Spring 2013 - Exciting IAADP Webcast Scheduled

By Joan Froling

IAADP’s pioneering venture into cyberspace in lieu of holding a conference in a distant city is an initiative to broaden the opportunity for IAADP members and others with a personal or professional interest in the topics to attend our educational workshops. You will have to travel no further than the distance it takes you to reach a computer with internet access. This should enable most members to view the workshops from the comfort of their own homes or places of business or perhaps at the nearest public library.

To further remove barriers to attendance, we have decided against charging a registration fee for this upcoming two-hour event.

IAADP’s President, Toni Eames, will introduce one workshop and I will introduce the other. We will provide a five minute refreshment break between the two.

The date of the webcast is tentative as we go to press, but I anticipate it will be in March 2013. We will post the exact date and time on IAADP’s website in the Conference section as soon as we can firm up contract details with the production company after the holidays.

A few days before this event, the company will provide IAADP with a link for me to post on our website Conference section, so you can access this webcast. That sounds easy enough. I shall also provide whatever instructions are necessary to enable you to easily log in.

If you have questions for our guest speakers on either topic described herein, please submit them as soon as possible so the speakers can include as many answers as feasible when they prepare their presentations.

First Workshop - Hospital Access

In our last issue we published a press release about a precedent setting case on hospital access rights. I was puzzled to read this case was decided under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act rather than the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Which law prevails?

Over the years IAADP has received distraught calls from assistance dog partners denied access when they inform the hospital they plan to keep their assistance dog with them during their stay. Others are denied access when they ask if

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a family member can bring their assistance dog for a visit… and the list goes on. Yet some hospitals bend over backwards to accommodate families with an assistance dog, even letting the dog visit in the ICU. We also have occasional calls from a hospital administrator with questions.

IAADP has asked the agencies involved to provide us with some guidance.

We are delighted to have both Sally Conway, Deputy Chief of the Disability Rights Section, at the US Department of Justice and Eileen Hanrahan, J.D., Supervisory Civil Rights Analyst, at the U.S. Department of Health as guest speakers to educate us on what rights we may or may not have when seeking hospital access.

I recently asked them to draft a description of their presentation for readers of Partners Forum and for the Conference section on IAADP’s website and they graciously obliged. I have included it below.

Hospital Access for Individuals with Disabilities and Their Service Animals

Do you rely on an assistance dog or service animal? Do you ever need access to a hospital? If you answer yes, this presentation is for you. The Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act are Federal laws that prohibit disability discrimination; these laws apply to nearly all health care facilities, including hospitals.

The presenters will discuss the rights and responsibilities of individuals with disabilities who use service animals, as well as hospitals that encounter service animals, under these laws. We’ll talk about a range of important issues, including:

• What makes an animal a service animal;
• Inquiries hospital staff may ask if they are uncertain whether an animal may be a service animal;
• Areas of a hospital to which a service animal must be given access;
• When can a service animal be denied access;
• The responsibilities of the individual with a disability for his or her service animal; and
• Steps an individual with a disability should take if his or her service animal is denied access.

And we’ll try to answer all the questions you may have about service animals.

Eileen Hanrahan, JD, Supervisory Civil Rights Analyst/Office for Civil Rights, US Department of Health and Sally Conway, Deputy Chief Disability Rights Section/Civil Rights Division, US Department of Justice.

Second Workshop
Assessing Dogs for A Service Dog Career

The internet abounds with anecdotes of how a service dog will bring about an amazing improvement in quality of life for veterans with post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and other disabilities. Many new providers have sprung up, including rescues and humane societies, well-intentioned but with widely varying beliefs, standards, placement models and levels of experience. Most have little practical experience in assessing dogs for this career.

Reports to IAADP from very unhappy veterans who trustingly accept the first dog offered, ignorant of signs that should raise a red flag, goes hand in glove with an article in the Army Times, in July 2012, reporting some dogs, purportedly trained as service dogs, have tried to attack people at VA hospitals. IAADP continues to receive very sad letters and calls from other disabled adults and families with disabled children who trusted providers to make an appropriate match and came home with heartbreak on the end of the leash. It underscores the urgent need for those seeking a service dog to become much more savvy consumers.

If you have a successful partnership and your friend decides to go the humane society to adopt a dog as he or she wants to train a service dog too, what pointers might you give them? From their viewpoint, you are an expert.

Accredited ADI member programs do the best they can, but they can’t possibly provide one of their service or hearing dogs to every one in the estimated population of 54 million disabled Americans who might like one. The same holds true for the disabled population in other countries. Good providers not affiliated with ADI are also limited in how many dogs they can train. This results in thousands of disabled persons and families deciding to attempt to train a service dog of their own every year. Helping them to make better-informed choices when they go to evaluate dogs in a shelter or from a breeder or rescue would be doing the whole community a favor, as we are all stakeholders in their success or failure.

IAADP’s second workshop guest speaker will be Jeanne Hampl RN, an experienced service dog trainer. She was the executive director of the Prison Pet Partnership Program (PPP) in the early 1990s, an ADI member program started by Sister Pauline Quinn, renowned as the first program to pioneer having inmates train service dogs for disabled persons. Jeanne later become a founding member and the president of the Assistance Dog Club of Puget Sound. The Club fosters high training and behavioral standards for assistance dogs. It gives the teams who live in this region a marvelous support system that includes social events and ongoing educational opportunities and training help. For the last decade she has offered training classes that welcome new owner trainers, those training successor dog candidates and those partnered with program-trained service dogs who want to maintain and advance their dog’s skills. She also has assisted former graduates, club members, and newcomers with their quest for an appropriate dog to train. She is a longtime member of the National Association of Dog Obedience Instructors (NADOI).

