



# ADI Newsletter

**Assistance Dogs International**  
Setting Standards for the Assistance Dog Industry since 1987

## In this issue:

**Page 2**  
**Ground breaking assistance dog**

**Page 3**  
**Events from Taiwan**

**Page 4**  
**Petra's Law**

**Page 6**  
**Saying Goodbye to my Best Friend, Rugby**

**Page 9**  
**Battle Buddies**

**Page 10**  
**News from the Board**



Her Excellency The Governor General of Australia, Ms Quentin Bryce AC, has shown her support for Assistance Dogs Australia and took the time to get to know her namesake pups 'Quentin' and 'Bryce' (pictured left with Richard Lord, Assistance Dogs Australia's 'Top Dog'.)

Ms Bryce lapped up the licks and cuddles of her two newest fans. 'Quentin' and 'Bryce' are 10 week old Labradors who will be trained to become Service Dogs to help people with physical disabilities. Ms Bryce

learned about her namesake puppies which have only just begun their two year training journey.

'Quentin' and 'Bryce' enjoyed an energetic frolic in the opulent gardens of Government House in celebration of the Governor General's patronage.

Ms Bryce said, *"The whole idea of assistance dogs and the remarkable work they do every day to assist people with disabilities, people with special needs, it's such an inspiring story."*

Assistance Dogs Australia is very excited by this new patronage and are viewing it as a great opportunity to tell the Australian public about the new dogs on the block. Ms Bryce's enthusiasm for the charity and her new protégés was certainly evident in the many puppy cuddles that were lapped up during the celebration.

*Richard Lord, Assistance Dogs Australia*

## CONFIAR

In Autumn 2008, the Corporacion Bocalan Confiar become ADI's first Latin American provisional member. Since joining ADI, Confiar has gone from strength to strength and the association recently held a graduation for four new partnerships. Pictured here is one Confiar's new partnerships at the graduation. Cecilia Marre, Confiar's President, is very excited by the progress being made by her programme in Chile and is delighted that the association is now a provisional member of ADI.

ADI hopes that this success will encourage other assistance dog programmes in Latin America to join ADI with the eventual goal of setting up a Latin American region within ADI.



*Ceremonia Titulación*

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*Edited and published by Dogs for the Deaf, Oregon, USA*

## GROUND BREAKING ASSISTANCE DOG TO GUIDE BLIND WHEELCHAIR USER



Young and registered blind, electric wheelchair user Stephanie Read has had her life completely transformed by the UK's first ever dual-purpose Guide Dog and Canine Partner, trained to guide a wheelchair user.

Miracle dog Vegas is the only UK registered assistance dog to perform the dual roles of guiding a blind person and helping a wheelchair user; trained in a ground-breaking project between the charities Guide Dogs and Canine Partners.

Stephanie (26), from Torquay in Devon, was a prisoner in her own home, lacking confidence and isolated from the outside world until the arrival of Vegas – a five-year-old black Labrador.

Stephanie has Macular Hyperplasia, meaning she only has a very small amount of vision. She also has Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome, which affects her joints and organs; she has been a wheelchair user for the past 10 years.

Requiring help to get dressed and carry out the most basic domestic tasks – from answering the phone to picking up a book or newspaper – Stephanie has previously relied almost entirely upon a caregiver, sometimes waiting many hours for assistance to arrive.

Now, with Vegas by her side, Stephanie is able to carry out simple daily tasks without having to rely on when a helper is available.

Vegas also provides Stephanie with the freedom and confidence to leave her home when she wants, without needing to wait for a friend or helper to escort her. They enjoy regular outings around Torquay and when at busy roads crossings, Vegas even reaches up and presses the pelican crossing button with her paw.

Vegas was initially trained by Canine Partners and began working with Stephanie in March 2006. The guide dog training took place earlier this year, with Vegas recently qualifying as the first dual-purpose

assistance dog to guide a visually impaired person in an electric-wheelchair.

David Bailey, Guide Dogs' district team manager explains: "Vegas has an extra long harness handle, allowing her to walk safely in front of Stephanie's wheelchair. As with other guide dog owners, Stephanie recognises if she should stop, or move to the left or right, by sensing the movement in the handle."

