ADI North America Conference have adopted this same approach for January 2009. We were able to find a hotel that could offer our conference attendees a cheaper room rate per night than in the past, plus offering most meals and snacks during the conference will offset the increase in conference fees. Below is a cost comparison from the last ADI Conference in North America (Baltimore 2007) to the Orlando 2009. As the adage goes, it often pays to examine all the details before determining ultimate value.

<b>2007 Conference in Baltimore</b>		<b>2009 Conference in Orlando</b>	
Conference Fee, per person	\$225	Conference Fee, per person (includes breakfast, lunch, mid-morning and afternoon snack, and one evening banquet dinner during conference)	\$425
Room Rate \$129 per night for 3 nights	\$387 w/o tax	Room Rate \$109 per night for 3 nights	\$327 w/o tax
Food for 3 days @ \$20 per meal (8 meals)	\$160	Food for 3 days @ \$20 per meal (3 meals)	\$60
<b>TOTAL \$772</b>		<b>TOTAL \$812</b>	

## Law Enforcement Education Event Held at Guide Dogs for the Blind

By: Emily Simone, Field Service Manager, Guide Dogs for the Blind

As part of ongoing efforts to educate law enforcement agencies about the critical issue of guide dog protection, Guide Dogs hosted community-based education events titled, “Law Enforcement and the Visually Impaired.” The events were held in September on both of Guide Dogs’ campuses and attendees included officers of police departments, animal control, sheriff departments and California Highway Patrol. Several directors and animal behaviorists of humane societies also were in attendance. Topics of discussion included the ADA and how it pertains to persons who use assistance dogs; legal access in places of public accommodation; the impact of loose dog attacks on working teams; a discussion about code enforcement and priority response in situations involving working teams; and information about a law enforcement training course available through THE BACKUP company.

Two police officers from the San Francisco Police Department were willing to attend and speak to



attendees department’s model of response to dog attacks on working guide dogs.

At the completion of the event, the attendees were offered an opportunity to work a guide dog

in training under blindfold. Feedback from attendees was very positive. One participant reported he wasn’t sure what to expect but that he came away from the event

feeling better informed on this critical subject and willing to share his knowledge with other officers in his department.

Also of note, in collaboration with the Portland Police Bureau, our training staff has developed a video specific to Oregon State Police Officers. This short “roll call” video reviews Oregon statutes protecting the rights of guide dogs and provides correct procedures for officers dispatched to a scene where a guide dog has been interfered with or attacked. This CD is available to all interested Police Departments in the state of Oregon for continued education.

## Grand Opening of New Canine Companions Center

Canine Companions for Independence celebrated the opening of the new Northeast Regional Center, the Miller Family Campus, on Long Island, New York on Saturday, October 4. More than 400 people, including New York State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli, CCI National and Regional Board members, CCI graduates, puppy raisers, volunteers, and donors attended the open house. The afternoon featured self-guided tours of the center, assistance dog demonstrations, a gracious and moving speech by CCI National Board member John Miller, and a ribbon cutting ceremony – two CCI assistance dogs held the ribbon.

The new Miller Family Campus is one of five regional CCI centers across the country. The new center includes spacious kennels, training facilities, dormitory rooms, a full-service kitchen, and ample space for dogs to play and train.



## Multi-Species ADEu Training Camp Workshop

A team of 15 trainers from programmes representing Belgium, Netherlands, Ireland, Portugal and England gathered together in October to begin an adventure working with a range of different species at Rio Safari, Elche, Alicante in Spain.

Fundacion Bocalan provided instruction and their ongoing work with the park provided a unique opportunity to gain firsthand experience working with a range of their animals. Opportunities to get up close and personal included experiences with sea lions; teaching Vietnamese pigs to step on to a box to ring a bell; goats to weave between participants' legs; and jaguars to offer a paw or to go to a designated spot. Ados the giraffe won hearts with his graceful willingness to position himself for a potential veterinary inspection and Babaty the elephant to lift a foot for a manicure. Possibly one of the more challenging activities was for each trainer to teach a hand-picked chicken to move through a series of tasks.