How does she evaluate the dogs brought to her weekly training class by newcomers seeking her help in transforming the dog into a service dog? What initial tests does she recommend utilizing if you go to a shelter, rescue or breeder on your own seeking a young adult dog to train? What telltale signs should you watch out for, pro or con? What traits did she look for when selecting dogs to train for disabled clients during her tenure at PPP? Which health screening tests, temperament tests and aptitude tests would she recommend once a disabled person or provider acquires a dog for further evaluation?

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This is a multifaceted topic and it cannot be exhaustively covered in just 50 minutes but Jeanne has a wealth of experience and we’ve asked her to share her views and insights with those who do not have 20 years to educate themselves “the hard way” on this subject.

By Joan Froling

IAADP has very disturbing news for many assistance dog partners, in particular disabled veterans, and many provider members belonging to IAADP and their families and friends who volunteer at or visit facilities operated by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

While VA facilities are not subject to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), until recently the VA had been moving in the direction of an uniform policy that would support the ADA and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 concerning access rights with service animals to its hospitals, rehabilitation facilities, medical offices and other facilities.

Some of the advocacy organizations for veterans did not want to leave the matter of access rights with service dogs solely up to the discretion of the VA. [Editor’s note: The VA’s and Congress’ term “service dog” includes hearing dogs.] On October 28, 2011, the United Spinal Association’s VetsFirst press release joyfully announced that a key piece of legislation, The Veterans Equal Treatment for Service Dogs Act (HR 1154) was one step closer to being passed when HR 1154 was approved as an amendment to the [huge, omnibus] bill that recently passed in the House. The intent of HR 1154 was to ensure that all veterans with disabilities who work with service dogs are able to access VA facilities. “This is an important legal clarification for every veteran who uses a service dog,” says John Carter, co-chairman of the House Army Caucus who introduced The Veterans Equal Treatment for Service Dogs Act. “When this becomes law, veterans will have the unuestioned right to use their medical service dog in VA facilities under the same rules as those acknowledged for seeing-eye dogs. This is already the practice in many facilities today through administrative policy, but this law permanently codifies those policies in all facilities.”

The VetsFirst article also noted, “The advocacy efforts of Congressman Carter, VetsFirst, AMVETS and others, was instrumental in the VA releasing new directives this past Spring in an attempt to resolve access issues. Each VA medical center now has a service dog policy that veterans may request.”

The Veterans Health Administration (VHA) directive issued on March 10, 2011, and expiring March 31, 2016, stated:

POLICY: It is VHA policy to permit guide dogs (seeing-eye dogs) and other service dogs to accompany individuals with a disability to all areas of a VHA facility and property on the same terms and conditions, and subject to the same regulations, as generally govern the admission of the public to the property while maintaining a safe environment for patients, employees, visitors, and the service dog.

The VA Directive’s definition of a Service Dog holds that: “A service dog is one that is specially trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability who cannot perform the work or task independent of the dog. The work or tasks performed by the service animal must be directly related to the individual’s disability, and the service provided by the dog must compensate or offset the disability that substantially limits one or more of the major life activities of the individual. NOTE: This does not include service dogs in training.”

To the extreme dismay of many advocates and assistance dog partners and service and hearing dog providers, the legislation ultimately adopted by the House and Senate in July 2012 as part of an omnibus package of benefits for veterans contained a shocking last minute change! It is one which could deprive most veterans, their families and visitors of access rights with service dogs, hearing dogs and some guide dogs to VA hospitals and rehabilitation facilities.

Titled “The Honoring America’s Veterans and Caring for Camp Lejeune Families Act of 2012 (HR 1627),” the bill was signed into law by President Obama on August 6, 2012. It includes the following language in the section on access rights for assistance dog partners:

***109 (F) (1): The Secretary may not prohibit the use of a covered service dog in any facility or on any property of the Department or in any facility or on any property that receives funding from the Secretary. [it is the next clause with profound implications for the future]

****109 (f) (2): For purposes of this subsection, a covered service dog is a service dog that has been trained by an entity that is accredited by an appropriate accrediting body that evaluates and accredits organizations which train guide and service dogs.

While the Act does not name Assistance Dogs International (ADI) and/or the International Guide Dog Federation (IGDF) per se, the reality is that these are the only accrediting organizations of providers currently recognized by the Veterans Administration.

How could The Veterans Equal Treatment for Service continued on page 4...
New Law Restricts Access to VA Facilities
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Dogs Act (HR 1154) which was intended to guarantee an absolute right of access for disabled Americans with service dogs end up with language that could disenfranchise so many of them?

Rick Maze, a staff writer for the Army Times shed some light on this when he quotes the AMVETS spokesperson, Christina Roof in his article published on July 19, 2012, after the omnibus bill passed in the Senate and went to the House for a vote:

“Christina Roof, a veterans’ advocate who has worked for years on service dog rules for military and veterans facilities, said she worries about what might happen ‘to people who have been going to VA for years whose dog did not come from an accredited trainer.’ ”

Roof said this restriction in the final compromise bill was added late in the process, apparently during negotiations with the VA.

Even with the change, Roof said a law allowing access to veterans' facilities for service dogs is a step in the right direction. “I strongly believe disabled veterans using service dogs must have the same access rights to VA care and facilities as currently afforded to blind veterans using guide dogs,” she said, adding that an uniform policy across VA facilities as currently afforded to blind veterans using guide dogs will avoid confusion.

In the Aug. 7, 2012 news release from the United Spinal Association, Heather Ansley, Esq., MSW, Vice President of Veterans Policy at VetsFirst said, “We fought hard to ensure that this bill passed and I am confident that a majority of the provisions in HR 1627 will have a positive impact on the disabled veteran community.