Andy Cook, director of operations at Canine Partners comments: "Stephanie is now leading a truly independent life. She has confidence to go shopping, meet friends and get out on her own. Although this is a pilot project, we hope there will be further examples of dual trained assistance dogs benefiting visually impaired wheelchair users in the future. It goes to show what is possible when two charities work closely together."

The bond between Stephanie and Vegas is extraordinary. When she recently fell out of her wheelchair, it took an hour for help to arrive. In the meantime, as the rain poured down, loyal Vegas remained next to Stephanie, providing comfort and reassurance.

"She's transformed my freedom, mobility and independence," says Stephanie. "Vegas is a super dog – and I'm so grateful to Canine Partners and Guide Dogs for this miracle."

*Submitted by UK Guide Dogs & Canine Partners*

*(Above) Stephanie enjoys an outing with Vegas... "She's transformed my freedom, mobility and independence."*



## Dogs for the Deaf Trains First Hearing/Autism Dog

Dogs for the Deaf recently placed its first dually trained Hearing/Autism Dog. Ginger, a black Labrador, was rescued from a shelter and was trained to be an Autism Assistance Dog. Being a short, blocky Labrador, she learned to be an excellent “anchor” when the trainer playing the autistic child started to try to run away. Ginger would sit and not move at all. She also loved to play “hide and seek,” practicing to look for where the autistic child was hiding.

At this point, it was decided that she would be the perfect dog for Danielle, one of our previous Hearing Dog recipients whose first Hearing Dog had passed away. Danielle not only is deaf, but she is also a physician and teacher who works with autistic children.

So we next expanded Ginger’s skills and taught her to respond to the sounds needed to be a Hearing Dog.

During the placement Ginger started alerting her new partner to sounds, and she also began accompanying Danielle to work. The affect on the autistic patients and students was immediate. The students were more calm, and one little boy even came up and sat on Danielle’s lap in order to pet Ginger. This was a milestone event for this autistic child.

*Submitted by Dogs for the Deaf, Oregon, USA*



Ginger

## Some events of 2008-2009 in Taiwan

*by Grace Lu - Submitted by Taiwan Guide Dog Association*

The year of 2008 was a great year for Taiwan Guide Dog Association (TGDA). The local breeding program was finally implemented after TGDA had been established for almost seven years. The first litters were born on Aug. 29<sup>th</sup>, 2008.

With the first experience, the second litters were born on Feb. 19<sup>th</sup>, 2009 by Kity, a black lab.

TGDA not only starts the local breeding program but also holds various activities for both the visually impaired and the public. Hopefully, through these activities makes the public have more understanding about how to help the visually impaired when they need assistance.

In Taiwan, April is Guide Dog Month. We proclaim the guide dog program consecutively the whole month. Besides, we cooperate with the media to make the public notice guide dogs need to be accepted in our community. In this April in 2009 we held a bowling campaign. All the participants must wear the blindfolds except the blind.



Ivy and her puppies, Tiger & Tammy

## Cruising with PAWS®!

Join Paws With A Cause® on Royal Caribbean’s Mariner of the Seas for a Service Dog Cruise! Sailing January 17, 2010, this week-long cruise has all of the adventure and amenities that Royal Caribbean offers to you and your Assistance Dog!

Inside, ocean view, and balcony staterooms are available on this cruise liner that departs from Los Angeles, California, and travels to Cabo San Lucas, Mazatlan and Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. Enjoy one day in each port and experience all that life has to offer south of the border! Assistance Dog users and non-users alike will enjoy this specially-equipped cruise ship, with break areas for Assistance Dogs and activities galore!

Stateroom rates begin at \$450 per person (\$50 per stateroom to reserve) and PAWS will receive a donation for each stateroom booked. Payment plans are available. For more information, please contact Daun Flynn at Cruise/Travel Depot at 800-418-4242. Everyone is welcome – come cruise with PAWS!

*Submitted by Paws With A Cause® - USA*

## **Petra's Law** by *Bridget Warr*

ADI members have secured a major lobbying victory in the European Parliament on behalf of millions of disabled people. MEPs have voted to instruct Member States of the European Union to introduce a variety of disability rights, including access rights for Guide Dog and Assistance Dog users.

Peter Gorbings of ADI joined Guide Dogs UK staff to support Tom Pey as President of the European Guide Dog Federation to press for the changes.