The weekend provided firsthand experience of commonly used training techniques, from improvement in timing to behaviour economics and discrimination, amongst many others. It also brought together a diverse group of trainers to

work as a team and to all benefit from such a unique experience. This workshop will be a topic of conversation for a long time and has provided memories attendees will never forget.

Heartfelt thanks and appreciation goes to Fundacion Bocalan, Rio Safari – Elche and especially Teo, Esther, Maggie and Franco, along with Elma's help to bring this workshop together. Roll on Level II workshop and count me in!!

Helen McCain  
Dogs for the Disabled



## What I Did This Summer

by Diego Brown, API (Associated Pups International)

Summertime! Long sunny days, squirrels, rabbits, luscious green grass...I love the outdoors! My housemate, Dottie (a black "labradorable") and I take long walks in St. Charles, greeting dog-lovers and their kids. I like kids. I grew up with six of 'em in my first rescue family. So that's why I was jazzed when Mom said we'd visit Variety Adventure Camp.



I first met these terrific kids last summer...they're why I became a TOUCH dog! There they were: a group of about 35 great kids who all wanted to pet me! Mom said when I moved right into the middle of them, tail swishing and gently greeting each child, she knew that I HAD to become an SDI TOUCH dog...I was a natural. All I know is that I loved being around those children, who were so sweet to me.

So this summer, when Mom said we'd visit camp again, I was thrilled! This time I could greet my young friends as a certified TOUCH dog! I'm always proud to wear my harness, but it was particularly special getting dressed this time!

Off to Creve Coeur Lake! Look...my friends! I was greeted

with “Oh, Diego!” and more rubs, hugs and giggles than you can imagine! We sat under a big shady tree for music class, where we were joined by Willie, John and Jonathan. I met JT, whom I REALLY loved. It was his first day at camp and he didn’t know anyone yet. He was all discombobulated but his counselor brought him to meet me. That’s when I learned just how wonderful it is to be a TOUCH dog, and what a difference I could make. As JT petted me, I stood there quietly, absorbing his anxiety. I calmly reassured him that everything was all right and he began to relax. Then we lay down beside each other in the grass, snuggling and becoming the best of friends.

The rest of the morning, with JT nearby, the campers and I laughed, sang songs, danced and played rhythm instruments. Around noon Mom and I headed home. I fell asleep right away with happy memories filling my dreams and wagging my tail. Being a TOUCH dog is “totally awesome!” And this fall, I can tell my student friends in Wentzville all about camp when they ask, “Hey, Diego! What did YOU do this summer?”

About the author:

Diego, a 4 ½ year-old golden retriever/St. Bernard mix (a “Golden Saint”), is a rescue from Dirk’s Fund. He lives with Dottie, a 4 year-old black lab, and two others, Rusty and Sage, all rescues. His humans are Dave Brown and Kathy Lawton Brown. Diego and Kathy are a TOUCH team at Boone Trail Elementary and Wentzville South Middle School, where they visit children with special needs.

Diego and his human companion Kathy Lawton Brown have been a certified Support Dogs, Inc. TOUCH team since 2007. TOUCH (Therapy of Unique Canine Helpers) is the original creation of Support Dogs, Inc. in St. Louis, Missouri. Since 1989, SDI has placed nearly 1,000 TOUCH teams that visit adults and children at nearly 100 sites in the metro St. Louis area. There are approximately 300 active TOUCH teams in the Support Dogs program. These animal assisted therapy teams “touch” nearly 30,000 people each year. To learn more about this and other programs provided by Support Dogs, Inc. visit [www.supportdogs.org](http://www.supportdogs.org).



## CCI Assistance Dogs Receive Awards and Recognition

### ASPCA Dog of the Year

Canine Companions for Independence is pleased and proud that CCI Skilled Companion dog *Ilia* is the ASPCA Dog of the Year. For four years, *Ilia* has been a constant source of motivation, assistance, encouragement and companionship for ten-year-old Cole, who has cerebral palsy. Today, Cole is walking, thanks to numerous surgeries and his CCI Skilled Companion *Ilia*. *Ilia* was honored at The ASPCA’s Annual Humane Awards Luncheon, on October 30 in New York City.



