



Assistance Dog Club of Puget Sound

NEWS

March 2017

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April 2017 Meeting

ADC will be welcoming Kathryn Marxen-Simonson and her Guide Dog, Nabisco. Kathryn will be talking about her partnership with Nabisco.

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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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Website

<http://www.assistedogclub.org>

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Editor's Corner

by Jack Pearce-Droge

The Assistance Dog Club of Puget Sound is continuing to plan for our events and activities during the year. We are pretty excited in that we are now planning a Service Dog Fair that will be held on June 24 at TACID. Invitations to organizations and individuals will be going out very soon. The focus of this fair will be directed to the individual who is the human partner of the team. It is our belief that we can never have enough information that can be used to address the many situations that we might face.



I have been giving a lot of thought to the tasks that Chester performs at home. There have been so many times that relaxation was needed, not just for me but also for my dogs. So it doesn't take much to search out the "easy path" when we're home.

He is my 3rd service dog and the tasks that my dogs performed for me at home have been quite different. I believe that some of that difference has to do with their size. Chester is quite a bit smaller than Cheyenne and Forrest. But my needs have also changed over time. I'm not out and about as much as I was before. I'm retired now. Ches has a very soft mouth and I rely on him to remove my socks, gloves, and jacket. He knows to close the doors to the outside and I have attached a leather strap to the door knob that he can pull. I rely on him to "get it" if I drop something. He demonstrated his ability to alert, mainly to David during the final months of his illness. His smaller size almost made him more noticeable as he quickly sat in front of David's chair on alert.

I would be interested in hearing what other tasks their service dogs do when you are at home especially if the tasks or behaviors are different than when you are out or if your needs are changing over time.

Activities and meetings will be held at TACID unless otherwise noted.

TACID's address is:

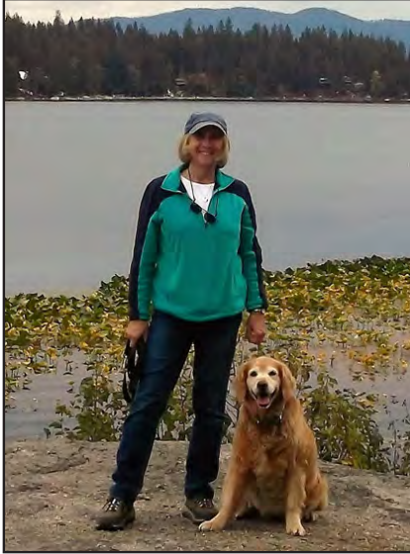
6315 S 19th St, Tacoma, Washington 98466

Mission Statement

The Mission of the Assistance Dog Club of Puget Sound is to provide a safe, supportive, educational environment for persons with disabilities partnered with assistance dogs and to provide educational opportunities for the local business community and the general public, including persons dedicated to the raising and training of assistance dogs

President's Corner

Jeanne Hampl



March was an active month for the Assistance dog Club. Two members attended a training given by Piece Transit to educate both staff and service dog users how to appropriately use the local bus and shuttle system. Then later in the month five club members manned an educational booth at the Seattle Kennel Club two day dog show. Thank you to Sarah Biesold, Pat Kessler, Diane Funai, Sally Montejano and Margarita Brunke for representing the club. A special thanks to Coby, Pat's service dog who was ever so patient with all the people and the many questions.

At our March meeting we had a group discussion on Service Dog Etiquette and conflict resolution. In April former member, Kathryn Marxen-Simonson, and her Guide Dog Nabisco will be telling us about their journey to partnership. In May we will get to practice our etiquette while we go for a ride on the Light Rail in downtown

Tacoma and go out to lunch at Freighthouse Station. We are also in the planning stages of our June Educational Service Dog Fair.

I am hoping to see everyone at the April 22 meeting at Tacoma Area Coalition of Individuals with Disabilities.

While at the Seattle Kennel Club event, Pat Kessler answers questions about the way in which Coby helps her.



This picture was taken by and posted with permission of the child's father.

Training Tips **Embarrassing Moments**

By Jeanne Hampl



The program at our March meeting focused on Service Dog Etiquette. How, as a service dog team, you can defuse access issues and what hidden dangers lurk when you are out with your dog. One item we didn't get to is doggy accidents. How often do you forget or think that since the dog just went you don't have to give him the opportunity? Or do you look around and not see a place that your dog will actually go?

