



## Assistance Dog Club of Puget Sound

# NEWS

May 2018

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### **ADC's Next Meeting will be held on June 23, 2018**

ADC's next meeting will take place at TACID 6315 S. 19th St., in Tacoma, WA on Saturday, June 23rd from 1:00 to 3:00

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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>

#### E-Mail Address

[assist\\_dog\\_club@hotmail.com](mailto:assist_dog_club@hotmail.com)

#### Mailing Address

Assistance Dog Club of Puget Sound  
2522 N. Proctor Street, #459  
Tacoma, WA 98406

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### **Assistance Dog Club of Puget Sound Board of Directors**

#### **President**

Jeanne Hampl

#### **Vice President/**

Sarah Biesold

#### **Secretary**

Jack Pearce-Droge

#### **Treasurer**

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### **Editor's Corner**

by Jack Pearce-Droge

The Assistance Dog Club of Puget Sound is welcoming former member Melissa Mitchell to join us at our June meeting to talk about her recent travels as she addressed issues facing people with disabilities. Her recent journeys will also enable her to provide us with first-hand information about travelling with a service dog.



On May 19th, ADC members visited the West Pierce Fire and Rescue 31 in University Place, WA. They have been welcoming us for several years as we introduce our service dogs to as many things related to emergencies as possible. The firefighters have also learned a

great deal about service dogs and what they can do for their human partners. It has provided all of us with a mutual partnership that has been so beneficial. We have not only learned about strange garb worn by the firefighters but we have seen how quickly they can relax when offered a treat by Darth Vader. They are also exposed to nearby fire trucks and their sirens. Some can handle it and some need a little more patience.

You will see photos of this year's visit on pages 5 and 6. I hope you enjoy them.

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

**TACID's address is:**

**6315 S 19th St, Tacoma, Washington 98466**

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#### *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**

*By Jeanne Hampl*



We had a great meeting and tour at the West Pierce Fire and Rescue 31 in University Place, WA. Information about Service Dogs was shared with the Firefighters while we learned about the equipment used and the day to day life in a fire station. One pearl from the meeting was the importance of having an emergency contact other than the handler for your Service Dog. While the firemen said they will transport a dog with its handler they have had to bring dogs back to the station when a handler was unconscious or otherwise unable to care for the dog. They suggested you post a dog contact as well as the dog's veterinarian on your refrigerator or have that information on the dog's gear. The firemen

where unaware that only dogs and in some cases miniature horses are considered service animals and that only dogs or miniature horses would have access in a hospital or other health care setting.

Our June 23rd meeting will feature Melissa Mitchell. Melissa was a long time member of the Assistance Dog Club. She is currently a Right Trainer & Team Support Specialist at Summit Assistance Dogs but also travels often to attend symposiums on disabilities. Melissa who is partnered with Tanner will be speaking about travel with Service Dogs.

Remember that the weather is getting warm. Don't forget to carry water for your dogs.

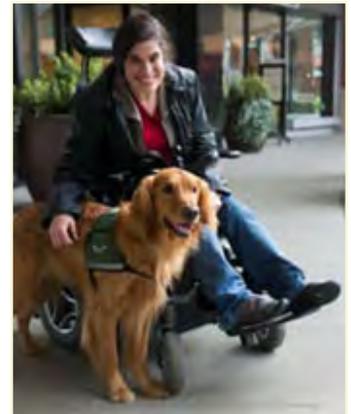
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### ***Travel with an SD and Advocacy for People w/Disabilities***

*Guest Speaker Melissa Mitchell  
June 23, 2018*

Melissa Mitchell is a life long disability advocate serving in capacities ranging from washing developmental disabilities council, employment access, complex rehabilitation technologies access, education access, and accessible and inclusive communities. Longtime member of IAADP and former board member for the ADC working to advocate for the service dog community through her Blog Service Dogs Away of Life.

Please think about joining us for this informational discussion.



## ***Drawbacks of the Domestic Dog***

*By Martha Hoffman*



It matures at about 1 to 3 years old depending on breed and size, and then develops stronger tendencies to resource guarding, territoriality and suspicion, aggression, and fear of strangers.

People are lulled into security by the behavior of immature dogs, and do not do the training or management needed to keep the dog functioning as a good pet or working dog when mature.