“However, VetsFirst is disappointed with the decision to ensure accessibility to VA facilities only for those service dogs that are trained by an appropriately accredited agency, which is much stricter than what is required by the Americans with Disabilities Act – thereby potentially denying access to an individual with a properly self-trained dog,” she added. “We will continue to work with VA to ensure access for all properly trained service dogs.”

There were other articles, of course, protesting this potentially devastating legislation. Among them was one by Jocko Noneya, a disabled veteran with MS residing in Long Beach, CA, who explains the Petition he started at Change.org in his article of the same title, “Service Animals barred from VA Facilities.”

He informed readers “as of August 6th, 2012, all service dogs will soon be barred from VA property. After a bill is signed into law it becomes a new regulation within the VA.”

He goes on to say: “Section 109 (F) (2) is what has many Disabled Veterans including myself very upset. What this new law does to the Disabled American Veteran who has a Service Animal is violate the American with Disabilities Act … Section 109 (F) (2) takes away the ADA description of a service animal by adding the following qualifiers “a covered service dog is a service dog that has been trained by an entity that is accredited by an appropriate accrediting body that evaluates and accredits organizations which train guide or service dogs.”

Will the VA be required to take action because a law automatically becomes a regulation when passed by Congress? While the author of the petition believes this to be true, it is not an absolute certainty as we go to press.

The article in the Army Times in July 2012 by Rick Maze stated, “The new law would not prevent VA from having more liberal rules, but it could lead the department to scale back on service dog access – especially because there have been reports from some VA facilities of dogs, purported to be trained, trying to attack people, sources said.”

Did the majority of legislators in the Senate and House even know that in the huge package of veteran benefits, certain language had been inserted at the last minute that would serve to circumvent the good intentions of The Equal Treatment for Veterans with Service Dogs Act? This expansive access law had received tremendous bipartisan support in the House of Representatives earlier in the legislative process.

Did President Obama have any inkling of the dreadful impact this measure could have on many veterans, their family members and visitors with service and hearing dogs who previously had access to VA facilities under the VHA directive in effect since March 10, 2011? I think not.

ADI North America’s President, Corey Hudson, let ADI members know in an email that ADI programs had not lobbied for this restrictive policy, to the best of his knowledge.

A recent article titled “Fake Service Dogs Cause Re-proof, Provoke Possible Rule Changes,” published by The Palm Beach Post asked “Is there a solution?” It states: "Corey Hudson, secretary of Assistance Dogs International, which has a well-known accreditation program that sets minimum standards for behavior and training, suggests some form of government-sanctioned certification for service dogs.

"We all get drivers’ licenses after somebody impartially figures out that you are capable of driving,’ Hudson said.

John Ensminger, a New York attorney and author of the books Service and Therapy Dogs in American Society and Police and Military Dogs, with a popular blog, the Dog Law Reporter, said he sees problems with that approach. Who will set those standards and how much will credentials cost? Professionally trained service dogs can cost more than $20,000. Each dog is individually trained to meet the specific needs of its owner’s disabilities. Many people with disabilities are on limited budgets and train their dogs themselves.

“What I’m afraid of is that if the government doesn’t want to get in the business and turns it over to private entities, that will mean people will essentially have to pay a significant amount of money to some organization that will bless their service dog,” Ensminger said. “I see that as a big problem.”

So does IAADP.

I believe the benefits of the access rights policy fostered by the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) and the judicial system continue to far outweigh the drawbacks. Under the ADA, it does not matter who trained the dog. What really matters is whether a dog is individually trained to do work or perform tasks related to the disabling condition. The dog must also be housebroken and behave appropriately in continued on page 5...
public. This enlightened policy on access has greatly expanded the number of disabled Americans who will be able to increase their safety and independence and quality of life through partnership with a well behaved assistance dog from hundreds to thousands.

While the guide dog schools seem to be in the fortunate financial position of being able to meet the demand for guide dogs in less than a year free of charge in the USA, or so I’m told, the same has never been true of ADI accredited service and hearing dog training programs. These accredited programs do very admirable work, but not everyone is blessed with the opportunity to obtain one of their dogs. From the census data I received in 2011, collectively they graduated less than 500 service dogs and hearing dogs for an estimated population of 54 million disabled Americans.

Under the ADA, any misbehaving animal, including a service animal who threatens the health or safety of others by showing aggressive behavior or by acting unruly or a dog who disrupts the fundamental ability of a place of public accommodation to deliver goods and services, such as a dog who barks in a movie theater, does NOT have to be tolerated. The handler can legally be told to remove the dog from the premises according the DOJ’s guidance documents in 1996, 2002 and in the important regulatory update that took effect in March 2011.

A comment after an online article on this topic from an exasperated IAADP member who came across a dog behaving deplorably in a VA facility and made a complaint indicated the reply she received from the VA facility’s spokesperson was that nothing can be done about misbehaving dogs as they are afraid of a lawsuit.

What is needed here is EDUCATION for the VA staff on how to handle any such incident. The VA could have adopted IAADP’s and ADI’s zero tolerance policy for an assistance dog who exhibits aggression toward other dogs or people. The VA could easily issue a directive authorizing and encouraging VA staff, in particular their security guards, to eject a misbehaving dog rather than tolerate such conduct.

Instead someone decided to throw the baby out with the bath water.

It seems very unfair of those behind this draconian measure to convince lawmakers “the cure” is to abolish the access rights of thousands of disabled persons, among them all graduates of ADI candidate member programs, the reputable providers not affiliated with ADI and all handlers whose privately trained or owner trained dogs have long been excellent ambassadors for the assistance dog movement.

