



## 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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## 2006 Census Report for ADI 2007 Fiscal Year

These numbers reflect total working Assistance Dogs provided by the members of Assistance Dogs International (ADI). Note: Not all Assistance Dog providers are members of ADI; we ask that you do not use these numbers as a total of all Assistance Dogs working in the United States and other countries.

New teams placed in 2006 calendar year:

Guide 749 Hearing 146 Service 345

**Total New Teams: 1240**

Teams actively working in the 2006 calendar year):

Guide 5827 Hearing 1590 Service 2044

**Total Active Teams: 9461**

Census numbers were collected during ADI's Annual Membership Renewal period of July 2007-December 2007.

## Canine Companions for Independence Hosts Intern

From September to November 2008, Canine Companions for Independence® (CCI) was pleased to host Chris Maron as an intern at their national headquarters in Santa Rosa, CA.

This was the second time that Chris traveled from her home in Germany to spend time with CCI as an intern to learn all she can about assistance dogs. During her first visit in 1998, Chris shared that she gained insights into kennel management, puppy raising, dog training and CCI's participant program. Beyond all this, Chris says, "I also learned that miracles still happen every day and that you can encounter them at CCI."

After her 2008 visit, Chris left CCI with more firsthand knowledge of the CCI participant experience. She also left filled with confidence and hope to raise and train assistance dogs in Germany.

Chris summarized her experience with CCI and her enthusiasm about the benefits of assistance dogs when she said, "We can make this world a better place, help lower the walls of ignorance and fear, and reach and leave paw prints in their hearts with help of our four-legged companions and institutions like CCI."

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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.

## Assistance Dogs International Board News

### Staff Update

As you will know from an earlier e-mail, our Administrator, Suzi Hall, is convalescing from an operation and will not be returning to work for a while. I am delighted to report that Suzi is doing well. In the meantime, Lynn Hoekstra has taken on Suzi's role and we are grateful to her for her help and enthusiasm. Lynn will be staying with us at least over the Summer.

### Fees Vote

As members will be aware, the general view of programmes which were represented at our London Conference was that they would like to see more services being offered by ADI. Following the Conference, the Board prepared an Outline Development Plan which was circulated to members requesting comments. Only one comment was received. The main proposal from the Board was that ADI should appoint a second part-time worker to support the development of new member services to include a mentorship scheme, a more active website with web forums and greater networking opportunities for all.

To pay for this, the Board proposed a new fee structure. New fees have to be agreed by ADI's voting Members and for an e-mail proposal to be agreed, a minimum of two-thirds of all voting members have to vote 'yes'. It has not proved possible to get two-thirds of the members to vote and so the Board has decided to postpone the vote for the time being. It was very clear to the Board that many programmes, particularly non-English speaking ones, were unclear about what was being proposed. For this reason, it was decided to postpone any vote to give the Board more time to explain the issues to our Members. The Board will take the opportunity to talk with our European members about the proposals at the Assistance Dogs Europe (ADEU) conference in September and with members from Asia at a proposed conference to happen later in the year. In the meantime, the ADI staff will do what they can to support programmes.

We will be making arrangements to collect membership fees (at the old levels) from members as soon as possible.

*Peter Gorbng  
On behalf of the ADI International Board*

### Notice to All ADI Member Organizations

ADI is currently updating its e-mail contact information. Please provide the following:

Name of ADI member organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of contact person/title for ADI email correspondence: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please email the information to [assistdogsintl@sbcglobal.net](mailto:assistdogsintl@sbcglobal.net).

Thank you!

## News from Hearing and Service Dogs of Minnesota

### Autism Assistance Dog Program

In 2007, Hearing and Service Dogs of Minnesota initiated an Autism Assistance Dog program. Since then, six Autism Assist Dogs have been placed with families living with a young child with autism and eight teams are scheduled to be placed during 2009. Autism presents unique challenges including working with the family as caregivers for both the dog and the child, keeping the child safe and preventing him or her from running away. Two of our graduate teams have given back to us by being wonderful ambassadors for the Autism Assist program.

### A Personal Angel



Four-year-old Zach Lowe was matched with Lincoln, a two-year-old labrador mix. In the short time since placement, Lincoln has learned to read Zach's physical cues when he is about to run away. Zach's mother says that Lincoln is Zach's "own personal angel." She describes it as "an unconditional, unconventional, and miraculous loving friendship."

On February 7, 2009 Lincoln was inducted into the Minnesota Veterinary Medical Association's Animal Hall of Fame in the professional category for his work with Zach during the association's annual convention.

### A Patient Dog Provides Safety



Ten-year-old Finn Golden was matched with Autism Assist Dog, Traeh, a 3-year-old German Shepherd, who seemed a good fit for Finn because of Traeh's size and patience. Traeh understands that his job is to keep Finn safe and stop him from running away. An added bonus is that, when they are out together, Finn walks with his head up, looking around instead of looking at his hands or feet as he used to. "We're excited to see his development," his Mom, Chris, says.

Finns' parents have spoken at several events about the positive effects of an Autism Assist Dog. During 2008, Finn and Traeh were featured on the front page of the St. Paul Pioneer Press newspaper and are the subject of the Acts of Kindness column in the February 9, 2009 edition of the National Enquirer.

### Distinguished Community Service Award

Recently Arc of Minnesota presented its 2008 Distinguished Community Service Award to Hearing and Service Dogs of Minnesota at the annual ARC Champions of Innovation Convention. This award recognizes a non-Arc organization that has performed an outstanding service on behalf of persons with developmental disabilities. The Lowe's provided a testimonial for the award nomination.