Instincts can be selectively bred to appear earlier or later in development, For instance, Tony Parsons is a Kelpie breeder. He was frustrated by the way he had to keep young pups away from stock until they were fast and strong enough to safely do herding. I read in his book, that he selected for dogs that did not show their strong herding instincts until about 9 months old.

Some people want the opposite, desiring to see mature instincts early in puppyhood in order to evaluate them, or to have a puppy that seems to be a good guard dog before maturity.

Livestock Guardian breeds are well known for maturing so late that there is a period of two to three years of overly playful and non-guarding behavior (and roughness around chickens and baby livestock). They then mature into very calm, responsible, but intensely territorial guardians of livestock and property.

Most large or tall breeds or mixes have some protection breed heritage. Some do not, and show little guarding behavior, such as Newfoundlands and Standard Poodles.

People who want Service Dogs often are attracted to large breeds, either for physical bracing and support tasks, or because they feel unsafe and want a protection-image-type or imposingly large dog.

Most puppies of large breeds do not show mature resource guarding or territorial or aggressive or fearful behavior until at least 7 months old, and some not until 18 months or later. This means that many young prospects wash out and cannot complete their training as Service Dogs.

Hearts are broken and money spent.

My Dingo books say that pre-colonization and for some time beyond, Native Australians raised Dingos from young pups they caught. The dogs were used to keep them warm when sleeping, clean up campsites, and help in hunting. But by sexual maturity around two years old, the Dingos would abandon the humans and go to live in the wild with other Dingos. The people then needed to capture more pups to get more dogs.

The more-domesticated breeds are far less wild than Dingos, and have had many instincts tweaked to provide a huge variety of traits in different proportions. We have developed everything from passive, non-fearful, non-aggressive baby substitute breeds, to guard breeds that are far more aggressive than any Dingo. Out of these hundreds of choices of breeds and types, very few are suitable for Service Dogs. Breeds such as Golden Retrievers, Labs, Poodles, and some of the small companion breeds, are very different from most dogs.

Why is this?

***Drawbacks of a Domestic Dog (Continued on page 4.)***

### ***Drawbacks of a Domestic Dog (Continued from page 3.)***

The answer is that when you select for a temperament with very low fear, very low aggression, very low guarding/territoriality, you end up with a dog that matures with similar behavior to when it was immature. Selecting for high social interactivity with humans, adds the dimension of bonding with humans and preferring them to other dogs.

Too many breeds are like the Dingo, in that their mature behavior is very different from what the owner was prepared for, and they begin to show unsuitable or dangerous behavior. This leads to many dogs being surrendered to shelters at maturity, and the owners replacing them with new pups.

This means we still have the same system the Native Australians had with their dog companions. It worked for them for many thousands of years, but in our culture, we need to adapt and change dog breeds to our needs.

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### ***Many Thanks to our Contributors for the Time and Talent That They give to our Publication and to the Human/ Service Dogs Partners***

*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 (MHHD) and the author of the highly respected text on Hearing Dog training, Lend Me an Ear.*