Having a dog that will relieve itself on cue on any surface is really a must for all assistance dogs. Teaching a dog to relieve on cue begins the first time the dog/puppy is given the opportunity to relieve itself. Choose a word or phrase such as "Take a Break", "Hurry", "Go Potty" and say it as the dog starts to go. Highly reward the dog's

performance. Repeat every time you take the dog out cueing the dog immediately as it begins its individual pre-potty routine.

Introduce the dog to many different surfaces. If you travel the dog must be able to go on cement, gravel, dirt and grass. Many handlers also teach their dogs to go on Pee Pads so if you are trapped indoors on a plane or on artificial grass if in a terminal you can still provide a way for your dog to relieve itself.

With all the best training sometimes a dog will just relief themselves or vomit in a public place. Though this is a very embarrassing situation if handled well you and the dog can save face. First allow the dog to finish in one spot. Apologize profusely and get busy cleaning up the mess. Always carry a fully supplied "OOPS KIT". The Kit should include plastic bags to pick up with as well as plastic bags to hold all the clean up materials. Paper towels, some type of disinfecting wipes, and a small spray bottle of a product like Nature's Miracle can be used to get rid of odor. Last but not least, wipes for your hands when you finish the job. If your disability truly prevents you from doing your own clean up at least you will have all the materials necessary for someone else to do the job.

Do not make excuses for your dog's behavior. A comment like "Oh my dog must be sick" will definitely backfire. Just apologize, clean up, and leave the area. Do not think that since the dog is now empty you can continue shopping etc. Well trained assistance dogs do not have accidents for no reason. Your dog might in fact be sick or maybe too stressed. Go home and give the dog a break.

The way you handle your dog's accident will have an impact on how your dog and other assistance dog teams will be treated in the future at that location.

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Future Meetings and Events
Mark Your Calendar
2017

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.

April 22, 2017 - Kathryn Marxen-Simonson-Guide Dogs
May 20, 2017 - Freighthouse Station/Light Rail
June 24, 2017 - Service Dog Fair - TACID
July 22, 2017 - Annual ADC Picnic
August 26, 2017 - No Meeting (Summer Break)
September 23, 2017 - To Be Confirmed
October 28, 2017 - Annual Membership Meeting
November 25, 2017 - Off! Happy Thanksgiving!!
December 9, 2017 - Holiday Celebration

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.



DIY Service Dogs Take 2

*by Veronica Sanchez
Northern Virginia Dog Trainer*



Veronica and Sulu

When is the last time a product that had the label “As Seen on TV!” worked in the real world exactly like it did on TV? Let’s keep this in mind the next time you see a service dog related story on TV. I’m not saying that service dogs are not amaaaazing, they really are, but they can’t slice and dice and they don’t come with a set of Ginsu knives when you call 1-800-Amazing-Service-Dog within the next 10 min.

Myth: Service dogs are proven to help people with (fill in the blank with medical condition of your choice).

Fact: We personally believe that service dogs can be very helpful but actually, there is very little controlled scientific research that is specific to service dogs and medical conditions. A lot of what people say about service dogs is based on anecdotal information. Yeah, I know, we are

totally bursting a big bubble here on this one. Check it out for yourself – search for assistance dog research and you will find only a few small studies – you can Google or even look through the National Library of Medicine – no Ginsu knives here.

Myth: People who just developed a disability should get a service dog right away to help them.

Fact: It takes time to learn adapt to a major life change, most people do not know what they will and will not need when they only recently developed a disability. Personal experience living with a disability has helped me confirm that all important truths can be learned from Star Trek. Just like the Borg, one can adapt to living with a disability, but even the Borg needed a little time. In most cases, a person who has just developed a disability is really stressed and trying to regroup. Getting a dog, while a happy experience, can also actually be stressful – yes even a service dog. So unlike a getting an adaptive device, medical treatment or therapy, it is usually better to wait before deciding to get a service dog.

Myth: The public and businesses are very welcoming to people with disabilities who use service animals.

Fact: Everyone is different and not all businesses or individuals are informed on service dogs. Even in areas where the public is educated, many people stare at a person with a disability who has a service dog with them and members of the public will often approach and ask questions about the service dog or the person’s disability. Yep, just because that’s a bit rude does not mean it won’t happen. If interaction with the public is very anxiety provoking, a service dog may not be the best choice to mitigate a disability.

DIY Service Dogs..(Continued on Page 6)

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

Myth: If you tell a business your dog is a service dog and buy it a cape, no one can stop you from taking your dog everywhere.

Fact: Service dog fraud has become well-known. In fact CCI started a campaign to stop service dog fraud. Businesses have become more aware of their rights as well. The news coverage on this issue has increased over the years and it may lead to more restrictive legislation down the road.

