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November & December Meetings

In November the Assistance Dog Club shares in the joy of Thanksgiving by encouraging our members to take that time and spend it with friends and family. In December we hold our annual Holiday Party.

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The Assistance Dog Club of Puget Sound is a 501 (c) (3) organization. Our tax ID# is 91-2080563. WA Secretary of State Charities Program Registration Number is 24995

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Assistance Dog Club of Puget Sound Board of Directors

President

Jeanne Hampl

Vice President/Treasurer

Sarah Keck

Secretary

Jack Pearce-Droge

Treasurer

Tanya Carter

At-Large Members

Janelle Ellen, Diane Funai, Pat Kessler

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Editor's Corner

by Jack Pearce-Droge

Our annual meeting marks the beginning of our new year. It is the time when we think of topics that we would like to be discussed during this next year. It will also include activities that we might not be exposed to during our daily lives, such as a visit to the Fire Station.



We have the good fortune to welcome three new Board members, Sarah Keck, Tanya Carter and Janelle Ellen. Other new members have raised the option of new marketing events and activities and encouraging other members to become more actively involved. I am

excited to be a part of so many new ideas.

I have accepted the position as ADC's Secretary and will also continue to be responsible for the editing and publication of the newsletter, the organizational website and much of our marketing and membership paperwork as I follow my mantra, "Where is my Mac?"

I encourage both members and supporters to contact me if you have a point of contact that can be helpful to individuals with disabilities partnered with an assistance dogs. I am always looking for additional resources. I would be happy to add these resources to our website and newsletter.

As I said, I'm looking forward to an interesting and informative year. I am especially looking forward to becoming more acquainted with our new members.

Activities and meetings will be held at TACID unless otherwise noted.
TACID's address is:
6315 S 19th St, Tacoma, Washington 98466

Mission Statement

The mission of the Assistance Dog Club of Puget Sound is to provide a safe, supportive, and educational environment that will enhance the partnership of persons with disabilities and their assistance dogs.

President's Corner

by Jeanne Hampl, President

It is hard to believe how quickly a year goes by. On Saturday October 22 we had our annual meeting.



This is also the time when the new Board Members are elected. First I would like to thank Wayne Terry for his many years of service to the Board. Wayne has served as President, Vice President and our Treasurer. He has earned a break but hopefully not for too long. A big Thank you also goes to Pat Kessler who has served as President during the last two years and Fred Fuller and Sally Montejano who served for two years.

The New Board and officers are listed below if you have ideas or concerns please contact one of us. Each club member will receive a Member's Only 2016-2017 Roster.

President: Jeanne Hampl

Vice President: Sarah Keck

Secretary: Jack Pearce-Droge

Treasurer: Tanya Carter

At Large Members: Diane Funai, Pat Kessler, Janelle Ellen

At the Annual meeting we ask the membership to suggest ideas for Speaker, Activities and Training Tips. The list was long and hopefully we will be able to fulfill it. One change we intend to make is to take 20 minutes out of every meeting to review or teach a training Cue such as positions around a person or wheelchair, Unders, or the behaviors needed to easily load on an airplane. This will provide all members attending with a monthly training reminder.

Our next club function will be on December 10th at the Holiday Party at the Inn at Gig Harbor. Club members will be receiving an invitation in the mail. We will not have a meeting in November since our meeting date falls on Thanksgiving weekend.

I hope everyone has a Happy Thanksgiving and I look forward to seeing everyone at our annual Holiday Party.

Future Meetings and Events

Mark Your Calendar

2016

The Assistance Dog Club of Puget Sound organizes meetings and events that will serve to strengthen the relationship between the service dog and their human partner. If you are interested in joining us at a meeting or event, please email us at assist_dog_club@hotmail.com.

November - Meeting cancelled - Happy Thanksgiving!

December 10 - Annual Holiday Celebration, The INN at Gig Harbor

Training Tips

I Need My Space

By Jeanne Hampl

Every person and every dog has a very specific and individual need for personal space. I personally don't like to be in crowds and really don't like people getting in my face no matter how happy they are to see me. Of course I have learned to tolerate friends and acquaintances who love to hug and who like much closer contact than I do. After all I lived with Golden Retrievers for 44 yrs who are just not happy if they are not at least leaning against you and preferably in your lap.



So what does this have to do with Service Dogs? At meetings or conferences we put a lot of dogs that do not know each other in a rather small space. We do not let them greet and investigate each other in a normal doggy way. It is just not considered good Service Dog etiquette to allow your Service Dog to go up and sniff another Service Dog. Denying the dogs that ability can lead to a dog feeling stressed and vulnerable especially if the dog is in a down under a table or by a chair.