Guide Dogs developed an integrated communications strategy, using both the international relations and media departments, aimed at lobbying in public to persuade in private. They called the proposals "Petra's Law," after a 15 year old blind Romanian singer whom they invited to Brussels to brief parliamentarians. Campaigners wrote an emotional and powerful speech for Petra Pintelei, which visibly moved the MEPs, drawing attention

### ***The following is the historic text of Petra Pintelli's speech to members of the European Parliament...***

Most of you have, probably, already made the crucial decisions in your life. What you want to do with your career, who you want to marry, and where you want to live. I'm 15 so I am in the amazing, and sometimes terrifying, position of being on the edge of making some of those life-defining decisions. I'm sure you can remember when you were 15. What's different about you and me, though, is not just our ages. Put simply, **you** can get on a plane and fly to any European capital. **You** can get a job, in theory, anywhere from Spain to Slovenia. **You** are free Europeans. I am not. Let me explain.

Before I was born, President Reagan had already called for an end to communism. He famously said: "Mr. Gorbachev – let my people go." We still learn about that in school in Romania today. Later, of course, the evil symbol of communism, the Berlin Wall, came tumbling down. That's another important thing we learn at school. We also are taught that it takes longer to make things than to break them. So understanding the benefits of being free is taking quite a time in countries like mine. But we're doing our best. Now that Romania's a member of the European Union, my generation has the most exciting hope we'll ever have of leaving behind the terrible memories of Nicolae Ceausescu. And I want to be a part of that. But I can't. Why? Because there is still a barrier in Europe, bigger even than the Berlin Wall. It's called disability. I am imprisoned. Not by my impairment, but by people's attitudes. I have to constantly battle with the way that other people see those of us with disabilities.

Well, I've got that sorted. I've appeared on TV in my native Romania, I enjoy singing in public, and I think that people can take me as they find me. I hope to go to university, study

to the every day discrimination and barriers which disabled people face across the European Union. She told them: "In three year's time, I will be an adult. I hope that by then you will have torn down my Berlin Wall. And then - and only then - will I be free."

Dr. Pey, Director of External Relations for UK Guide Dogs, says: "We also got valuable, high profile coverage on national and international radio and television, despite the G20 summit – probably the first time the national media has mentioned the EGDF. I am delighted with the way everyone co-operated to make a demonstrable difference to the campaign. Now 27 national parliaments within the European Union will have to put the provisions into law in their own way – another potential hurdle before we achieve true equality of movement. We'll be watching!"

*Submitted by UK Guide Dogs*

languages, and then get a Guide Dog. In that order. I think that might be possible.

But, the second problem is much more difficult to handle. I will face a mountain of rules and regulations, bigger than the Berlin Wall, every day of my adult life. And the most complex and confusing are the ones which affect Guide Dog users who want to travel. Will I have to muzzle my dog? Will this airline allow my animal to travel in the passenger compartment with me? Will the inoculations that it receives in Romania be recognized in Rome?

My English teacher tells me that the British have a phrase for this kind of nightmare. It's apparently called red tape. Red tape that is different from country to country, region to region. And it is a barrier that daunts me. It is the biggest single threat to my freedom and independence as an adult. But, it doesn't have to be this way. With one concerted action, you leaders here in Brussels today, have the power to make me free. Just vote to tear up the red tape and make one rule for Europe. Let me, and people like me, have what everyone else takes for granted, a legal right of access – the right to go into any public place accompanied by my dog. Is that too much to ask? Like you, I want to get on a bus, or a plane, or a train – and travel from Slovenia to Spain, or even Bruges to Birmingham, or Amsterdam to Zagreb, without hindrance. Knowing that I'll get the same treatment wherever I go.

President Reagan also said: "Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall." Well, in 3 years time, I will be an adult. I hope that by then you will have torn down **my** Berlin Wall.

And then... and only then... will I be free.

*Submitted by UK Guide Dogs*

## The Circle of Giving: Graduate to Puppy Raiser

*Submitted by Canine Companions for Independence - USA*

Ashley has Cerebral Palsy. She has been teamed with a Canine Companions for Independence Service Dog, Pierce II, since November 2008. Pierce is a great blessing to Ashley. He gives her confidence as she goes to her college classes with him. He gives her unconditional love when the world seems to be a cold, hard place. He gives her joy when she is down. He gives her purpose when she feels lazy and undisciplined. He gives her companionship when she is on the go. He joins in when she is excited and he comforts when she is down.