We are always grateful when our work is reflected positively through the media and with recognition from those outside our industry. We are proud to have matched more than 270 teams, changing not only the lives of our graduates but the lives of the family, friends and employers, too.

## How a Dog Attack Can End Well

### By Malinda Carlson, Guide Dogs for the Blind

Mary Ann was working her Guide Dog, Tempe, in Eugene, Oregon when she heard a dog running and snarling, coming fast and from her right. The next thing she knew her dog was being attacked. In a blur, cars stopped, someone pulled the dog off Tempe, and someone called the police. She and Tempe were helped into a service van that had pulled over. When the police arrived shortly after the attack, they transported Mary Ann and Tempe to her vet and called Animal Control. While Tempe's bite wounds were being treated, Animal Control took possession of the attacking dog.

Tempe's wounds were on her back and rear leg, and fortunately, her harness appears to have protected her somewhat. The puncture wounds healed up quickly and within a week Tempe was able to undergo an assessment of her guidework and reaction to dogs. Tempe's attitude was excellent; Mary Ann reviewed how to react if Tempe showed signs of fear or distraction by loose dogs. In the end, Tempe was more interested in a game of Frisbee with a passing dog than worried about another attack. The scenario played out perfectly for the graduate and dog; accurate guidework and no dog fears.



The next step was to make sure the attacking dog never had the opportunity to do this again. The attacking dog remained in boarding with the local Animal Control pending a hearing. At the hearing held this past October, the judge asked for the report from Animal Control. The officers described what happened and gave the court their written recommendation. These were:

1. That the dog be euthanized by Animal Control, or
2. The dog be euthanized by the owner, or
3. The dog be neutered and released to Animal Control to re-home.

The judge had no authority to enforce any of these recommendations so she asked the owner if he was willing to agree to any of them. He refused. He was emotional and professed his love for his dog but never took responsibility for his dog's actions or apologized.

Because the judge was limited by the law, she imposed:

1. Boarding costs to be paid = \$500+
2. Restitution to GDB for vet care = \$180
3. Fine for dog attack = \$1,000 (maximum allowed)
4. Cost for Animal Control neutering dog = \$100

Then the judge offered to wave boarding costs and the fine if the dog owner would agree to any of Animal Control's recommendations. By agreeing to this deal, he would save \$1,500. This convinced the owner to allow Animal Control to re-home his dog. Hopefully they will find a home that is more secure and responsible. Tempe continues to exhibit no negative reactions from the dog attack. Guide Dog users in Eugene are working with the city in an attempt to get stronger laws protecting their guides. Considering all the factors, this situation ended as well as anyone could have hoped.

## Freedom Service Dogs Celebrates Its 2008 Graduation Ceremony

### A Record Number of Teams Receive Diplomas

By Diane Vertovec

A record-breaking number of Freedom Service Dogs teams were honored last October at its 21<sup>st</sup> annual graduation ceremony. The event brought together families, friends and Freedom Service dogs supporters to commemorate the graduation of rescue dogs serving a wide array of clients.



Freedom Service Dogs, Inc. trains shelter dogs to assist people with disabilities. There is no charge to the client for the trained canine. 2008 marks the greatest number of client-dog teams to receive their degrees in independence and happiness. 18 graduating teams represents more than three times its average number of yearly graduates since 1987.

The increase in the service dog graduation rate is due to greater facility capacity. Freedom Service Dogs recently moved to a brand new, state-of-the-art facility with over 32,000 square feet. The new facility accommodates up to 43 dogs-in-training as opposed to the former facility's cap of nine dogs. "Our new home provides new opportunities. In addition to our clients that require critical assistance due to disabilities, our long-term plan includes expanding the populations we serve to include returning veterans from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan," said Colette Palmer, Director of Development of Freedom Service Dogs. "We continue to focus on increasing funding to maximize our capacity and train dogs to help veterans with healthy re-entry."

The commitment to both clients and dogs has never been stronger. Staff and volunteers remain wholeheartedly and personally invested in Freedom Service Dogs' mission of rescuing dogs to change people's lives. All FSD dogs are rescued from shelters or donated. Those dogs that do not have the temperament to graduate from the rigorous training required to become a service dog are placed in loving homes. For more information, please visit [www.freedomservicedogs.org](http://www.freedomservicedogs.org).



2008 Graduating Team Barbara Tulley and Raina



2008 Graduating Team Michael Nelson and Gunther

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## Open Positions

**Hearing and Service Dogs of Minnesota**, a nonprofit agency located in Minneapolis, Minnesota, dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for people who are deaf, hard of hearing or disabled by creating mutually beneficial partnerships with specially trained dogs, is currently seeking a **Director of Training** and **Program Trainer**.

Hearing and Service Dogs of Minnesota are seeking a Director of Training to oversee and direct all aspects of dog breeding, training and placement including Service Dogs, Hearing Dogs, Autism Assist Dogs, Special Skills dogs and all other types. The Director will be responsible for managing and supervising all training staff and kennel staff. Successful candidates will have a minimum of five years of assistance dog training experience and demonstrated supervisory experience.

The Program Trainer is responsible for training and placing Hearing and Service Dogs and Autism Assist Dogs. Successful candidates will have a minimum of five years of dog training experience and a minimum of three years of assistance dog training experience.

Please visit their website at [www.hsdm.org](http://www.hsdm.org) for more information, including the full job descriptions each and the specific requirements and how to apply. Hearing and Service Dogs of Minnesota is an equal opportunity employer.

**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.