



Assistance Dog Club of Puget Sound

NEWS

June 2018

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ADC's Next Gathering (our annual picnic) will be held on July 28, 2018 at TACID

ADC's next meeting will take place at TACID 6315 S. 19th St., in Tacoma, WA on Saturday, July 28th from 11:00 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.assisteddogclub.org>

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Editor's Corner

by Jack Pearce-Droge

The Assistance Dog Club of Puget Sound welcomed 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. She shared many "how-tos" with us and her tips were much appreciated.



On July 28th, ADC will enjoy our annual picnic in the back and/or side area of the yard at TACID. We always enjoy the relaxed time that we spend with one another and most

importantly, the dogs are introduced to some down time and games.

We will not have a meeting in August. That's the time that we take a summer break and it seems that the year is pushing forward much harder than in the past.

I hope that you enjoy the newsletter and we'll see you next month.

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

By Jeanne Hampl



It is officially summer and the Pacific Northwest has brought some beautiful weather. With the warm sunshine comes the reminder to check the temperature of the pavement and always carry water for your dog.

Our June meeting was chock full of information presented by Melissa Mitchell, a former club member and current member of the training staff at Summit Assistance Dogs. Melissa has been a longtime advocate for persons with disabilities which has had her traveling both nationally and internationally with her service dogs. Melissa shared both tips on air travel and ways to be a good advocate for disability rights.

Our next meeting will be on July 28th at TACID from 11-3PM. We will have our annual picnic and dog fun and games. We will have access both inside and out so we need not worry about the weather. Maybe I will bring a laundry basket and see which dogs can curl up small enough for air travel.

The ADC will be the subject of an information TV spot on TV Tacoma. The times that it will air are below as well as which channels will be airing it.

Please don't forget to check our website as well as our Facebook page for the latest information about the changes in air travel regulations for service dogs as well as emotional support dogs.

TV Tacoma Helping to Educate the Public About Service Dogs

By Jack Pearce-Droge

Lane Ficke from TV Tacoma contacted Jeanne Hampl and shared their interest in producing footage about the Assistance Dog Club of Puget Sound and service dogs specifically. They talked about a time to meet with some of our members and their dogs. On June 26th, a cameraman from TV Tacoma met at TACID and footage was shot both inside of TACID and out.

ADC's segment is scheduled to begin airing on Saturday July 21st. Lane will send us a YouTube link of your segment the day before. The show will air on TV Tacoma July 21st-August 3rd (Comcast channel 321 and Click! Channel 512) and also on tvtacoma.com. On the web site people can go to the program section and click on Tacoma Report. The links on YouTube and on the TV Tacoma site will continue to be active after the program changes on our channel. Feel free to add the YouTube link on your site.

Planes, Trains and Automobiles

By Jeanne Hampl



According to The Americans with Disabilities Act as well as the Air Carrier Access Act a person with a disability has the right to be accompanied by a fully trained service animal on all public transit and airplanes. The question is how do you train a potential service dog to ride on planes, trains, buses, taxis and automobiles?

The foundation behaviors necessary for a dog to ride comfortable are a down stay, a tuck, a backup and feeling secure when separated from a handler. In years past Guide Dogs were trained to ride quietly in a car in the foot space of their handler. Now that front seats are equipped with air bags that position is no longer considered safe for a dog if the handler chooses to ride in the passenger seat. I prefer to see all service dogs safely seat belted in a harness on the back seat. While there are always concerns about a dog being injured in a car crash my biggest concern is a well meaning rescuer opening the car door and a scared or injured dog jumping out on to the road way. Since many disabled persons drive their own cars, their service dogs should be secured in the car. Potential service dog candidates need to be trained to accept a car restraint and to lie quietly on the back seat or rear foot space of a car. When riding in a Taxi the dog needs to be familiar with riding at their handler's feet.

Traveling by bus presents its own training issues. Not only does the dog need to be trained to lie or sit quietly at its owner's feet it must also be able to be handled by the bus driver. In Pierce County, WA service dogs are not allowed on the wheel chair lift. So while the handler is being loaded into the bus the service dog must sit quietly by the driver while the handler is loaded. The dog is then brought into the bus and reunited with the handler. A dog that fusses, whines, barks or pulls toward the handler is considered untrained and not allowed on the bus. A dog must also learn that obedience doesn't end when a handler is out of sight. Separation issues are both a training problem and a behavior problem. A dog needs to be taught to stay quietly with a friendly stranger if the owner hands the leash off to that person. A trained dog needs to have both a good Sit and Down Stay. It should obey no matter if someone other than the owner is holding the leash or standing by the dog. Most local transit companies have disability trainers that will work with people with disabilities. I recommend handlers avail themselves of these training opportunities.

Planes and trains have their own training challenges. I train the dogs to back into the aisle. They then wait until the handler is seated and then move into the handler's foot space. Department of Transportation requires service dogs to be on the floor in the handler's space. I teach the back up between two rows of chairs set up to resemble a row of airline or train seats. If a dog is sent into a row they will be facing the wall. In order to turn around, the dog will put their front paws on the seat. Teaching a dog to back in eliminates that behavior. Bringing the dog's pad will also help a dog settle down on the floor at his handler's feet.