So the big question to ask yourself is “do you know where your dog’s nose is”? Has your dog been sufficiently trained to keep its nose out of other unsuspecting dog’s or people’s space? Simply put assistance dogs should not be investigating without permission of their handler. Don’t get me wrong sniffing is a great stress relieving activity for a dog. But that sniffing should only occur with the mutual consent of all parties.

If your dog sniffs another dog don’t be surprised by the response. By not watching your dog’s nose at all times you are teaching your dog that it is okay to solicit attention or sneak a sniff. Also you don’t know what issues the dog or human being sniffed might have and risk getting your dog snapped at or worse. Unpleasant interactions with another dog or being allowed to solicit attention from humans can ruin an assistance dog’s career.

It is important to teach your dog a positive “Leave it” command. “Leave it” means to disengage with the object of your dog’s desire. It means look away, look to the handler.

So the moral of the story is know where your dog’s nose is and what it is doing and know your dog’s personal space and be proactive in providing that space for your dog.

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DIY Service Dogs
by Veronica Sanchez
Northern Virginia Dog Trainer

In the mid 1990's I had been working as a pet dog trainer and a kind gentleman with Parkinson's approached me to help him train his labrador to help him with some simple behaviors at his home. Sadly, he passed away before we were able to fully complete the training, but when his family shared with me how much the experience of training had meant to him, it really opened my eyes to how the training process itself can be helpful to people with disabilities.



Veronica and Sulu

Ironically, not long after this experience I was diagnosed with a condition similar to Parkinson's myself. I ended up jumping into the world of service animals for a very personal reason. I consulted with colleagues in the industry and trained my own rough collie to help me as a service dog. This led to my volunteering with a non-profit service dog organization and with the IAABC in developing the Working Animal Division.

Over the years I've seen increasing growth and interest in people wanting to train their own dogs to help them. I've also seen a number of misunderstandings and misconceptions. So here are a few myths and facts based on the questions we receive:

Myth: A person with a disability cannot train a dog.

Fact: People with disabilities vary greatly in what their limitations are. Additionally dog training is much more of a "thinking" activity than a physical one. Certainly there are some things that can be extra difficult or impossible for a person with a disability. However, there are many different training tools and strategies that can make the training process less physically demanding. Working around a limitation may require a bit more creativity, but other factors such as the person's relationship with their dog, how much time the person practices, and how skillful the person is in communicating with their dog has a much more significant impact on dog training outcomes than the owner's physical abilities.

Myth: With the right training, any dog can become a service dog.

Fact: Very few dogs are suited to work as service dogs in places pets are not permitted. Service dogs are special because a lot has to come together: the right temperament (which genetics has a huge role in), great health (umm...genetics again), great training and in the case of the person training the dog themselves – the owner needs to be willing to put a lot of time, energy and practice into the training process.

DIY Service Dogs...(Continued on Page 5)

Myth: I can just hire any pet dog trainer to help me train my service dog.

Fact: Just like any other type of specialization, not all trainers can help you train your dog as a service dog. Would you hire a trainer with no agility competition experience to help you train a dog to compete in agility? Or search and rescue? If you want to hire someone to help you train your dog for something, hopefully the person you are hiring has direct experience in that specialty – whatever it might be. Ask a lot of questions. Be aware, training dogs for other jobs such as law enforcement or therapy work is not the same as training a dog to help a person with a disability as a service dog. Also, raising a puppy for a service dog program does not mean that the person has experience training a service dog complex tasks and for full public access.

Myth: Dogs that are trained by service dog programs are much better than the dogs that are trained by private individuals.

Fact: I've seen well behaved program dogs and very badly behaved ones, just as dogs trained by individuals. There are advantages and disadvantages to both programs and diy-ers. If it is done well, an individual who is training their own dog to assist them will be well-positioned to maintain their dog's training and expand on it over time. Of course, they also assume all the risks and there is a huge time investment as well. I think the best "diy" service dog person is someone who will truly enjoy the training process itself.

Myth: All people with disabilities would benefit from a service dog.

Fact: People with disabilities are each unique and what works for one person, doesn't help another. Service dogs can make activities of daily living much easier and can provide invaluable support to people with disabilities, however, dogs are living beings and they require a lot of work to care for. People with disabilities that are not obvious will be publicly identifying themselves as having a disability when they use a service dog and that may trigger members of the public to ask unpleasant personal questions. Parents with children with disabilities may find that they are already overwhelmed and stretched for time, adding a dog does mean adding another significant time commitment.

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Planning Ahead as a Service Dog Handler

by Linda Alberda

Once you have become a successful service dog team, the thought of looking ahead at the eventual retirement or loss of your current dog and arrival of a successor strikes fear in your heart! And, of course, you have years ahead to spend with your best friend, your other half, the dog you love and appreciate so much! But what happens if you don't?



I have dealt with bringing three new partners/successors in under very different circumstances so far and I have friends dealing with this question right now. As an owner-trainer, I have more flexibility but potentially less support than someone with a program dog. In either case though, I think the emotions and uncertainty remain the same.