Whether the VA will immediately act on this new law to come up with a new VHA Directive or hold off remains to be seen. What does seem certain is that the failure on the part of some disabled citizens to maintain high standards for the behavior and training for an assistance dog invites a backlash. This has been a chilling political lesson on how quickly there can be a Congressional “about face” when it comes to the access rights so many of us depend on and which too many have taken for granted.

Your Input is Urgently Needed!

By Joan Froling

IAADP would very much appreciate your participation in this research project. I will let you read Mariko’s letter, then follow up with more information!

Hello,

My name is Mariko Yamamoto, working at the University of California Davis, as a postdoctoral fellow. I’m from Japan where there are a small number of service dogs (about 60 for people with mobility disabilities). I know that there are many people with various disabilities living with service dogs and benefit from them.

Now, the University of California Davis, School of Veterinary Medicine is conducting research on how service dogs can benefit people with disabilities and their families.

The results of this research will be shared with the countries such as Japan where the service dogs are not well-developed to expand understanding of the broad usefulness of service dogs for people with various disabilities.

This is a web-based survey and you can answer it through the following URL: http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/RQYZNHJC (for service dog partners), and http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/REMqJ6PV (for families of service dog partners).

We would really appreciate it if you could join and/or inform your friends about this research.

Thank you so much,

Mariko Yamamoto

(If you have any question, please contact me: maryama@ucdavis.edu)

Editor’s Comments: Jill Exposito, Toni Eames and other IAADP board members first met Mariko at the Assistance Dog Partner Conference held in Japan in October 2010. At Jill’s invitation, Mariko attended Jill’s graduation from CCI with her successor hearing dog, Hanlee, in 2011 and visited with her after the beautiful ceremony. I’ve enjoyed my correspondence with Mariko about the assistance dog movement in Japan.

I’m delighted Mariko has undertaken this important research project in cooperation with leading researchers at the University of California, Davis, Veterinary School, the results of which will be published in an academic journal, then sent to IAADP to share with you.

The researchers at UC Davis have already completed their survey of guide dog and hearing dog partners. This particular survey is for those who work with a service dog to assist with a mental or physical disability other than blindness or a severe hearing loss.

Mariko tells me that she plans to travel to conferences in other countries to share the research results with colleagues involved in a field of growing academic interest, the benefits

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of the Human-Animal Bond connection, so they in turn can utilize the results to educate policy makers in the public and private sector in their countries.

IAADP's co-founder and President Emeritus, Ed Eames, Ph.D., believed partnership with an assistance dog to be the highest articulation of the Human-Animal Bond.

IAADP believes access rights for disabled persons should be viewed as a humanitarian issue, one directly related to our independence, safety and dignity, by policy makers across the globe. This research can be used to further the goal of full inclusion in society for disabled citizens and travelers with assistance dogs. It won't happen without scientific data to persuade lawmakers to embrace access rights as a very important humanitarian and social issue.

Those pioneering the assistance dog movement in a number of countries may be able to utilize the results of this research in their efforts to overcome cultural barriers and expand the public's understanding of, and acceptance for, assistance dog partnerships.

I'd like to ask providers who receive Partners Forum in the USA and other countries to please let their graduates know of this opportunity to educate others on how a service dog can impact their lives in areas such as work, school, other major life activities and emotional well being. This is not intended to be just a survey confined to service dog partners residing in the USA.

A study in which 500 or 1,500 service dog partners participate is going to be much more impressive than a survey to which less than 50 service dog partners respond. Won't you help?

I've asked Mariko to keep the survey open till March 31, 2013 to give IAADP time to do outreach to our members and supporters. A link to this survey can also be found on IAADP's Facebook page if you would find it difficult to type this link into your browser.

Thank you for considering IAADP's request!

Your Input Is Urgently Needed
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By Joan Froling

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cover travel expenses to enable an eligible veteran to go to a program to obtain a guide dog, hearing dog or service dog or a successor dog with the caveat the program must be accredited by Assistance Dogs International (ADI) or the International Guide Dog Federation (IGDF).

This caveat evoked protests from new service dog providers and it undoubtedly dismayed some ADI candidate members. To paraphrase the analogy in the public comment from Happy Tails, a former ADI member, this is tantamount to restricting veterans to only being able to buy groceries from one chain of grocery stores and excluding them if they want to or have to buy their groceries elsewhere. The VA defends the requirement for certification by an accredited member of ADI or IGDF as a quality control measure in the best interests of a veteran rather than as a means of reducing the number of veterans who can qualify for these outstanding benefits to 100 per year.

The Final Rule informs veterans and other interested parties what things will not be covered by the VA: “the veteran is responsible for procuring and paying for any items or expenses not authorized by this section. This means that VA will not pay for items such as license tags, non-prescription food, grooming, insurance for personal injury, non-sedated dental cleanings, nail trimming, boarding, pet-sitting or dog-walking services, over-the-counter medications, or other goods and services not covered by the policy.”

Critics of the new Final Rule’s limitation on which veterans with assistance dogs would be eligible for benefits include Senator Charles Schumer from New York and the American Humane Association (AHA) and a number of veterans organizations. Most of the uproar centered on the VA’s exclusion of benefits for veterans with mental health assistance dogs.

Some did not take time to fully digest the lengthy Final Rule, as evidenced by ABC News reporter Kevin Dolak filing a report at www.abcnews.go.com on Sept. 8, 2012, stating: “The Department of Veterans Affairs will no longer cover the cost of service dogs assigned to people with mental disabilities such as post-traumatic stress disorder, according to the Federal Register.”

