



Assistance Dog Club of Puget Sound

NEWS

October 2018

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ADC will begin the new year by meeting on January 26 at TACID from 12:00 to 3:00

TACID's address is 6315 S. 19th St., in Tacoma, WA on the 4th Saturday of the month. We'd love to have you join us.

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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>

E-Mail Address

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

New Board Members were nominated at the October meeting. They are:

Jack Pearce-Droge
Janelle Ellen
Connie Fuller
Shay Larsen

Board positions will be determined by the Board at their first meeting.

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Editor's Corner

by Jack Pearce-Droge

The Pacific NW has welcomed the recent change of incoming darkness in the PNW with open arms. It is also a time for reflection suggested by



our long time members as well as our newer members. We ask them to share what they would like to learn. Each year, at our annual meeting in October we all work together to discuss what topics might be helpful to us as individuals as well as information that relates to our services dogs.

What will we need when our disabilities change? Will our SDs need to learn different tasks? Did we change jobs making it

necessary to change or alter our physical needs? Each year ADC holds a discussion and identifies topics, speakers and even activities and field trips. An activity that was suggested was the Downtown Light Rail. We have been told that the movement of the Light Rail resembles the motion of an airplane.

To enhance our knowledge of the health of our dogs we decided to invite a canine CPR specialist and representatives of local Occupational Therapy classes.

We'd like to talk with a couple of SD provider organizations, obtain information from pet insurance businesses, request a presentation from Alaska Airlines and finally we'd like to welcome a veterinary social worker who has provided support to many of us when our canine partners have passed away. It appears that we will enjoy a positive year. Many thanks for the great suggestions that our members shared.

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

Training Tips **Training a Dog is Hard Work**

By Jeanne Hampl



I just started a new dog training class last night. We had a couple of rambunctious adolescents and at the other end of the spectrum some very quiet and shy puppies.

All of the owners were trying their best to control their dogs. The class began a little noisy but all of the dogs quieted down and the owners began the process of introducing new cues to their dogs. It really doesn't matter if we are talking pet pups or service dog candidates training is hard work.

When we think about a dog training class it is really a misnomer. The instructor is actually training the owner who then has to train the dog. The two processes are usually occurring at the same time in a very distracting environment for both the owner and the dog. The above scenario would make an education professor cringe. Simply stated dog and owner training is hard work. It is hard work for the instructor. It is hard work for the owner and it is definitely hard work for the dog.

The most amazing thing is the wonderful success that both dog and owner achieve if they are willing to put in the time and do the work. Over the past 30 years I have seen some amazing transformations of wild and crazy pups. They were just looking for some direction and a job to do. But unfortunately I have seen some owners taking their dog's very normal behavior personally and become embarrassed or angry and choose to either quit or become abusive rather than just to work a little harder to understand their dog and why it is behaving the way it is.

When we make a commitment to buy a puppy or adopt a dog it is for the life of the dog. We also must make a commitment to help teach the dog to be a law-abiding member of our family, the community at large and possibly a working service dog. We want a dog that comes when called. We want a dog that walks nicely on a leash. We want a dog that ignores other dogs and bicycles and children when we are out for a walk. We want a dog that is easy to live with.

The Lassie that we all know and loved wasn't born that way. The mythical Lassie was trained to be an amazing dog and training is hard work.

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.

The Traditional “Service Dog” Image is Obsolete!

By Martha Hoffman

I was taught thirty years ago that Hearing Dogs and Service Dogs must behave and appear consistent with “The Service Dog Image”. For seventy-five years, the Guide Dog programs had paved the way for our public access rights. They had molded a respected public image for their dogs and handlers. Then came the first Hearing Dog and Service Dog training programs, whose dogs also were awarded public access rights by the ADA. We needed to follow the example set by the pioneering programs in these three major fields, in order to preserve and protect our public access rights.



This made sense. Professional behavior from dog and partner leads to respect and easier access. The less the dog behaves like an untrained pet, the easier public access is.

The dogs I trained for myself and for the Hearing Dog Program were usually shelter dogs of various sizes and mixes, with more active and distractible temperaments than Guide Dogs, but they were to keep “four on the floor”, be calm in public, and make no waves as they quietly passed through public life. Since they looked more like pet dogs than the usual Lab Guide or SD, they had to behave even better, to prevent public access challenges. Our tinier Hearing Dogs got no respect at first, but gradually the public became aware that Hearing Dogs and Service Dogs came in many flavors other than Vanilla Lab.

In addition, many new types of SDs were constantly being discovered by creative partners and trainers. The term “SD” can now include HDs, PTSD SDs, Medical Alert SDs, Autism SDs, Psychiatric SDs, and many others. Their functions often required some alteration to the “Service Dog Image”. I started to see SDs being carried in baby slings, leashed to children, riding on mobility scooters, jumping up on their partners, large dogs sprawled across laps, and many other “violations” of the “Service Dog Image”. Many appeared at first glance to be coddled baby-substitute pets, not SDs.

Gear changed, too. No longer could dogs be identified by either the Guide Dog harness and handle, or a plain SD or HD program vest in consistent colors. Now there were pink vests, rainbow vests, leash sleeves, head halters. Patches, embroidery, duct-tape-cut letters. Program IDs, internet IDs, home-made IDs. Then we have the stubborn few handlers that refuse to use any ID or SD-type gear at all. Let’s not even get into the complication of the Emotional Support Animals and their doctors letters. And lately, dogs with brightly-colored chalked fur!

This all causes lots of discussion and arguments in the SD-training industry. But as we all know, the American public is not easily controlled, and awareness of the ADA rules on SDs has reached critical mass in the public consciousness. Some dogs in public are “fakers” pets, but some are indeed SDs performing vital tasks.