Knowing this first-hand made it all the more fulfilling when in May 2009, the puppy Ashley and her family raised for Canine Companions, Wateka graduated with her recipient Maria and her parents. "To see that Wateka will bless their family with all the things that Pierce does for us was a great gift for us," says Leslie, Ashley's mother. "Though we had tears at letting Wateka go again, the joy we experienced was much greater in the knowledge that she will greatly enrich the lives of her new family. To have had a hand in preparing this wonderful gift for another family is immeasurably rewarding."

We are grateful to the many volunteers that help us produce successful assistance dogs, and always amazed at the circle of giving from our graduates, supporters and volunteers.

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## International Working Dog Breeding Association Appoints Board Member

*Submitted by Canine Companions for Independence - USA*

The International Working Dog Breeding Association (IWDBA) was founded in 1999 to promote research in canine-related health issues through educational programs, public service programs, and grants. At the most recent meeting of the organization's board this past May in Ypres, Belgium, Paul Mundell, Canine Companions for Independence's director of canine programs, was invited to serve on the IWDBA Board of Directors. "I was delighted to be invited to serve; the IWDBA really fulfills a unique role in helping programs such as ours with the ever-growing demand for healthy and high-quality dogs," states Mundell. "I am looking forward to helping the organization provide a forum where cutting-edge knowledge from animal science, genetics and animal behavior can be applied to the challenges that large breeding and training agencies worldwide face."

Through the bi-annual conferences organized by the IWDBA, managers and technicians working with large breeding programs have an opportunity to meet each other. Through scientific papers presented at each conference, members can share knowledge and results from specific studies designed to learn new knowledge about the science of producing working dogs in large

numbers.

Papers presented at recent conferences have focused on ways to improve the overall behavior of working dogs, techniques for raising puppies that will maximize their opportunity to become emotionally sound working adult dogs, ways to genetically control a variety of health issues and techniques for treating dogs affected by specific disorders amenable to treatment. The 2009 conference, attended by about 280 delegates from 26 countries, included a number of papers that looked at the many nuances of canine olfaction.

Challenges facing the production of dogs in the numbers required by police and military organizations and by agencies that breed and train service dogs and guide dogs are orders of magnitude more complex than the challenges faced by private dog breeders. Where a large private breeder might whelp six litters per year, large breeding organizations producing working dogs must whelp 100 or more litters per year.

The Association maintains an international presence year-round through the website: <http://www.iwdba.org>.



*Ashley with Pierce (left) & Wateka*

## Saying Goodbye to my Best Friend, Rugby

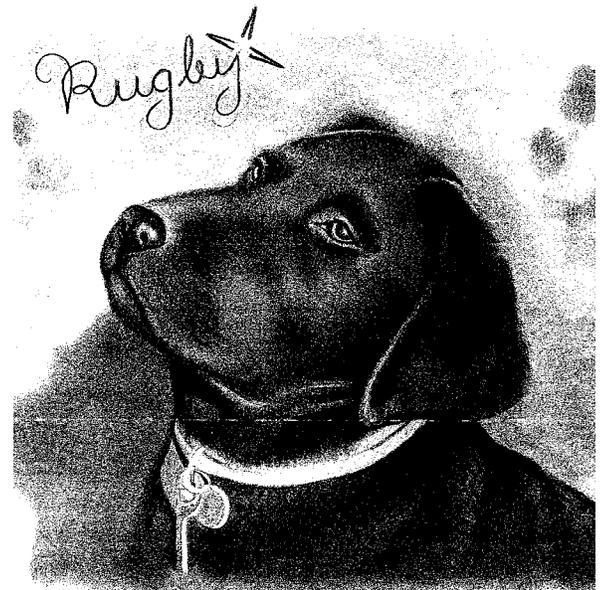
By Stephen G. Rodi

As I sit here in my cell preparing this letter, I find myself confronted by conflicting emotions, knowing that within a few days I will face the task of having to say goodbye to my best friend Rugby. A sweet, happy-go-lucky Labrador retriever I have been privileged to raise and train from the time he was twelve weeks old. I'm looking down at him now as he rests at my feet, quiet and well-behaved. He raises his head, bumps against me with his wet nose, and puts his chin back down on his forelegs. As I watch him, I am affectionately reminded of how only a short time ago he came bouncing into my life that first day he arrived on the prison compound.