Planes, Trains & Automobiles (Continued on page 4.)

Airline travel also presents some unique situation. The dog will have to go through security. I recommend backpacks be taken off the dog and be put through the scanner. If the handler and dog walk through the people scanner together they will both have to be checked with a hand wand. If the dog is taught a Sit Stay the handler can go through and then call the dog to them. That does not work for all disabilities as the dog may be needed to guide or for balance. A service dog must be taught to be comfortable when a stranger goes over them with a security wand or when being patted down. . Unfortunately with tightened security getting permission to train at an airport is difficult. A service dog also needs to be calm around other dogs. Airport security is using more narcotic, fruit and explosive detection dogs at the airports. No matter how the airport dogs behave a service dog must ignore the security dogs.

Whether a person with a disability is traveling for work or pleasure their service dog must be trained to accept the noise, small spaces and the hustle and bustle of travel.

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Service Dog Scientists: The Owner/Pioneer

By Martha Hoffman



Science tells us great things, and often helps us understand why things work. But most of human progress has come from the accidents, the experiments, and the surprised observations of what works out.

Every day I eagerly read the online posts on the owner-trainer Service Dog groups. They are constantly discovering creative new ways to teach alerts to things that medical science says are impossible. These “Owner-Pioneers” consist of professional trainers, amateur trainers, and new dog owners.

The owner-trainers on Facebook are training dogs to react and alert to seizures, migraines, low blood pressure, anxiety attacks, anger, and pain. They are also collecting odor samples from when they have these symptoms, and using those to train. They do not care that they have been told that these things are undetectable by odor. These owner-trainers are unhappy about being differently-abled or sick, they are determined to fight their conditions, and many are often home with time to train their dog. Many have great success, and are happy with their dogs.

Their dogs often are THEN proceeding to alerting on unknown precursors to their symptoms, about 15 minutes or more before symptoms arrive. This helps prepare for a seizure or panic attack or low blood glucose. The result: personal safety and earlier medical treatment of the symptom.

Service Dog Scientists (Con't. on page 5.)

How? Dogs are great anticipators, and can work backwards through many associations.

For instance, we have all seen that a dog might down after sitting, because it knows the owner always gives those cues in that order. In the exact same way, it can notice an odor or other event that occurs before the symptom it was originally trained to alert to. Then the dog begins to anticipate, and alerts when it notices that earlier event.

None of this is “scientific” None of this can be explained YET by science, or by the owners and trainers themselves.

Diabetic alert dog training was at first completely ridiculed by the medical and dog training professions.

When I was volunteering to help set up the first DAD program in the U.S., the trainee dogs accompanied a trainer to a diabetic kids summer camp where kids are monitored every few hours, 24/7.

After two weeks, when the dogs had alerted and usually been proven right by blood tests, selected the clothing of a child who had had a low from a big pile of other kids clothes, led a doctor into a shower room where a child was having a low...one of the Diabetic-specialist doctors who had been skeptical of this “woowoo craziness”, told the program that this was the greatest medical advance he had ever seen in his lifetime, and that he was proud to have witnessed it.

FIRST comes a discovery. THEN comes research and analysis, by others.

The discoverer has no obligation to provide proof or explanations. The world of Service Dog Alerting is self-motivated, and is rushing along at a fast pace, each persons’ discovery building upon the last.

The US Dept of Defense once discreetly funded two million dollars toward one formal research study of medical detection. Their plan: Identify the chemical the dogs were alerting to, and build a machine to identify it.

That’s the eventual result of amateur citizen-scientists bold and un-scientific attempts. They are the pioneers, and science follows behind to unravel the mystery.

When we “ask” dogs the question, “Can you do this?”, the dogs always answer “Of course we can. Why didn’t you ask that five thousand years ago?”

Next Meeting - ADC’s Annual Picnic

By Jeanne Hampl

Our next meeting will be on July 28th at TACID from 11-3PM. We will have our annual picnic and dog fun and games. We will have access both inside and out so we need not worry about the weather. The club will provide chicken and water. Members should bring a dish, salad or dessert to share. Maybe I will bring a laundry basket and see which dogs can curl up small enough for air travel.

Travelling With Service Dogs Today

presented by Melissa Mitchell



Recent high profile biting incidents by ESAs in February and January of this year on Southwest airlines and Delta airlines combine with increases in more minor yet unacceptable behaviors including barking, growling, lunging, and in appropriate relieving have prompted airlines and the Department of Justice to propose new rules and policies around animals in the cabin.

The Air Carrier Access Act (ACAA) applies to the actual act of flying and services provided by airlines (the airports themselves are covered by the ADA) guaranteeing access to people with disabilities to air travel. The ACAA currently uses the original 1990 ADA definition for service animals along with additional access for emotional support and psychiatric service animals. According to the recent request for comment on

proposed regulations, “there has been an 84 percent spike since 2016 in the number of behavior-related service animal problems, including urinating, defecating, or biting. Another airline reports that there has been a 75 percent increase in the number of emotional support animals that it transports when comparing calendar year 2016 to calendar year 2017. This airline appears to believe that this has resulted in a significant increase in onboard incidents.”