The petition drive launched by the AHA states: “American Humane Association, the nation’s leading advocate on behalf of animals and children, today called on the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to reverse a policy that would end a program reimbursing veterans who suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) for their use of service dogs while in recovery. The policy is set to go into effect on Oct. 5, 2012.”

End what reimbursement program? The outrage over the VA allegedly cutting out benefits for veterans with mental health service dogs for PTSD is misplaced. To the best of IAADP’s knowledge, the VA never had a program authorizing the reimbursement of costs to veterans who utilize a service dog solely to mitigate the effects of PTSD or other psychiatric disabilities.

That being said, IAADP is not unsympathetic to those protesting the VA’s refusal to provide such veterans with benefits on the basis that no evidence exists that mental health dogs can provide a medical benefit.

The VA said: “Although we do not disagree with some commenters’ subjective accounts that mental health ser-

service dogs have improved the quality of their lives, VA has not yet been able to determine that these dogs provide a medical benefit to veterans with mental illness. Until such a determination can be made, VA cannot justify providing benefits for mental health service dogs.”

To commenters who believed the proposed Rule would discriminate against veterans with mental illness, the VA took the position that: “The Rule prevents the administration of benefits for a dog to mitigate the effects of a mental illness that are not related to visual, hearing, or mobility impairments, but this restriction is not discriminating based on the fact that a veteran has a mental disability. This restriction is based on a lack of evidence to support a finding of mental health service dog efficacy.”

The VA goes on to discuss the study it is carrying out: “Indeed, if we ultimately determine that mental health dogs are appropriate treatment tools for mental health impairments, we will amend our regulations to authorize benefits for such dogs. VA is currently evaluating the efficacy of mental health service dogs, pursuant to the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010, Public Law 111-84, Sec. 1077(a) (2009) (the NDAA), which states that “the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall commence a three-year study to assess the benefits, feasibility, and advisability of using service dogs for the treatment or rehabilitation of veterans with physical or mental injuries or disabilities, including post-traumatic stress disorder.”

The VA informs the public that all the participants in this study are veterans with mental health disabilities and the service dogs for these veterans assist specifically with the effects of mental illness.

Enlightening IAADP and others on its decision to limit the Study only to veterans who want to obtain a mental health service dog, the VA said: “The NDAA study is limited to veterans with mental health illness because VA has already determined from a clinical standpoint that service dogs are effective for assisting veterans with physical disabilities and mobility impairments.”

Senator Charles Schumer disagreed with the VA’s decision to delay benefits for PTSD dogs until more research is available. In both a press conference and a letter to the VA, he has urged the VA to revise its Service Dogs ruling, which would go into effect October 5.

An article by ALPHIA Veterans Disability Advocates reports “Of the more than 2.6 million Iraq and Afghanistan veterans, an estimated 520,000 of them have or will develop PTSD.”

Schumer says, “We owe it to these vets to provide them with every recovery option possible, including service dogs, prescribed by a doctor, to help them heal.”

The news in the Final Rule that the VA does not intend to pay for service dogs for veterans will be quite a disappointment to those directly impacted. The VA stated: “As explained in the proposed rulemaking, we reiterate that we interpret the ‘may * * * provide’ language in 38 U.S.C. 1714(e) to mean that VA need not actually purchase or acquire dogs for eligible veterans. 76 FR 35162. This is consistent with VA policy, extant prior to the promulgation of this rule, concerning guide dogs for the visually impaired; VA does not purchase or obtain such dogs on behalf of veterans under the similar authority (“may provide”) in 38
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U.S.C. 1714(b). As stated previously, we simply lack the facilities and expertise to purchase or obtain, or to train service dogs for placement with veterans, and we will continue to rely on independent organizations that have been recognized as having such expertise. VA has opted instead to offer other benefits to facilitate the provision of service dogs to veterans.”

The VA also rationalizes its policy against providing service dogs by saying, “Another commenter asserted that VA should establish a ‘fee for service’ program to purchase service dogs for veterans, because such remuneration would increase availability of service dogs as well as decrease potential wait times for veterans to obtain service dogs. We do not agree that the availability of service dogs specifically for veterans is impeded by veterans’ inability to cover purchasing costs, because we understand that a majority of service dogs are acquired by veterans with little or no out of pocket cost. Therefore, we make no changes based on this comment.

“Additionally, we do not believe that a veteran’s inability to purchase a service dog would contribute to any potential wait time for that veteran to obtain a service dog. Rather, we believe that the only factors that would contribute to potential wait times for veterans to obtain service dogs would be the supply of trained and available service dogs, which is unaffected by whether such dogs can be purchased or by whom.”

This last statement seems rather disingenuous, since a shortage of funding for the steep costs involved in the acquisition, training and placement of a service dog and years of follow up services continues to drastically limit the number of service dogs that most reputable providers, including accredited ADI member programs, can make available to disabled veterans and the rest of the disabled community each year.

Many disabled veterans for whom a service dog has been recommended by their doctor or mental health professional have sought IAADP’s help in locating a reputable provider, only to discover the dismal scarcity of well-trained service dogs and with very few exceptions, the need for the applicant to help the provider with fundraising or to fund some if not all of the $10,000 to $25,000 cost out of pocket. The two largest service dog providers, Canine Companions for Independence and Paws With A Cause put their costs at $45,000 per team graduated. The only alternative is to sit on a waiting list for years as the provider struggles to raise the necessary funds to cover all the costs involved for each applicant. Or to attempt to train one’s own dog to become one’s service dog. With more funding, there is no question that many providers could increase the number of teams graduated each year.