He was this adorable little fluff ball of black fur; looking up at me as if I were the most important thing in his life. In that instant, he made my heart smile and nudged emotions I never thought I would experience again. It only took moments of cuddling and scratching behind his soft, floppy ears that we began to bond immediately. When I took hold of his leash for the first time, I knew my life would never be the same. I would now have a mission, a genuine opportunity to do something so important and so special. I was now a dog person.

For a few weeks following Rugby's arrival, I was overwhelmed with worry that I wouldn't be able to handle the responsibility needed to raise and train a puppy. Having been incarcerated most of my life, I was accustomed to a system once steeped in the old ways of thinking that prison inmates could not be trusted nor given responsibility to contribute to the welfare of themselves or others. Now, here I was being afforded the opportunity to prove that I could be. It was so contrary to the way things had been in the past. Of course, I knew the stakes would be high and challenging; I would need to put my best foot forward and make it happen.

So, with a renewed sense of purpose, I was determined to put every ounce of effort into providing the best of care and training for Rugby. It would be about connecting and creating a solid working relationship with him. I'll never forget that first week I started training; I was as lost as any novice trainer could ever be. I had zero experience, and, of course, Rugby didn't make things any easier for me. There were moments he could be unruly, he would put the brakes on when we walked, and refused to listen. I spent the better



part of several weeks building my confidence and establishing leadership with him. However, it wasn't long before everything started coming together. I began to recognize that it was all about being benevolent, having clear communication with him, and following through with what I expected from him, even if it took a thousand times. But mostly, it was about respect and forming a partnership and never giving up.

Many hours were devoted towards building Rugby's confidence and preparing him to learn all the skills he would need to become a great service dog. As week after week, month after month passed, I was truly delighted to witness how remarkable he was responding to all his commands. I found myself becoming motivated and inspired to work even more, eagerly looking forward to every opportunity. Every day promised something new to learn and fascinating to watch as he began to excel and show great potential. Every session of his training gave me an enormous sense of pride.

My relationship with Rugby has taught me many things about myself; about being a better person; achieving a greater degree of patience, sensitivity, and compassion. Spending a small part of my life with him has helped me to grow and mature emotionally and to find the inner goodness within myself. But mostly, I have been able to make a connection with humanity again. I would have never imagined my life could change so much simply by sharing space and time with a dog. I now know the true meaning of unconditional love. It has been an extraordinary journey. As I prepare to hand over his leash for the last time and say goodbye, I find myself overwhelmed with mixed emotions.

*(Continued on next page)*

## Rugby (cont'd)

It's going to be difficult to sever the bond I so carefully and harmoniously nurtured during our time together, as well as trying to imagine my life without my "Good Boy," my best friend. Although it's going to be a painful experience for me, I will also experience an overwhelming sense of pride, proud of knowing that every ounce of effort and commitment put into Rugby's training will ultimately yield enormous benefit as he goes on to provide an invaluable service to a disabled adult or child.

Rugby has emerged as a wonderfully gentle and loving service companion who will enrich the quality of someone's life. As much as I am going to miss him, clearly I will enjoy the memories I made with him. When I think of him often, I will remember the simple pleasures of his morning greetings, which were always loving and affectionate; how he would roll over on his back looking to be rubbed on his belly; how he played with me, and amused himself with his favorite toys or a treat-filled Kong. I will always remember how he would fall asleep curled-up like a donut and snore; and how he would always look up at me with his soft, brown eyes filled with excitement and joy. But mostly, I will always remember how amazing he is and how he made me feel in my heart for him.

I have spent many blessed moments with Rugby, and, in doing so, I have been honored and privileged to be a part of something so remarkable and noble.

In closing, I would like to share a passage written by a compassionate woman and dog person named Anne Bobby, who said it most exquisitely: "There's no road map for a dog to follow into your heart. For some people, the road is just a little longer. But the road, once found, is endless and as rewarding as a raised paw, a wet nose, a kiss from the most loving of souls. A kind word passed unspoken from eyes that you can never look away from again. Nor do you want to."

You're my Good Boy, Rugby.

*Submitted by NEADS - USA*

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Paws With A Cause® is proud to announce a new pilot program – Service Dogs for Children with Autism. This program will allow PAWS® to expand Assistance Dog services to children with autism and their families.