The Traditional Service Dog Image is Obsolete (Con’t. on page 4.)

The Traditional Service Dog Image is Obsolete (Con't. from page 3.)

Here are some examples of behaviors that are commonly perceived to be contrary to good public behavior and image:

A dog peeking out from its partners' shirt in a restaurant, as if begging for scraps? But where else should a dog that alerts to subtle heart arrhythmias be located? Near as possible to our heart, of course. A dog that alerts to breath odor changes? Near the face, if the dog is not tall enough to detect breath from the ground.

A partner lounging on the floor of a mall while the dog sprawls across her chest...what a terrible public image!

But a dog trained for DPT (Deep Pressure Therapy) may be stopping a panic attack by pressure on their partners chest or solar plexus.

A dog jumping up on a partner who appears unaware of their dog or surroundings? It could be a Hearing Dog, or a Medical Alert Dog preventing total unconsciousness with a timely alert to take medication, or a Diabetic Alert Dog forcing its partner into awareness of low blood sugar.

Pit Bull-type SDs?

Now the public are sometimes the ones getting panic attacks, but DPT from the dog won't be the answer!

A Great Dane or Other Giant-Breed SD?

How inconsiderate of a person to choose a huge and scary-looking dog that does not fold up easily into small spaces...but many SDs need to be tall and strong to provide bracing help for partners with stability issues.

Carrying a Small Dog?

That looks "petsy" to most of us. But being attacked by a loose dog is a real and horrifying issue for all dogs, especially small ones. Surviving a dog attack often leaves an SD with permanent emotional damage, inability to be comfortable doing tasks in public and an end to their career. I think most of us trainers have given up on the possibility of controlling this colorful and wonderful explosion of canine potential. No longer is the question "what can a Service Dog do?", but, "What can a Service Dog NOT do?"

Our public image of SD behavior needs to change to keep up with today's reality. With no United States ADA certification IDs or standards for dogs (or trainers), our only control over the SD explosion is the part of the ADA that allows dogs public to be asked to leave public places if they seem to be "out of control or not housebroken". And perhaps that is the most sensible route. Well-behaved dogs should have public access; others should not. And, at this time, I don't see that we have any alternative.

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.

Alert! Service Dogs and Alert Training

*By Veronica Sanchez M.Ed. CABC CPDT-KA
Northern Virginia Dog Trainer*



Service dogs are being trained to alert to everything from allergens, seizures and autoimmune flare ups to blood sugar changes and much more. Alerts are the most exciting area of growth in the field of service dog training, and also the most mysterious.

While alert-training has been expanding, there is a long history of training service dogs to alert. Hearing dog work is one of the more well-known and established types of alert-training. A hearing dog touches his or her owner with a nose or paw to make the owner aware of a sound in the environment, such as a person knocking on the door. In hearing dog work, the sound is the cue for a behavior. Guide dogs alert their owners to changes in the environment by changing their behavior, for instance, a guide dog alerts his or her owner to the presence of a curb by stopping walking. The owner feels the change in the dog's movement through the harness. Some programs that train dogs for people with mental illness, train dogs to alert owners to subtle changes in their body language that indicates anxiety. A dog may be trained to touch the owner with a paw when the owner starts to tap his or her foot nervously. The owner can then take action to address his or her anxiety before it escalates.

In these cases, the cue for the dog's behavior is clear, it is the presence of the curb, a sound, the tapping foot. Trainers know what the dog needs to respond to. For other alerts, however, it is much less clear. For example, what is the cue for the seizure-alert dog? Is it an odor? A change in the owner's body language? Some subtle change in the owner that we do not perceive? How can we recreate that for training purposes? In the case of dogs working with people with seizures, many service dog programs have focused primarily on training dogs to respond to a person's seizure by getting a caregiver, bringing medication or retrieving a phone, rather than alerting per se.

Much of the alert work in the service dog industry is focused on scent work right now. Trainers who are training dogs for diabetic alert often use scent samples of the owner's saliva when the owner has confirmed changes in his or her blood sugar.

The consequences of an alert dog failing to do his or her job properly can be very serious and sometimes even life threatening. Many programs recommend that owners use medical devices as well as the dog, for instance, a person with diabetes would use a Continuous Glucose Monitor as well as the diabetic alert dog. Technology is growing in leaps and bounds, there are now devices for food allergens and even an app for seizures.

Alert! Service Dogs and Alert Training (Con't. on page 6.)

Alert! Service Dogs and Alert Training

(Con't. from page 5.)

Medical devices undergo testing and clinical trials before claims can be made about how effective or reliable they are. The training of alert dogs has outpaced the research. Objective research on alert behaviors is minimal and in many areas, completely non-existent. For now we have more questions than answers. Science-based dog trainers as well as those looking for the help of a service dog need to be cautious when interpreting subjective claims about alerting behavior.

Interested in looking at the research yourself? The National Library of Medicine, PubMed portal is a great resource. Enter terms like service dog, diabetic alert dog or seizure alert dog in the search.

July 10, 2018

Veronica Sanchez M.Ed. CABC CPDT-KA

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.

A Special Event for our Members A Winter Holiday Party

On Saturday, December 8 from 12:00 - 3:00 at the The INN at Gig Harbor, ADC will host an annual event for our members. You will have received the invitation/RSVP form to this enjoyable event. Please get it back to us so that final arrangements can be made with The INN. We hope that you will join us as we bring this year to a close.

There will be raffles, gifts for the dogs in our lives, great food and good company. We look forward to seeing you there.

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[®]
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/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/academy/news/>

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 Like us for the latest information about all things service dog.