Because my dogs do three different medical alerts, I started considering getting another puppy to train when my first service dog, Laurel, was still young (4 years old) and working beautifully. On the one hand, I wanted her to be a part of teaching my next dog and for her to get help with a job that is 24/7. But, I wasn't excited about starting over with a puppy and couldn't imagine that any other dog would be as good a partner to me as Laurel. I was also afraid she would be devastated staying home when I took the puppy out. I felt like I would be betraying her and that thought could have paralyzed me if it hadn't been for my community of dog friends who have seen what Laurel did for me and my husband (especially my husband) who were able to look at things objectively and encouraged, even nagged me to move forward.

And that's why, despite all my concerns, Hardy joined our family. He was very different from my yellow girl, but to my surprise they became best friends and things worked out as I had hoped and much better than I had feared. Laurel did, in fact, help teach Hardy the alerts and tasks and they learned to work together beautifully. If one of them alerted, the other one didn't and when I wasn't doing well, one of them was always with me but they took turns so they had time to relax and sleep soundly. Most surprisingly (to me at least), Laurel seemed to be fine when I took Hardy out instead of her. In fact, she seemed to embrace her new role and I never saw one instance when she seemed to be unhappy with the changes. It probably helped both of us that I continued to take her out as my service dog and we continued to compete in dog sports together.

But then, when Hardy was two, we had a scare when it looked like he might have a fluke heart problem that could kill him prematurely or lead to cardiomyopathy. None of the veterinarians that had seen him had ever heard a heart murmur or detected any problem but during a minor medical procedure, he developed arrhythmias which led us to have an echocardiogram done. He had some irregular heartbeats but it was inconclusive with regards to whether there would be any progression. The worst part of this scenario was the uncertainty. Do we add a third dog to our family? Should I take my chance with the two I had? Had my situation been different, instead of adding dogs, I might have had to consider finding a new home for Laurel as she retired from public access or Hardy if he wasn't able to continue to work with me. However, I am very lucky in that regard and although we had never wanted to have three dogs, we added Chaplin to our family when Laurel was seven and Hardy was three.

It seemed that our luck continued to hold as Laurel and Hardy both accepted our newest puppy, and helped teach him the ropes. Chaplin started alerting, doing the tasks I need quickly and easily and did beautifully out in public. Despite his aptitude, I was able to let him just be a puppy and then an adolescent because I already had a working service dog. We had received very good news about Hardy when a summary of the tests over time showed that his heart was not enlarging nor his heart function failing.

Planning Ahead...(Continued on Page 7.)

Planning Ahead...(Continued from Page 6.)

When Chaplin was 8 months old, it seemed like no big deal when he was bitten or stung by something on the muzzle while we were visiting family on Long Island. We gave him Benadryl and applied ice to the large swelling. As soon as we got home, we took him to our veterinarian who agreed that it was no big deal. And then a month later, Chaplin developed meningitis which gave that seemingly innocent event new importance. Eventually, our poor boy went through 28 months of ongoing health issues until he was diagnosed with a syndrome in which his immune system attacked the pigment in his body and which our veterinarians believe was triggered by whatever was introduced to his body through that bite or sting. In April, about a week before his third birthday, when it became obvious that we weren't able to control his immune system and that it was now in his brain, we said good bye to our beautiful "Great White Lab!"

A week later, I had to have some spinal surgery and once again, my choices regarding my next service dog were complicated. Laurel was 10 and although working at home, retired from all public access. Hardy was six so could or should I put off getting another puppy? At the same time, our breeder was working with a couple service dog programs which led to four intentional breedings and the early training for 30+ puppies headed towards lives as service dogs. With a great deal of trepidation, I eventually agreed with my husband, friends and our breeder who thought I needed to get one of those puppies.

And that is how, a month after losing Chaplin and three weeks after the surgery, our most recent puppy, Dion, came home. My husband took three weeks off work to puppy raise and to help me recover. We were assuming that once I'd recovered from the surgery, I'd be able to take over. Unfortunately, that wasn't the case which meant that I wasn't able to do as much with Dion as I would have wanted. Instead, when my husband went back to work, my friends and our breeder stepped in to help. And although I had some moments when I thought we'd made a huge mistake; now that he is almost 8 months old and I'm doing better, things are falling into place! I am very thankful for the people who stepped in to keep his training going and I see glimpses of the service dog, dog sports competitor and companion Dion promises to become.

When I started my service dog journey, I had planned ahead. I knew what I would do if Laurel hadn't worked out and we needed to find her a new home. I planned to look for my next service dog when Laurel was seven or eight. What I hadn't counted on was ending up with dogs that alert and hence, work all the time nor the various challenges that would confront me during this journey. More than ever, I believe we all need to be realistic about our situations and plan ahead to the best of our abilities in order to do justice for our canine partners and ourselves.