### American Kennel Club Recognizes CCI Service Dog

The American Kennel Club Award for Canine Excellence in the category of Service Dog was given to CCI Skilled Companion *Cary*. For eight years, *Cary* has been assisting fourteen-year-old Lizzy who gets around in a wheel chair and depends on *Cary* for help with such things as opening doors, picking up dropped items, helping with light switches, carrying her lunch box, and even helping bring clothes so she can get dressed. With *Cary* by her side, Lizzy has gained a greater sense of self-reliance and has been able to live a more active lifestyle. *Cary* will receive her award at the AKC/Eukanuba National Championship on December 13 in Long Beach, California.

## Freedom Service Dogs Heroes

Kathleen Fieselman is a victim of muscular dystrophy, a hereditary disease that causes progressively weakening muscles. Most of those who are afflicted with muscular dystrophy struggle with poor balance, frequent falling, if able to walk at all, limited range of movement, and scoliosis, an unnatural curvature of the spine. Sadly, there is no known cure for the several distinct afflictions categorized as muscular dystrophy. For many patients even the correct form of treatment is difficult to determine. At least one form of treatment has been helping Kathleen for the past seven years.



The treatment's name is *Blu*, and he is an English variety Black Labrador. He is as Kathleen puts it "my sidekick/best buddy/ problem solver of seven years". Acting as an extension of Kathleen's body, *Blu* has usurped the role of muscle. Able to do things such as pick up fallen objects, carry grocery bags and other items, put clothes into and take them out of the washer and dryer, open and close doors, and turn lights on and off, *Blu* has proven himself a worthy companion and true friend. He has also learned new and practical skills in the care of Kathleen. Recognizing *Blu's* physical prowess after he playfully attempted to chase a Chihuahua, Kathleen taught him to use his muscles in more helpful ways. Muscular dystrophy will not allow Kathleen to pull herself out of bed in the morning, so *Blu* has been taught to act as an extension of her body and pull her out of bed. With

Kathleen's skill in training dogs and *Blu's* intelligence and willingness to please, the two have developed a mutually reliant love for one another.

The relationship between Blu and Kathleen goes far beyond what most people will ever have the opportunity to learn, giving confidence to both. But the stresses and hardships of life creep even into the depths of the strongest individuals. When Kathleen's mother had a stroke, and the day to day responsibilities of her mother fell to Kathleen, Blu was there to help. Caring for a victim of stroke is difficult enough without a disease such as muscle dystrophy; the tasks of cooking, feeding, bathing, dressing, and generally caring for a loved one suffering from the aftermath of a stroke takes a physical and mental toll on the caretaker. Luckily, Kathleen had the support of Blu during this difficult time in her life to help get her through it. When fear and sadness would overwhelm, Kathleen says Blu was always there. He would gently settle his soft, ebony head in Kathleen's lap and look up at her face if she would cry. If Kathleen were up in the middle of the night caring for her mother, Blu would be poised beside her, and the next day he would refuse his daily naps to remain beside her. Yes, Blu acted as all people hope they would be able to if a friend were in need, but so too did Kathleen. Certainly, a loving pat on the head served a once homeless dog named Blu a degree of comfort and reassurance.

On October 25th Blu will be awarded the Colorado Veterinary Medical Foundation's Animal Hero of the Year for 2008 for his lifetime of achievements serving Kathleen. The honor is reserved for "An animal that has saved a life or prevented an injury", and is decided upon by a panel of judges including CVMF staff, veterinary students, and a member of the media. It is clear from this description which appears on the CVMA's website that in the opinion of the CVMA, Blu has saved Kathleen's life. But it should also be recognized that Kathleen has done the same for Blu. A bond like theirs is special. I'm sure Kathleen would rather call Blu the one of a kind hero of a lifetime than hero of the year for 2008, but it is an honor to both Blu and Kathleen to be recognized in such a way. Congratulations Blu and Kathleen, and may we all be as lucky in discovering true friendship!