Myth: There are no real standards when it comes to service dogs.

Fact: There are training standards that have been set by several large organizations such as Assistance Dogs International, the International Association of Assistance Dog Partners and also the Delta Society.

Myth: Service dog trainers and programs are regulated by the government.

Fact: Most states have no regulation of trainers and providers of service dogs at all. It's the wild west and the demand for service dogs is over the top so while there are many scrupulous businesses and programs, there are also unscrupulous people taking advantage of the high demand. Whether you go to a non-profit program or a for profit business, be very, very careful choosing a trainer or program for a service dog. Be especially wary of guarantees and anything that is "not typical." If you have almost never seen "x" breed being used for service work there is probably a good reason.

Myth: My service dog is the cutest service dog in the entire world.

Fact: Mine is. Just kidding, yours is pretty cute too. Stay warm and cozy all!

Veronica Sanchez M.Ed. CPDT-KA, CABC is a professional dog trainer in Northern Virginia. She helps people train pets, service and therapy dogs. She also is a person with a disability and her smooth collie, Sulu, assists her as a service dog. Veronica started training dogs professionally in the 1990's. She has degrees in education, psychology as well as dog trainer certifications. Her experience ranges from training pets, competition, service and therapy dogs to speaking to explosive detection dog trainers. Veronica is guided by her love for helping dogs and people learn together.

The Hoffman Handshake

by Martha Hoffman



You can magically transform “drive-by-petters” into your obedient helpers. You know the type. As soon as they see you and your pet dog or Service Dog out in public, their eyes get bright, and their smile lights up. They swoop down on you like a storm front in a Chicago summer with arms outstretched to pet your dog. You can divert them, and turn them into your instant training partners.

You just use the “HOFFMAN HANDSHAKE.” Here’s how...

Introducing a stranger to your dog

Meeting strangers with your dog on leash can be complicated. Why?

- Adults and children might be in the overexcited social mode of “greeting an adorable cute child or animal”.
- These people will not listen to you, or even perceive your existence.
- People can make bad mistakes when approaching a dog.
- Dogs can get fearful, aggressive, or happily overexcited when strangers approach.
- Many dogs need a few minutes of calm exposure until they “get to know” the person. But most “Drive-By-Petters” are too impatient to wait.

You need a method that will keep the stranger behaving correctly, reduce stress or excitement in your dog, and make a new friend for both of you. You can use a traditional human behavior ritual that people will automatically perform.

Here is how you can take control of the situation, help your dog, and bend the stranger to your will, all at once:

REQUEST TO SHAKE HANDS and hold out your hand. This ancient ritual is ridiculously powerful!

Why?

It makes the stranger STOP, stand up straight, look at you instead of staring the dog in the eye, while they perform the ritual.

It gives your dog time to adjust, while being ignored.

It gives your dog more scent familiarity with the stranger.

It makes your own behavior predictable to your dog. Your dog can feel secure that when you do the handshaking ritual, the other person is going to act predictable, too. The handshake can become a cue to ignore other people. It can also become a cue to sit calmly for petting.

How to do the Hoffman Handshake

Stranger approaches fast, yelling, “Oh howcutecannlpethim??!!??”

Keep the dog safely next to you.

Hold out your hand politely in the handshaking position.

Smile and say: “Hi, I’m training my dog. Could we please shake hands first?”

Hoffman Handshake..(Continued on Page 8)

You have just redirected the strangers' behavior from "Excited Greeting To Cute Child or Animal" to "Formal Greeting To Adult Human."

People will automatically straighten up, and offer their hand to YOU, not your dog. They will look at you, because handshaking ritual requires that the person look at your face. They will not be staring so hard at your dog. Already, this situation has improved: Your dog just gained about 10 extra seconds to begin to get used to this new person, who is now ignoring the dog.

Now, shake hands. That also puts their scent on your hand.

After shaking, say "Just a moment! I have to get my dog ready".

The person will now be curiously watching what you do with your dog. You have their attention, and they will stand still and listen.

Pet your dog on the head, but also put your hand on its nose AND discreetly touch inside its mouth. (the vomeronasal organ in the roof of the dogs mouth analyzes pheromones). This gives the dog the strangers scent and pheromones. Now your dog feels like the stranger's scent is a little bit familiar. This breaks the ice and eases the tension-filled moments of warily approaching to sniff a stranger.