Linda Kresge Alberda is the founder of the Lake Erie Assistance Dogs, a service dog club as well as co-founder of a national therapy/crisis response K9 organization, Paws with Compassion. Prior to becoming disabled, Linda trained and competed successfully in AKC Obedience with her Standard Poodles, Corey and Pruf and a neighbor's Sheltie, Katie. Linda has used clicker training with her three owner-trained service dogs, Laurel, Hardy and Chaplin. Besides doing typical mobility tasks, they perform three different medical alerts which have profoundly changed Linda's life.

Assistance Dog Club of Puget Sound Behavior Guidelines



In recognition of our role in the assistance dog community, the following behavioral guidelines were voted on and passed unanimously at our February, 2007 Board meeting.

1. All assistance dogs must be clean and well-groomed.
2. All assistance dogs must exhibit appropriate public access behavior.
3. Any dog that barks or shows other aggressive behaviors such as growling, lunging, putting up their ruff, snapping or biting will be asked to leave if it is in a public place. If we are having a training meeting we will be glad to help the team work on the behavior. Of course, the club member is always welcome as well as the assistance dog when re-training is successful.
4. All dogs are to be on leash and must be under physical leash or harness control of their partners or another responsible adult at all times. Any dog that moves away from its partner and solicits attention from another dog or person will be excused from the meeting. Dogs may not be left on Stays with handlers moving away.
5. All assistance dogs must be handled with respect and be trained using humane training methods. Though a trained assistance dog may occasionally need to have its behavior corrected hitting or kicking a dog is not in keeping with humane training.

While we may feel that we know our own dogs quite well, it is always important to understand that we have a responsibility to be aware of the fact that another member's dog may have recently experienced some type of trauma and would be uncomfortable if your dog is free to "get into his/her space". We owe it to our fellow members to maintain control of our dogs at all times.

Support ADC While You Shop

If you are interested in supporting the Assistance Dog Club of Puget Sound there are a few options that are available to you! ADCPS has entered into a partnership with both Amazon.com and Fred Meyer. If you would like more information about both options offered by these two corporation you will find it on ADC's website, [<http://www.assistedogclub.org/home/support>] complete with links that will guide you through the process.



Future Meetings and Events Mark Your Calendar

This is our calendar of meeting dates for the 2017 year. The Board has begun to organize meetings and activities that were discussed at our annual meeting. Please understand that we normally meet on the 4th Saturday of the month. There could be additions or changes depending on the schedules of our speakers or the availability of a venue.

January 28, 2017 - Lisa Ferrari - Dog Massage
February 25, 2017
March 25, 2017
April 22, 2017
May 27, 2017 - Hopefully the Fire Station
June 24, 2017

July 22, 2017 - Annual ADC Picnic
August 26, 2017
September 23, 2017
October 28, 2017
November 25, 2017 - Off! Happy Thanksgiving
December 9, 2017 - Holiday Party

Informational Websites On Behalf of Service Dogs

Given that the partnership of a person with a disability with an assistance dog is governed by legal requirements it is beneficial that each of us have access to as much material as possible. The discussions at the January meeting included suggestions that can be misleading, inaccurate or legally correct and helpful. It is critically important that each of us become our own best advocate.

Here are some websites that are accessible to you that will provide you with valuable information. Many of these websites are also available on ADC's website on the Favorite links page. The link for our website is: <http://www.assisteddogclub.org/home>

Legal Description of Service Dogs: http://www.ada.gov/regs2010/service_animal_qa.html
http://www.ada.gov/service_animals_2010.htm

Legal Clarification on Rules for Assistance Dogs: <http://www.workinglikedogs.com/2011/03/u-s-department-of-justice-rules-on-assistance-dogs-to-become-stricter-march-15-2011/>

Medical information: <http://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions>

Veterinary questions: <http://www.merckvetmanual.com/pethealth/index.html>
<http://www.carecredit.com/vetmed/> (credit card for veterinary care, people have 1 year to pay, use it if you have no other credit card for emergency surgery.)

Service Dog Information: <http://www.iaadp.org>
<http://www.assisteddogsinternational.org>
<http://www.servicedogcentral.org/content/>
<http://www.assisteddogclub.org/>

Service Dog Gear: <https://www.bridgeportequipment.com>
<https://www.sitstay.com/>
<http://www.boldleaddesigns.com>
<http://www.kurgo.com/>

Service Dog Training: <http://www.lakeerieassisteddogs.org/>
<http://www.cooperativepaws.com>

Also remember that the Assistance Dog Club has a facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/Assistance-Dog-Club-of-Puget-Sound-155317554486927/>
Be sure to friend us for the latest information about all things service dog.

Additional Information: <http://www.anythingpawsable.com/>
<http://www.allthingspawssible.com/>