Whether the U.S. government with its staggering debt of trillions of dollars could afford to bankroll service dogs for all the disabled veterans who might want one, is another question entirely. Service dog providers are receiving requests from Vietnam veterans, those injured in peace-keeping deployments and Desert Storm, Iraq, Afghanistan, and while training or serving on military bases worldwide. The estimated 520,000 veterans with PTSD from the war in Iraq and Afghanistan is only a small fraction of the total number of disabled veterans who could benefit from a service dog or hearing dog.

Just the cost of the benefits alone will soon run into millions of dollars per year within five years. The current cost to the VA of benefits, divided by the number of eligible veterans already enrolled last year averaged approximately $897 per team. If the VA estimate of providing benefits to 100 new veterans with assistance dogs each year from ADI and IGDF accredited schools holds true and this average cost stays the same [dubious] that is nearly $900,000 more needed next year and it will at least double every year as another 100 new veterans become eligible as soon as they graduate from an accredited ADI and IGDF school.

A number of commenters considered the figure of 100 new veterans per year wanting benefits for their assistance dog to be a gross underestimate. The VA said it based the number on the fact it received requests for benefits from 66 guide dog users and it assumes the rest of the figure of 100 would be requests from handlers of other kinds of assistance dogs.

It is to be hoped that someday more funding will become forthcoming from the private sector to dramatically increase the supply of service dogs for disabled veterans. In the meanwhile, the provision of these excellent benefits to eligible veterans through this Final Rule should at least be considered as a step in the right direction.

Your Chance to Raise Funds for IAADP

By Toni Eames

It’s so simple! Every time you shop at Save Mart, Food Maxx, Lucky’s or S-Mart Supermarkets, you can present your IAADP SHARES cards and a percentage of your purchases goes into our treasury. These grocery stores are primarily located in California and Nevada, but, even if you live in another state, you can still help. You may have friends or relatives living in these states who shop in the designated stores. Please send a stamped self-addressed envelope to Toni Eames, 3376 N. Wishon Ave., Fresno, CA 93704 with a note requesting one or more cards. I have given cards to my Lions Club, veterinary office and to all my friends and readers.

I carry my SHARES card next to my credit card and show it to the check out clerk when I pay for my purchases. A certain percentage of your bill automatically is credited to IAADP and you remain anonymous. To date through the use of the SHARES card, IAADP benefited by several hundred dollars. We could do better if you would do more! If you’ve lost your card or forgotten to use it, please remember us in 2013!
So Appreciative!

By Dorothy Davidson

Two eyes are watching me. One is blue and the other is brown but they both belong to my dog, Spirit. She is never far from my side waiting for something she can do for me and this was never more important than the other morning when at 2AM I found myself flat on a cold, tile bathroom floor tangled up in a walker and a wheelchair too sick and weak to get up. That is when I asked Spirit to “go tap help.” She went to her 911 phone, activated it and two beautiful, big EMS men came and took me to the hospital.

Spirit has been picking things up for me since she was a pup bringing me my grandson’s dirty socks but when I wanted to get her certified I turned to my friend Shelly Ferger and Dogs for Life in Vero Beach, FL to complete her training, especially the necessary public training that I was physically unable to do myself. They trained her for the 911 phone.

I could tell many stories about this dog from how many times she has retrieved my bird feeder or portable phone that fell off my porch, down the bank into the woods, to how she won the hearts of all the staff and patients at Care Partners in Asheville, NC, the rehab center where we spent two weeks after coming out of the hospital. There are no words to tell you how grateful I am to have Spirit and for the many people who have been so good to us along the way.

Dogs For Life, Inc. Founder and Executive Director, Shelly Ferger brings “Spirit” home to Dorothy Davidson.

Canadian Restaurant Fined for Discrimination

By Margie Gray

Michael Larochelle remembers the mentality of 30 years ago when persons with disabilities were forced to sit in an out of the way location, usually by the restrooms in public places to make space for the “normal” people. He thought those days were over until he went to the LaCaverne Grecque, a Prince Arthur restaurant in August 2009.

The waiter told Larochelle he had to sit at the edge of the terrace and tie up his assistance dog, Cici, so she’d be on the sidewalk. The waiter refused to look at his documentation that showed Cici was a fully-trained mobility assistance dog and insisted she be kept off the restaurant property. In 20 years using an assistance dog, he had never been confronted by such ignorance of the law and lack of consideration. Rather than argue further, Larochelle and Cici left and ate at a restaurant across the street with no problem.

The manager at LaCaverne Grecque, Bill Kourelis, said he wasn’t present during the dispute over Cici. He said he was told the problem was the waiter wanted Larochelle to change seats because he was blocking a lot of space in the middle of the patio. He maintained it had nothing to do with the dog. However, shortly after the incident, Larochelle filed a complaint with the Quebec Human Rights Commission. That was three years ago. Last week the commission ordered $1,000 punitive damages against the individual waiter and $5,000 in moral damages against the restaurant. Kourelis feels the fine is unfair and has until August 3rd to file an appeal.

Devon Wilkins, IAADP Board member and Canadian guide dog user, said “The $6000 in fines imposed doesn’t go quite far enough.” She thinks education of all the employees at the restaurant should have also been mandated.

IAADP Writing Competition

Offering Annual $50 Prize in each of 3 categories:
Best Article
Best Opinion Piece
Best Short Story or Anecdote

Entries accepted year round. Unpublished and published material welcome. Photo may accompany article, but not required.
In June 2011, I informed readers of Partners Forum the VA had decided the three year study mandated by Congress in 2009 to determine the efficacy of service dogs would focus solely on service dogs for veterans with PTSD. The VA said it had selected Shirley Groer, Ph.D., MS, at the James A. Haley VA Hospital in Tampa, Florida, as the principal investigator following its Request for Proposals.

