



Assistance Dog Club of Puget Sound

NEWS

April 2017

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May 2017 Meeting

ADC will be taking our service dogs to the Freighthouse Square, a Tacoma landmark for 105 years. Look forward to many new experiences for both you and your SDs.

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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 have been sent out. The focus of this fair will be primarily directed to 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.



Some of our planned activities are listed on page 4. One key event will occur next month when we visit Tacoma's well known Freighthouse Square in downtown Tacoma. David and I used to visit Freighthouse Square frequently. There are an abundance of unique shops so I doubt that you'll be bored. Riding the light rail is enjoyable as well as a helpful activity for your service dogs.

I would encourage everyone to take a look at the website for Freighthouse Square. You can find it at <https://freighhousesquare.com/>. *Freighthouse Square has now been officially renamed to the "Freighthouse Station Marketplace". New signage is coming for their 105 year old historic landmark building.*

As Jeanne Hampl mentioned on page 2, we are looking forward to an exciting educational fair on June 24 that will be held at TACID. Flyers will be designed as we welcome the many organizations that will be attending.

I'm hoping that, you as members will encourage others who might benefit from learning more about SDs to join us.

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

TACID's address is:

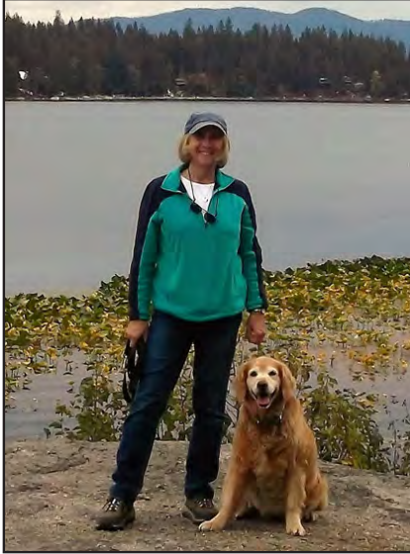
6315 S 19th St, Tacoma, Washington 98466

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



What a joy it was to listen to Kathryn talk about her journey from a premature infant to an occupational therapist to a Guide Dog partner. The ADC is glad to be able to support Kathryn as she continues her education to specialize in occupational therapy for people with low vision.

Logo gear has arrived. If you were unable to pick it up at the meeting please contact me at praise_luke@hotmail.com to make arrangements for you to pick up your purchases.

It is once again time for the club's annual AKC Canine Good Citizen (CGC) test and Public Access Tests (PAT). We will be holding the CGC at the picnic on July 22 at TACID. Also I will only hold a PAT if we have members wishing to take the test. The tentative date is July 8th. You must pre-register for both tests so please contact me at praise_luke@hotmail.com.

[hotmail.com](mailto:praise_luke@hotmail.com).

Both the CGC and the PAT are a good check on whether you have been keeping up on your Service Dog's training.

I am looking forward to seeing club members on May 20th. Note that it is the third Saturday in May. We will meet outside the parking garage at the Tacoma Light Rail Station at Freighthouse Square at 12pm. The light rail is a good way to train a dog for all types of transportation. After our trip around downtown Tacoma we will go to lunch at Freighthouse. There are many types of food to choose from. Hopefully spring will have arrived by then and we will have good weather.

Training Tips
Body Positions and Orientation Skills
By Jeanne Hampl



In a Service Dog class we teach the dogs to stay in position parallel to the handler taking up as little space as possible whether on the left or right side. We have also worked on teaching the dogs to stop or either Stand if in harness or needed for balance or a Sit in Heel or Side position when the handler comes to a halt. Heel is the left side of the body and Side the right.

Teaching a dog to stop in position can be used at curbs to prevent a person with absent seizures from walking into traffic. The dog should not move forward without a specific command from the handler. This skill can be particularly beneficial for dogs working with children with Autism and other developmental disabilities negotiate the streets safely. Stopping at stairs gives the handler time to readjust the dog's pace and position to provide the best mobility support.

The International Association of Assistance Dog Partners (IAADP) has an article on skills for both physical and psychiatric disabilities by Joan Froling at www.iaadp.org that matches tasks to disabilities. The topics under Assistance Coping with Emotional Overload and Security Enhancement Tasks outline tasks such as training a dog to help a person having a panic attack find an outside door or their car.

Tracking which is the foundation behavior of finding an outside door or a car is a natural instinct in all dogs, which can be honed to a fine skill with training. We begin by deciding on a cue we will use such as "Outside" or "Find the Door" to be taken to an exterior door and "Find the Car" for instructing the dog to search a parking lot for your car.

We start teaching "Outside" by having the first door you come to lead outside. Also start with a door that light can shine through to help your dog, Hardware stores are a good place to begin. Say to you dog, "outside door/take me outside", and head toward the door.