Good work! The stranger is now acting like an obedient zombie and is focused on you. This will make you happy! Your dog will notice your confident voice, and your lack of anxiety.

Now your new helper is ready and eager for suggestions. Here are some ideas:

"My dog is a Service Dog. Could you please stand still, and talk to her in a happy voice? GOOD DOG, you get a treat for ignoring people!" If the stranger sees you give a treat and praise, that usually prevents them accusing you of being "mean" for not letting them pet your dog.

"I'm sorry, my dog needs space and is afraid of you, but thanks for helping him trust people!"

"Thank you for helping me train! Here's my business card!"

"Thanks! Can you please ignore him and let him sniff you?"

"Sorry, she is too scared to be petted yet. Could you help her by walking along with us for a bit?" (to communicate to your dog that the stranger is a part of your social group.)

"Please pet my dog while he is sitting still."

"Please give my dog a treat while she sits."

Praise children extra well, to make them feel proud they accomplished something: "I want her to be calm around children. You're a good trainer, thanks for helping me train my dog!!!!" They will always remember that moment.

Observe your dog every time you do the Handshake.

You will need to be the judge of this technique. Every dog and person is different. Does your dog react to the person better than usual?

Or does it freak out because it's not ready to be so close to strangers?

If you see a 10% or more improvement in your dog, THE FIRST FEW TIMES, you know you are on the right track.

Have fun shaking hands!

Tips:

If you have social anxiety, or do not like shaking hands, or the person refuses, hand the person a business card or ADA information card. A baseball-style card with your dogs photo and info on it is something both adults and children like getting. Taking a card is another social ritual that allows you to get the person focused on you, and not your dog. They will look at a photo, so that gives your dog more time. If you really want to get the persons scent, give them 2 cards, then say, "Oops! gave you two, can I have that other one back please?". Rub the card discreetly, and pet your dogs nose and mouth.

People who are afraid of dogs may want to talk to you, while avoiding your dog. You still need them to shake hands with you. Why?

Because non-dog-owners have VERY different odors. "Plain" human odor can be terrifying to a dog who has previously only met dog owners. And of course, who has your dog met most often? Mostly other dog owners!

Research shows that dog owners share normal skin bacteria with dogs, and really do smell different! Don't tell your dog "It's your friend!" That will be like giving the dog a cue it is about to encounter Stranger Danger. Only say a cue like "Friend" if the dog really is meeting someone or a dog it already loves. Eventually you will have built up a good CER (conditioned emotional response) to that cue. THEN you can use it when meeting strange dogs or people.

Synchronized Walking: When introducing stranger to dog, (or dog to dog), a good idea is to walk a safe distance apart in the same direction. Gradually move closer while continuing the parallel walk. This causes the dog to feel that the stranger is now a part of its social group. Dogs tend to form relationships when they have a common direction or goal. Saluki owners tell me that if you put any three strange Salukis loose in a rabbit habitat, they usually will take the roles of a hunting pack, and cooperate, even if they have never hunted before. This is also why escaped dogs quickly form groups and may hunt dogs or humans. But you can use this tendency to your advantage to form a peaceful happy group.

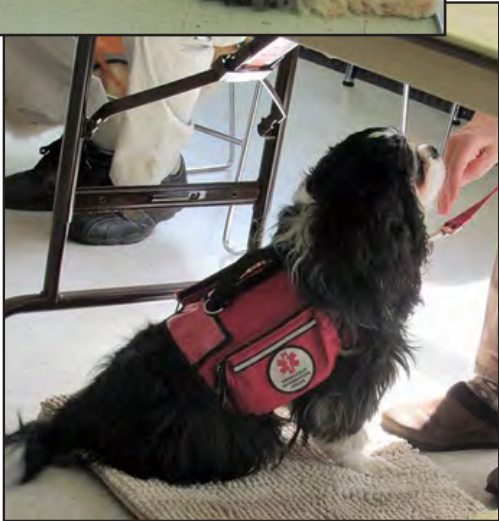
Martha Hoffman is the Training Director for the Hearing Dog Program. She has trained several hundred Hearing Dogs and tested over 20,000 shelter dogs over the course of 25 years. She is the founder and lead trainer at Martha Hoffman Hearing Dog Academy and the author of the highly respected text on Hearing Dog training, Lend Me an Ear.

How We Bide Our Time

Jazz Under



Coby Always Watching



Atticus Alerting



4 months old and so calm

Neutral Dog Greeting



Mom Reads
Wolfgang Rests



Pat Down Air Travel Practice

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>
<http://www.riverdogk9.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/>