This pilot program will run for two years, beginning with the first placements in July of 2009. The program's goal is to place five dogs during the first year of the program and 10 dogs during the second year. During this pilot program, placements will be in areas where we can monitor the progress and measure the outcomes easily.

The program's target population is children who have been diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder and are between the ages of 4 and 12. During the first year, children accepted into the program will live within 200 miles of the Paws With A Cause National Headquarters, located just south of Grand Rapids, Michigan. In the second year, children will be accepted from throughout the United States.

*Submitted by Paws With A Cause - USA*



*Photo copyright  
Paws With  
A Cause*

## **K9 Buddies**

### **Developing Canine relationships for families with a child who is blind or visually impaired**

**By Aerial Gilbert R.N., Outreach Manager, Guide Dogs for the Blind - USA**

Guide Dogs for the Blind is recognized worldwide as a model for innovative training, unprecedented support following graduation, and success rate of our Guide Dog partnerships.

A relatively new initiative for us is the K9 Buddy Program, modeled after a program at the Australian Guide Dog School. The K9 Buddy Program matches specially selected dogs to become wonderful companions to visually impaired children and young adults.

K9 Buddies are offered free-of-charge, as are Guide Dogs. However, a K9 Buddy dog differs from a Guide Dog in a few key ways. The K9 Buddy dogs come from Guide Dogs' own colony, but are not qualified to work as mobility assistance dogs (guide dogs) and they are not considered service animals. Therefore, K9 Buddies are not granted access to public places (i.e. restaurants, shopping malls, hotels, public transportation, etc.)

Additionally, K9 Buddies are primarily placed in the eight Western states – the same territory in which we have puppies being raised and the staff to support these programs. These states include Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Utah and Washington.

Children who are blind or visually impaired may grow up with a fear of dogs, with their vision loss they experience dogs moving quickly or jumping up on them. The K9 Buddy Program allows children to forge a positive relationship with a dog by encouraging them to be a primary caregiver of a well-behaved canine.

A dog can contribute to the heightening of sensory development, motivating a child to learn and enhancing self-esteem. By learning to care for a dog as a pet, the child will master some of the basic skills necessary to care for a future mobility dog.

K9 Buddies will also have the opportunity to experience the human-animal bond that is so integral to the Guide Dog partnership. This relationship will allow them to make a more informed choice about their future mobility options as well as motivates them to learn their mobility skills.

We believe a child who may never be a candidate for a Guide Dog will also benefit from being a K9 Buddy Recipient. A study by Kay Alicyn Ferrell PhD, Project Prism: A Longitudinal Study of Developmental Patterns of Children Who Are Visually Impaired, states “over 50% of children with a visual impairment have multiple disabilities.” Some of these other disabilities may make it difficult for a person to use a guide dog.

Our K9 Buddy recipients are consistent with Ferrell's study, and we see the need to continue to encourage the parents of these children to educate themselves about the benefits of our K9 Program. The bond children create with their K9 Buddy helps to foster a sense of caring, companionship and responsibility into their daily life.

Families interested in applying for a K9 Buddy will be interviewed in their home to evaluate the environment as well as to determine the particular traits the family is looking for in a dog so an appropriate match can be made. After the appropriate match is made, the family will be given training and guidance from Guide Dogs for the Blind staff, prior to being granted a K9 Buddy.



## K9 Buddies (cont'd)

The K9 Buddy Program also connects the child and their family with our community of puppy raisers, staff and other supporters. The program informs the family about the services of Guide Dogs for the Blind and connects the family with other services provided by agencies and organizations for the blind.

We have successfully placed 45 K9 Buddies in the eight Western states and we are looking to serve more in the future.

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## Freedom Service Dogs and Operation Freedom Forge Battle Buddies

In the last year, Freedom Service Dogs partnered with the Veterans Administration to develop Operation Freedom, which is aimed at training and placing service dogs with veterans and servicemembers in need. The two-pronged program not only places dogs with veterans but it gives servicemembers returning from Iraq and Afghanistan the unique opportunity to be involved in training dogs for their fellow veterans and military personnel.

Veterans and servicemembers help train dogs to pass the American Kennel Club Canine Good Citizen test—which dogs must pass to graduate to the more rigorous service dog training program. In the six-week program, Operation Freedom helps FSD by accelerating the basic training process .