## Conference Raffle Items Needed!

Suzi is accepting donations of non-logo items for the raffle table for the upcoming conference in January and she needs your help! Are you creative? Put together a gift basket. Solicit a local specialty store in your area. Contact one of your vendors...or two. Leftover item (s) from a fundraiser? Chain coffee cards, chain restaurant gift certificates...let your imagination run wild! Donated items may be brought to the conference or shipped ahead of time to:

Suzi @ ADI  
c/o CCI  
2965 Dutton Avenue  
Santa Rosa CA 95402

## Bigger Dogs? Have Sperm – Will Share

We are a small program that has specialized in balance dogs for adults with mobility problems. We have 15 Great Danes out working successfully with patients with balance issues. If you would like to try to responsibly cross with our studs, they would be very pleased to accommodate visiting ladies. We have a guest house and the entire project would be a “do it yourself, as we have no extra funds to share. By importing several male dogs we have developed a slightly shorter, heavier boned working dane. As we lined up our bloodlines on 110 dogs for the DNA project, we can provide our exact statistics for those dogs that died before 10 years old.



Senior stud Thumper (pictured left): 34” black/white, 7 years old. He still sires unplanned litters by jumping 6-foot fences if we are not super careful. Perfect temperament and movement, sired by a Canadian dog. Mother goes back six generations in our ownership. Approximately 35 of his pups ‘on the ground,’ and of the 10 put in service dog training, nine graduated and are still working. One died from complications of erlichia.



Junior stud Bobby (pictured left): 32” harlequin from Budapest, 3 years old. The show world would call him short and coarse, but I call him strong. He has 8 pups on the ground. One is in service; two are in training successfully; one female is in a pet home for breeding; four were sent out as pets because of their color.

“Grand dad” Deagle 1998-2008: 32”, was from Belgium and was related to most of our female breeding dogs. He died due to complications of pneumonia. At the age of nine he was put on thyroid medication.

If you would like two dane pups, we might be able to do that too. That is done by the birth order, and we claim pups 1,3,5,7 and any harlequins (as they are expensive). Breeding animals is a crap shoot. If you would like to take the chance...speak up.

Carlene White  
Service Dog Project, Inc.

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## Silver Anniversary Celebration

By Ann Weinerth, Director of Development, Support Dogs, Inc.

Step onto the red carpet and into the spotlight for your screen test! Celebrate Support Dogs' Silver Anniversary at its annual tacky-chic party with a salute to the silver screen Saturday, March 28, 2009.



**Support Dogs, Inc.**

The fun begins at 6:30pm at the Kemp Auto Museum in Chesterfield and includes a "Puparazzi" Live Auction and Silent "Movie" Auction featuring to-die-for items; dancing to the tunes of The Spectrum Band; and our special "Woofgang Pack" catered supper that's sure to rival the Academy's famous Governor's Ball. The evening includes specialty drink bar and other complimentary beverages (while supplies last; must be 21 years of age with a valid state ID.) And, of course, we'll have our version of that famous gold statue—the Tacky Dogscar Award for the King and Queen of Tacky.

Sponsorships are available from \$2,000-\$3,000 and include award winning amenities. There's still time to reserve your own VITT place (Very Important Tacky Table) for \$1,199 which seats eight guests. And in celebration of our 25th Silver Anniversary, individual reservations are available this year for \$79 per person. That's \$20.99 off the regular tacky price of \$99.99 but you must reserve your seat by March 10 to take advantage of this special offer. Make your reservation today for this exciting celebration by calling 314/997-2325.

Join the fun and help celebrate 25 years of excellence at the Tacky Ball 2009. It's YOUR night to walk the red carpet dressed to the nines, smiling for the puparazzi!

The Tacky Ball is Support Dogs, Inc. gala fundraising event held each spring at the end of March. To learn more about this and other programs provided by Support Dogs, Inc. visit [www.supportdogs.org](http://www.supportdogs.org).

**REMINDER:**

Back on January 13, 2005, ADI decided that by December 31, 2010 all ADI members need to be accredited to maintain or achieve voting status. This deadline has been posted in many newsletters, meeting minutes and generally been made know for four years. In the next two years ADI volunteers will make every attempt to process all accreditation survey requests as they arrive, but if there is a sudden rush to at the end to apply for a survey, there is no guarantee the application can be honored at the back end of this process vs. earlier. Plan ahead, as they say.