*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.*

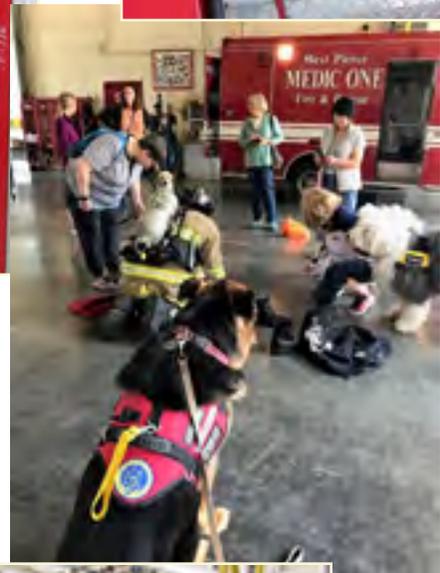
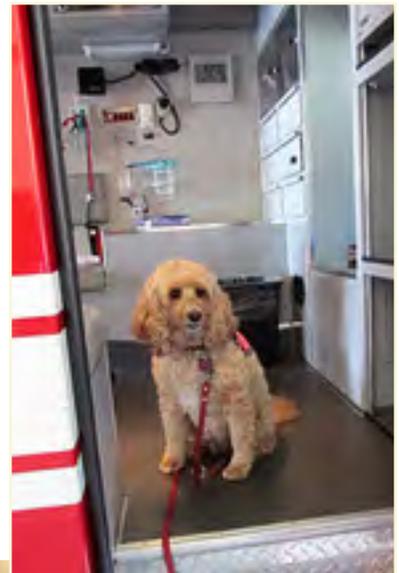
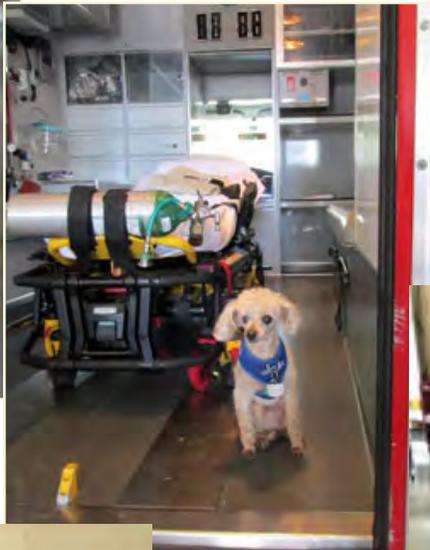
*Jeanne T. Hampl is a registered nurse by profession and a dog trainer by avocation. She was the Executive Director of the Prison Pet Partnership Program at the Washington Correction Center for Women from 1994 to 1998. She served on the Program's Board of Directors from 1991 to 1994 and 1998 to 1999. Under her guidance a new kennel and Service Dog training center was constructed on the prison grounds.*

*Jeanne has trained dogs and instructed clients for the past thirty five years. She teaches private obedience classes as well as assisting person with disabilities to train their own service dog. She also is a Service Dog Access Specialist. Jeanne is the co-founder and current president of The Assistance Dog Club of Puget Sound. She is a certified member of National Association of Dog Obedience Instructors (NADOI) and serves as the chair of the Committee on Handlers with disabilities.*

*Dorothy Ives is retired and now lives in Friday Harbor, WA. She is a member of the Assistance Dog Club of Puget Sound and she has a medic alert dog, Atticus. In response to the changes that life can bring, Dorothy now uses a 3 wheeled trike to ensure that she and Atticus can safely get around in Friday Harbor. Dorothy shares that she "spent quite a bit of time finding a community that could allow my independence and activity. One I felt safe doing things like riding my trike on the streets and where I could basically walk to all services. Add to that an active fiber community and rich contact with the natural world since those are my main social and exploratory activities currently.*

# Understanding Emergencies with West Pierce Fire and Rescue 31

University Place, WA



West Pierce Fire and Rescue (Con't. on page 6.)

*West Pierce Fire and Rescue (Con't. from page 5.)*



## ***Troubleshooting the Retrieve***

*By Veronica Sanchez M.Ed. CABC CPDT-KA*

*Northern Virginia Dog Trainer*



The retrieve is a fundamental behavior needed for most service dogs – and it's a challenging one for trainers new to training service dogs. Unlike for pet dogs, the retrieve behavior must be trained very precisely. Service dogs are expected to pick up medication bottles, utensils, clothing and objects of various textures and sizes. They should not chew, damage or drop items as they retrieve them.

Unlike training a dog to sit, lie down or stay, the training process for the retrieve requires much more adjustment and responsiveness to the dog. Here are a few common challenges encountered in training a retrieve and strategies

to address them:

- The dog holds too gently, insecurely and the item falls out of the dog's mouth.
- Often tugging a little will prompt the dog to hold more firmly and pull back. Click precisely when the dog starts to hold more firmly and reward the dog.
- The dog destroys the item, chewing hard.

More powerful and exuberant dogs will often grab items too enthusiastically. Take a step back and click and reward very early, immediately when the dog takes the item. Another strategy is to change the retrieve object being used to something larger and wider. Many dogs are less likely to bite down on a very large item. Slowly transition to smaller items.

The dog won't accept the item at all, the dog appears disinterested in retrieving or walks away from the training session.

A common error when working on this behavior is to move the item being used to train the retrieve towards the dog's mouth rather than allowing the dog to move towards the item. This can be intimidating for the dog. The fix is simply to hold the item in front of the dog and wait until the dog moves towards the item. Another error is to click too closely to the dog's ear. Try holding the clicker behind your back or use a quieter clicker.

The dog knocks over items like drinks or bottles when trying to retrieve them.