“Operation Freedom has been more successful than we ever imagined,” says Sharan Wilson, executive director of Freedom Service Dogs. “In the last few months, we’ve placed four dogs and we have more in training. Our waiting list continues to grow as servicemembers and veterans hear about our program. We are deeply honored to assist these men and women who risked their lives for our country. A Freedom Service Dog can do so much to enhance their lives after they return. We are proud to serve them.”

### Army Specialist Cameron Briggs

Army Specialist Cameron Briggs is currently residing in the Warriors in Transition Battalion at Ft. Carson in Colorado Springs, CO. He returned from a twelve month tour in Iraq in February, 2006. Cameron recently joined us at Freedom Service Dogs through the Operation Freedom program and graduates with his service dog, Harper in June, 2009.

Cameron suffers from TBI and PTSD stemming from a series of roadside bombs that erupted next to his vehicle when he was serving in Iraq in 2006. Physical injuries to his back, knees and ankles add to his chal-

lenges. Cameron is a fourth generation soldier. “Soldiering is all I’ve ever known. I can’t soldier anymore and, like a lot of guys like me, it’s scary leaving the army,” explains Cameron. Coming to FSD helps him in ways he never imagined. He’s learning new things. He’s more comfortable leaving the post. He’s gaining confidence in working with civilians.

The bond he will develop with his service dog, Harper, will go beyond tasks. His dog will be trained to help him keep track of everyday things like his keys, cell phone and wallet....things he misplaces frequently. Beyond that, he knows his dog will be his new battle buddy. “In combat, you can’t go anywhere alone. You don’t go anywhere without your battle buddy. In civilian life, I want my service dog to be my battle buddy. I want the dog to go everywhere I go.”

*Submitted by Freedom Service Dogs, Inc. - USA*



*Harper & Army Specialist Cameron Briggs*

# News from the Board

## Eukanuba

ADI has now signed a partnership agreement with Proctor and Gamble (P&G) – owners of Eukanuba – as previously mentioned. Eukanuba are keen to link with ADI programmes worldwide, recognizing that our dogs work to the highest possible standards and therefore the welfare of the dogs is of paramount importance. P&G have agreed to give ADI 50,000 euros a year for 3 years (about \$65,000) to support the relationship. Perhaps more significantly, we are hoping that P&G will develop a series of worldwide marketing campaigns that will enable ADI member programmes to benefit significantly either financially or by getting free food for their dogs. The nature of P&G's structure means that this is going to take time to develop and any activity will be dependent on Eukanuba's local agents (working in each country) deciding on whether or not they want to implement the proposed worldwide plan. We hope to develop plans with Eukanuba over the next few months and our aim is to ensure that all ADI member programmes get some specific benefits from our relationship with P&G. We will let you know as soon as we have any further details.

## ADI Board Vacancy - Cabell Youell

Earlier in the year, Linda Jennings resigned from the ADI Board after many years service. The ADI By-laws state that when a mid-term vacancy occurs the Board should appoint a successor which should be approved by the members in due course.

The ADI Board was unanimous in wanting to invite Cabell Youell to join the Board. Cabell is Executive Director of Saint Francis Service Dogs, an assistance dog program based in Virginia, USA. Many of the Board have worked closely with Cabell over the past years as she has extensive legal training which has been invaluable to ADI. Saint Francis is a small programme and so Cabell understands the needs of small programmes and is well able to ensure they are well represented at the Board level. The members will be asked to approve Cabell joining the Board at the next members meeting in June 2010.

## ADI Website

Quite soon you will notice some changes to the website as we will have a new webmaster – Elma Burg who has been the Secretariat of our European region for many years and is based in the Netherlands. The Board recognise that the website is a very important source of information for our members and so we are going to put much greater emphasis on making sure the website is constantly updated to reflect any changes. In the short-term we are not planning any significant changes in design, but rather, we will focus on ensuring anyone who visits the site is able to access the very latest information. In the longer run, we hope to develop new web-based networking opportunities for our members.

## ANZAD

A regional chapter for Australia and New Zealand is very close to being formed and we are grateful to Richard Lord for his work in bringing together programmes from that region. Watch this space for further information!



### Mission Statement for Assistance Dogs International (ADI):

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