While service animals are being trained for and used by people experiencing an ever expanding array of disabling physical and mental health conditions; it is also commonly believed more people flying with pets are claiming ESA or other service animal status to avoid the severe limits, costs, and risks associated with flying animals as cargo or the cabin. 24 pets died while in cargo in 2017 according to the U.S. Department of Transportation’s February 2018 Air Travel Consumer Report. While most service animals tend to be dogs or cats a wide variety of animals are currently permitted onboard aircraft flying to and within the United States. Airlines are never required to transport snakes, reptiles, ferrets, rodents, or spiders; though; other unusual animals may be permitted on a case-by-case basis.

Airlines may exclude animals that:

- Are too large or heavy to be accommodated in the cabin;
- Pose a direct threat to the health or safety of others;
- Are prohibited from entering a foreign country.

Airlines will accept service animals determined as qualifying as such via:

- Credible verbal assurances of a qualified individual with a disability using the animal;
- Looking for physical indicators such as the presence of a harness or tags;
- Observing the behavior of animals.
- Valid documentation of a mental health condition or disability recognized in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM) that is no less than one year old signed by a qualified professional.

(Travelling w/Service Dogs Today (Con’t. on page 7.)

Travelling w/Service Dogs Today (Con't. from page 6.)

Before flying as a team, consider whether you'll be able to attend to both your and your dog's needs while travelling. Some peoples' disabilities and reactions to travel may not make a service dog the best option for mitigating disabilities during travel. Know your rights under the laws and responsibilities including specific airline policies such as advanced notice requirements. The time to advocate is not when you're trying to board!

Before heading out be sure you have:

- A healthy, professional looking dog (clean/ well groomed)
- Current vaccination records and recent veterinarian report;
- Proof of training or an ID card from an ADI or International Federation of Guide Dogs recognized school
- Methods of interacting with your dog professionally and kindly no matter the situation. Harsh/ dramatic/repeated corrections don't convince people your dog is well trained.

A dog that can handle the challenges of air travel:

- Large crowds including people of all shapes, ages, and abilities in various emotional and physical states
- Strange people touching them and you a lot
- Extremely loud & high pitched noise for extended periods of time
- Cramped spaces for long periods of time with no option to go anywhere else
- Having their daily routines upended

Comment on the proposed regulations by July 9, 2018 <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2018/05/23/2018-10815/traveling-by-air-with-service-animals>

Melissa Mitchell

Melissa is a life long disability advocate serving in capacities ranging from participating in the 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.

Preventing Burn Out in Working Service Dogs

By Veronica Sanchez M.Ed. CABP CPDT-KA

Northern Virginia Dog Trainer



Service dogs often work long hours in complex environments. The demands of this work can be stressful for the dog. Prolonged stress can trigger dogs to develop behavioral or possibly health problems. For this reason, stress reduction techniques need to be a priority right from the beginning of a service dog's career.

Trainers can help owners prevent burn out in their service dogs by teaching them:

- To identify stress in their service dog. Service dogs often tend to inhibit their stress, so indications may be subtle.
- To respond appropriately when they recognize indications of immediate significant stress. How and when to remove the dog from the situation. How to incorporate sniff breaks or use tricks, massage, body wraps or other strategies to help the dog.
- To incorporate relaxation and enrichment in their dog's daily routines. Activities like slow feeding bowls, soft music, toys, playtime and unstructured sniff and explore opportunities in a quiet, natural area are important.
- To provide regular, off-duty, down time. Owners need to have a plan for how they will meet their disability needs when the dog cannot accompany them to place of public accommodation because the dog is sick or because the dog needs a break.
- To understand the impact of aging and health on the dog's behavior. Older service dogs may need more down time and fewer rigorous duties.
- To be able to identify unusual behavior in their service dog. Owners need to understand that behavior can be impacted by changes in the dog's health, as well as by the environment and situation.

For many service dogs, the job can also mean extra attention and TLC from their owners. Making an extra effort to incorporate education on addressing stress in the dog and reducing it can go a long way to helping ensure working dogs are at the top of their game in helping their owners.

June 14, 2018

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.

- July 28, 2018 - Annual Picnic - Held at TACID from 11-3:00. (Find us in the back)
- 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)

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.

The image displays four logos for partner organizations. On the left is the AmazonSmile logo with the text 'Shop at AmazonSmile and Amazon will make a donation to: Assistance Dog Club of Puget Sound' and a 'Get started' button. In the center is the Dogwise logo with the tagline 'All things dog.' Below it is a circular logo for 'Every Quote Gives Hope' featuring a green ribbon. On the right is the Fred Meyer Community Rewards logo with the tagline 'Where shopping & giving unite'. At the bottom center is the Healthypaws logo, which includes the text 'healthypaws' and 'PET INSURANCE & FOUNDATION'.

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/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.