You chain behaviors to teach your dog to take you to the door. Cue ("Outside", etc.), go to the door, open the door, go through, thank you, and then reward. I want to see the dog lead toward the door without guidance from the handler. Start with a longer leash so your dog can initiate movement. As your dog gets better increase distance from the door and start adding corners so it is not a straight away toward the door. This task can be used by handlers who become disoriented by meds/pain/anxiety/seizures, etc.

If you become anxious with social interactions and do not want to be rude, cue your dog to touch you. When the dog touches say "excuse me, my dog has to use the bathroom, tell your dog to find the door, and leave.

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.

May 20, 2017 - Freighthouse Station/Light Rail
June 24, 2017 - Service Dog Fair - TACID
July 22, 2017 - Annual ADC Picnic - TACID
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.



Science and Service Dog Task Selection

by Veronica Sanchez

Northern Virginia Dog Trainer



Veronica and Sulu

Service dogs can make a huge difference in a person with a disability's life. They can assist with activities of daily living, reducing the need for a caregiver or personal assistant. They can alert people to sounds in their environment that they would otherwise be completely unable to hear. They can be trained to quickly summon help if needed.

The "typical" service dog behaviors are already, in my opinion, pretty amazing and demanding. However it seems nearly every day I'm learning about new unconventional tasks.

Can a dog really alert to blood pressure changes? May be, but my quick research on PubMed did not lead to any controlled studies supporting this. Can dogs alert to migraines? May be but again, I could not find research supporting this. The truth is that controlled research on service dogs in general is pretty limited. A quote from an article on seizure alert dogs – "As yet, however, no rigorous data exist as to whether seizure prediction by SADS is better than chance, and what false positive and negative prediction rates might be." Published in 2011 in *Epilepsy Research*

Now lest you all consider me to be a complete party-pooper, my unscientific personal belief is that some dogs can alert to seizures, migraines and blood pressure changes. In fact, I had a dog personally, Monty, who I believe alerted to a severe dystonia flare up that I experienced. However, my personal, anecdotal experience may not be applicable to another dog, owner or situation. It's also possible that I did not accurately interpret Monty's behavior, after all I was not an unbiased observer.

Science based dog trainers need to be cautious when selecting tasks to work on with owner trainers. If the dog failed to perform, what would happen to the handler? Is there a plan b? Is there a better way of addressing this challenge than by relying on the service dog?

Am I saying we should never train a service dog an out of the box behavior that has not been "proven" by science? No, but I am saying we need to be very cautious when doing this. As always, we need to keep the licensed healthcare professional in the loop. After all, if we believe in science when it comes to training methods, that philosophy should translate into our work with service dogs too!

March 16, 2017

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 - Part 2

by Martha Hoffman



My dog-hating friend said, “If dogs have such a great sense of smell, why do they have to get SO CLOSE to one another’s butts, and sniff pee and poop up so close? And I’ve seen them drinking pee! Ugh!”

The answer lies in the senses of taste and the vomeronasal organ in the roof of their mouths. This organ can “taste” smells that do not evaporate easily into the air, like pheromones. Licking urine lets them analyze these. When a dog licks another dog’s mouth or rear end, or playfully mouth each other, they are also tasting and smelling one another’s saliva and body odors.

When dogs meet other dogs, they advance toward each other cautiously in wide arcs, ready at any moment to escape or defend themselves if they are attacked. It takes a lot of indirect circling and sniffing before making friends.

Once dogs have FINALLY gotten close enough to thoroughly smell and taste the other dog, they feel more confident.

What if we could jump-start this new relationship? What if we could get the tentative, cautious introductions out of the way, and allow each dog to process the odors and tastes of the other dog, without all this social tension? You would have broken the behavioral “ice”, and avoided the potential disastrous misunderstandings of that scary and wary first approach.

Introducing the smell and taste of the other dog, before any physical interaction, makes a dog feel like it already knows the other one. It still might not like the other dog, but it has more information. Information is good. For instance, dogs that are in glass-fronted kennels often panic if people approach. But if there is a “sniff hole” in the kennel, the dog desperately pokes its nose through the hole, and then relaxes when it finds out the scary shape is a human being.

An analogy to this is to imagine that you are going on a blind date with a person you met online. You would be wary and cautious at first. But suppose the blind date is with someone whom mutual friends have assured you is a trustworthy person. You already have the info you need to feel safer, and can relax a bit. It’s the same with dogs!

I must thank John Rogerson, who invented a fantastic and effective method to introduce dogs before they ever see each other. Here is the condensed version: rub paper towels ALL OVER each dog’s body, including genitals and anus. Exchange towels and rub each dog with the scent of the other. THEN the introductions can start.