My update summarized the particulars of the protocol given to the public in May 2011. With a start date given as May 2011, the game plan outlined was to pair 230 veterans with 230 service dogs by December 31, 2011 so the VA could survey all the participants at intervals of three, six, nine, twelve, eighteen and 24 months. The estimated primary completion date [final data collection date] was given as January 2014, with the estimated study completion date as March 2014.

A footnote from the VA informed us that as of the study’s commencement date, May 2011, the eligibility requirements for the agencies interested in providing service dogs for this purpose were not yet available.

Ultimately, two accredited ADI member providers, Freedom Service Dogs in Colorado and New Horizons Service Dogs in Florida and an unaffiliated program started in 2010, Guardian Angel Medical Service Dogs, received VA contracts. None had the capacity individually or collectively to provide 230 fully-trained service dogs before the end of 2011 so the VA researcher could adhere to survey and completion dates in her protocol.

To be fair, the original protocol from the researcher may have been based on the assumption the start date would be much earlier, permitting a full year in which to pair 230 veterans with PTSD with 230 service dogs before the commencement of the survey phase.

We recently learned only 17 veterans were paired with service dogs in the first year. The two ADI programs had dropped out in January 2012 and in August the VA broke its contract with Guardian Angel Medical Service Dogs (GAMSD) with allegations that are bitterly disputed by the founder.

The VA has announced it will start over for the sake of the veterans and “do things right.” In the Request for Information that precedes an RFP, they want to hear from programs that have placed at least 50 service dogs or those with working dogs of another kind that are willing to train service dogs. They plan to hire their own trainers for any follow up training issues. The VA seeks to know if the provider submitting information would be willing to work with the VA trainers during the team training period.

The VA indicates it would be interested in comments from anyone interested in giving the VA information even if they do not qualify to be a provider of service dogs for the study. More details from the VA can be found at: http://tinyurl.com/bsubxys.

A spokesman for Senator Franken, sponsor of the legislation that led to the VA doing the study, said, “While new pairings of veterans and service dogs have been temporarily put on hold, the study itself is ongoing with existing pairings.”

Jennifer Warsing Hampton, a graduate of Dogs for the Deaf, whose hearing dog, Hattie, was nominated for the 2012 American Humane Association’s Hero Dog Award received very good news in June of this year. She has been lobbying her state legislature to pass a bill to offer greater protection to assistance dog teams in Pennsylvania. The bill was originally introduced 14 years ago overall but after Jennifer and Hattie sustained injuries due to an unattended and off-leash dog attacking, Jennifer has been avidly involved in fighting to amend and promote this legislation since January of 2009. Her dedication to this goal bore fruit on June 13, 2012, when the bill was signed into law by Governor Corbett in the state of Pennsylvania.

While it may not contain everything we might desire on a wish list, such as spelling out that the police must take action when such an attack is reported by a disabled person for enforcement purposes, it is a big step in the right direction.

Section 1. Section 5511(a) of Title 18 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes has been amended to permit dog owners to be charged with a second or third degree misdemeanor if their dog attacks an assistance dog without provocation and the attacking dog kills, maims or disfigures a guide, hearing or service dog. The bill specifies: “A person commits an offense under this paragraph only if the person knew or should have known that the dog he owns or co-owns had a propensity to attack human beings or domestic animals without provocation.”

If found guilty, the owner or co-owner of the attacking dog can be fined up to $5,000 and shall be ordered to reimburse the disabled person for veterinary costs. Furthermore, if needed, the dog owner can be ordered to cover the costs involved in obtaining and training a successor assistance dog.

To view the new law known as Act 62 for Pennsylvania Assistance Dog Users you may do so here: http://www.legis.state.pa.us/WU01/LI/LI/US/HTM/2012/0/0062..HTM

Congratulations, Jennifer, on your perseverance and success!
PETTING – A Social Disease

By Ilene Caroom

“I don’t get it” says the new assistance dog partner. “I want my dog to be friendly, right? He loves people and people love him. What’s the harm in letting him smooch?”

The new partner is right about one thing. We do want our assistance dogs to be comfortable around people. But experienced assistance dog trainers and owners prescribe a businesslike demeanor and caution against social interaction on the job because they’ve learned – sometimes the hard way – that petting can have unforeseen consequences. Consequences not only for themselves, but for public understanding and acceptance of assistance dog access.

Let’s talk about why.

1. The green dog

We don’t need to train a dog to do what comes naturally – eat, eliminate, reproduce, lick or scratch themselves. At its simplest, training is the formation of habits that override the dog’s powerful natural impulses. No matter how smart your dog is or how quickly he learns to execute tasks, the hardest thing he has to learn is suppression of his impulses. The hardest thing for us, as trainers and working partners, is to help him do that.

Imagine trying to learn French. It’s so different from English that you can easily separate the two. But what if you were trying to learn both French and Spanish at the same time? The two romance languages have so many similarities that it’s easy to get confused in the learning stage.

Just like us, the green assistance dog is helped by clear contrast and bright line rules. Knowing exactly how to be right will give him the confidence he needs to ignore his natural impulse to please everyone he encounters and concentrate instead on the most important person in his life – you.

2. The more experienced dog

This dog’s doing great. He’s committed to his work, proudly performing his tasks with understated relish. When people coo at him, he smiles politely and keeps on going, the consummate professional. He’s learned to crave working for you more than anything else.

This is the dog that might be able to handle petting. So now you consider: Will letting someone pet him make his job easier? How? Will it benefit you? How? Why should petting be different from other impulses you’ve helped him to overcome? Would you allow him to eat off the table in some restaurants but not others? How would he know the difference? Why put him in the position of trying to figure out if he’s allowed to snuggle with this person, now, and not that person, later?