I usually work with a flat sided dumbbell to address this. Place the dumbbell in the vertical position on a dog nose-height table and place one hand on the top of the dumbbell. The dog will need to turn his or her head in order to take it, Click and treat when the dog's head turns, before the dog grabs the dumbbell. After a few repetitions move your hand off the top of the dumbbell.

*June 1, 2018*

## ***Service Dog Log – another reason to leave them be***

*By Dorothy Ives*

Waiting for Port Townsend ferry. Heading home. A bit tired. I'm going to a knitting retreat this week. When we attend these I introduce Atticus and speak briefly about our situation. The idea being that we are going to be in each other's space for a week. Let's get all the questions out of the way so we can get on to why we are all actually there. This time, knitting.



So I was thinking about that. About how tired Atticus is. About how this year it will be in a new place so it will be unfamiliar to him.

And I thought of the many reminders I've seen on Facebook about the importance of being kind to people in public. About allowing them space. About how we never know what is going on in their lives. In their heads. What they just went through even the hour before.

And I thought — ah, another reason to leave service dogs be.

Service dogs are always with their handlers. They aren't granted the respite of being left home when their handler is involved in a very stressful situation. Instead, they, too, are exhausted by it, continually working to try to ease their handler's way through the emotional minefield. Trying to keep their handlers safe while they themselves are also exposed to seeing other people they also love at risk. Trying to decide what to alert about in an environment where nothing feels safe.

This morning I was in a hot bathtub easing some of the stress away before driving home. Atticus laying next to me seemingly asleep. I purposely let myself sink into a bit of a trance. But Atticus alerts me if I move away like that. So he startled awake, sat bolt upright, waved his nose at me, looked the space above my head over, and laid his paw on the edge of the bathtub. Poor guy. I thanked him. Ended my bath. It was time anyway.

I spend time within stressful situations soothing my dog in public. Trying to give us "together" moments in the midst of it all. People grab my attention and I get comments like, "your comfort dog seems to be using you as a comfort dog."

I smile and turn away. Back to the important task at hand. In those times I don't really care what they think. Think it's pointless to correct them. Think about how people try to be funny for very odd reasons. Think about how tired we both are. Wishing them away.

People often assess the situation as though it was their own with a pet. Without knowing the road these two beings may have been traveling. Just a reminder. You really don't know. A good reason to suspend judgment. Whether two-legged or four.

We do have two more nights in our private space to rest up a bit. And we need only be at the retreat during mornings and evenings. Walking the 1/3 mile or so to it. So that will give us both a rhythm and space. I think the nature of this particular retreat will be healing for us. However, I live in a place where people stop by to visit. I like that. But maybe I need to make a little sign to hang on the gate when we are in need of a time out.

"Thank you for stopping by. But right now we need a time out. See you later!"

## ***What's Up With ADC?***

Activities and meetings this year will be held at TACID unless otherwise noted. The address for TACID is: 6315 S 19th St, Tacoma, Washington 98466. The Assistance Dog Club holds our business meeting from 12:00 - 1:00 and we welcome our speakers and presenters from 1:00 - 3:00. Meeting topics are in the process of being planned. If our members have a topic or speaker that they would like to hear, please contact Jeanne Hampl.

- June 23, 2018 - Melissa Mitchell - Travel with an SD & Advocacy for People w/Disabilities
- July 28, 2018 - To Be Announced
- August 25, 2018 - (Summer Break)
- September 22, 2018 - To Be Announced
- October 27, 2018 - ADC's Annual Business Meeting
- November, 2018 - Thanksgiving Break
- December 9, 2018 - Holiday Party (To Be Confirmed)

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## ***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.

**Shop at AmazonSmile**  
and Amazon will make  
a donation to:  
Assistance Dog Club of  
Puget Sound  
[Get started](#)  
amazon smile

**Dogwise**  
All things dog.

Every Quote Gives Hope

healthypaws<sup>®</sup>  
PET INSURANCE & FOUNDATION

**Fred Meyer**  
**community**  
**rewards**  
Where shopping & giving unite

***Check our Facebook Page for more information!***

## ***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/regs2010/service_animal_qa.html)  
[http://www.ada.gov/service\\_animals\\_2010.htm](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>  
<http://www.summitvets.com/blog.html>

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/>  
<http://marthahoffmanhearingdogs.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.