My method is very similar, but I’ve developed some slightly different variations. It’s not socially acceptable to handle our dogs anuses and genitalia in public. It’s not acceptable for strangers to trade “soiled” paper towels, either. Saliva odors and taste are also effective, and easy to combine with our socially acceptable ritual human handshake.

Hoffman Handshake..(Continued on Page 7.)

Because shaking hands is a very formal human interaction, that requires people to stand still and do the shaking hands ritual, it tends to INHIBIT the other owner from coming too close. We can use a handshake to exchange the dogs odors before the dogs meet.

Method One: Pre-arranged

For friendly owners who are willing to try this technique:

1. Two people meet up, each with a dog on leash. Dogs should not be allowed to make contact.
2. If the two dogs cannot easily be that close, one must be located elsewhere (leashed with another person, tethered if not stressed by tethering, left in a car, etc.)
3. Both owners pet their OWN dog, head, ears, and inside its mouth.
4. Both shake hands.
5. Both pet their OWN dog again, putting the scented hand inside its mouth and on nose. Done! Allow the dogs about 30 seconds to process the odors and hopefully relax a little.

Now the owners can carry out any appropriate introduction, depending on the dog's behavior:

- They can allow a 30 seconds sniff.
- They can do a parallel walk at a distance, getting closer and closer, then meet. Parallel walking causes a perception of "our-group" social behavior.
- They might decide to not let the dogs meet, and wait for another time. It all depends on the dogs. But some reduction in tension will often be seen.

Method Two: Stealth.

For the squeamish friend, or strangers who need a stealth approach to accomplish the introduction your way.

1. Two people meet up, each with a dog on leash. Dogs should not be allowed to make contact.
2. If the two dogs cannot easily be that close, one must be located elsewhere (leashed with another person, tethered if not stressed by that, left in a car, etc.)
3. Pet your own dogs nose and mouth secretly. Just a little. You do not want your hand to be wet with icky dog-spit!!!
4. Ask the stranger to shake hands.
5. Pet your OWN dog, putting your scented hand discreetly inside its mouth and on nose. The other owners dog will probably nose and sniff their hand. That's good enough. Done! Allow the dogs about 30 seconds to process the odors and hopefully relax a little.

Now the owners can do any appropriate introduction, depending on the dogs behavior:

- They can allow a 30 seconds sniff.
- They can do a parallel walk at a distance, getting closer and closer, then meet. Parallel walking causes a perception of "our-group" social behavior.
- They might decide to not let the dogs meet, and wait for another time. It all depends on the dogs. But some reduction in tension will often be seen.

Hoffman Handshake...(Continued from Page 7.)

Your own observations are crucial here. Do you notice an improvement in your dog's behavior after the scent introduction, or not?

In general, I usually see at least a ten percent improvement in confidence and behavior towards the other dog, compared to the behavior prior to the scent introduction. You might see more, or less. But I am VERY happy with any safe method that might produce a visible improvement. I've done this with hundreds of dogs, and am always pleased if this technique helps.

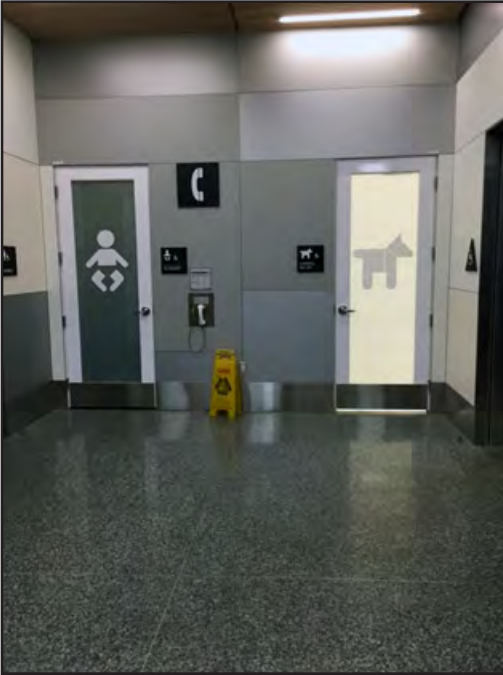
Saliva is an icky subject for many of us. Shaking hands with dog spit on them? Somehow that seems different from getting licked by a dog, and then shaking hands later. What about disease transmission? Well, if the dogs are going to meet, they will be sniffing and licking anyway.

But for the adventurous dog trainer, this is a revealing experiment in dog senses.

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.

Assistance Dog Accommodations

ADC Member, Pam Reader has been travelling. They landed in San Francisco and had some time to spend in the airport. Pam send us photos of the new accommodations in the rest rooms specifically made for service dogs. It appears that the designers have been very thoughtful in their designs regarding the ease with which humans can ensure that their SDs are relieved. Thanks, Pam!



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/>