This is a good time to ponder the age old question – why do people who have lost weight stop eating well and gain it all back? Or, as generations of dog trainers have lamented – why is training so easy and maintenance so darned hard?

3. The handler

Yes, he’s your partner. But he’s not an equal partner. You decide where to go, when to arrive and depart and, in the case of directed work, what tasks he performs. You have the management job.

As your dog’s handler, are you comfortable saying, “No” to people? All of us want to be nice, but sometimes what others want is not in keeping with our best interests or that of our dogs. Public access gives us many opportunities to respond to all sorts of social pressures, from “You can’t bring that dog in here” to “But it would mean so much to my little boy to pet him, just this once.”

Not allowing petting also can save you from having to correct your dog in public if he disconnects from you and his work. If you feel bad turning down a request for petting, think how you’ll feel when a crowd gathers to hear the petter wail “it’s not his fault, I’m the one that got him onto trouble, oh, poor doggy!”

4. The Public

Welcome to the Assistance Dog Community. That’s Community with a capital “C.” You’re joining a group whose members have spent decades fighting to give you access rights with your dog. They succeeded only by convincing legislators and the public that assistance dogs were different from pets.

The trail they blazed for us had to have a clear boundary. If it didn’t, then anyone could say “Look, that dog’s acting just like my pet. Why should that dog have a special privilege?” And they’d be right.

We owe those early advocates a great debt. To honor them, we must examine our own behavior as dog handlers and ask, as they did, “Will the message I’m sending to the public make things easier for the assistance dog teams that come after me?”

5. Some practical tips

Regardless of whether or not you allow petting, it’s just a fact that some people will ignore your wishes. They’ll grab your dog, offer him food, try to attract his attention or give him commands. Here are some ideas for helping your team get through those encounters and back on track:

• People always want to know your dogs name. Why? So they can call your dog. But you can smile politely and give them a different name, one that your dog won’t answer to. Maybe one that isn’t warm and fuzzy and inviting…

• Teach your dog to freeze in position for petting. Any position will do – the key is that he act like a statue and not move or make eye contact or engage with the petter in any way. It’s no fun to pet a dog like that and most people give up quickly.

• Give your dog a target to focus on if someone touches him. The target can be visual – make eye contact with

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you, watch you pretend to blow bubbles. Or it can be a special touch – put your nose on the arm of my wheelchair, put your chin in my hand.

• Concentrate on your dog, not the petter. Treat the petter like someone who approached you while you were watching your child learn somersaults on the monkey bars.

• If you decide to allow petting, specify exactly what is allowed. “You may pet my dog once.” “You may pet my dog on his shoulder, with the flat of your hand.” Decide in advance how long the petting should last. Break it off on your schedule, not the petter’s and not your dog’s, or if either of them goes beyond what you’ve allowed.

• Practice with and without the dog to get comfortable stating and sticking to your rules. Make it fun. Bribe your friends with pizza, hire some high school kids or go to a dog training class and rehearse dealing with people who comply, people who ignore you, people who gripe about how mean you are, etc…

Good luck and…Give your dog a hug from me.

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Dogs That Have Made My Day - the funny side of training Service Dogs

By Judith Whitemarsh, President, Dynamic Dogs, Inc.

In 2002, I decided to become a trainer of dogs who helped people. While this sounds like a strange way to put it – at that time – 10 years ago – service dogs and all the types of training specialties for different disabilities that exist today and how we train dogs has moved forward with lightening speed – like technology – and did not exist at that time. Guide Dogs for the blind were still the best known. I spent a good deal of time searching out schools and courses that I felt might assist me in becoming an accomplished trainer.

After two years of traveling Canada and the United States taking various courses and workshops from some of the most famous trainers of my time, I finally felt I could move forward and take on my first client. Little did I know that I was really about to begin my true education from some very clever dogs.

When I arrived home from my last course, a friend called me and said she had an older friend, Elizabeth, who had rheumatoid arthritis – was in a wheelchair – and who was trying very hard to maintain her independence and stay home. She had a three-year old black Labrador Retriever called Licorice and she was wondering if I could train the dog to help her around the house. Plus, he was very strong on the leash which caused Elizabeth a great deal of pain.

I went and met Elizabeth and Licorice – a lovely lady – and the dog absolutely adored her. After two days of discussion about what Elizabeth would like and the testing of Licorice, I agreed that I would take on the job of training. I spent some time preparing a program for the dog, a program for Elizabeth and the dog together and studying the layout of the house for the tools to assist Licorice.

And then the training began. Licorice was a very intelligent dog but as we all know Labrador Retrievers are very enamored of food and that was about to become my downfall. She became a star pupil and within a three-month period was well versed in everything Elizabeth wanted her to do. I outfitted the fridge with a rope handle with a huge knot on the end so that she could pull the door open. She was very strong on this so we had to end up weighting the fridge at the back so she wouldn’t pull it over. As a matter of fact being commanded to open the fridge door was her favorite trick and she would do it very enthusiastically.

I was taking a weekend off from training to travel out of town. About the last thing I had to do was to train Licorice in how to assist in the grocery store. I told Elizabeth that I would be there on Monday at ten and we could go to the store that morning for our first session. I arrived to pick them up and Elizabeth was roaring with laughter. She told me this story:

She invited her children over for Sunday dinner and they had a great time. After they left, she was finishing doing the tidying up and she wrapped the leftover roast beef up, and commanded Licorice to open the fridge door. She placed the roast beef on a lower shelf and rolled her wheelchair out to the living room to watch television. Licorice came with her and laid down. About ten minutes later, Elizabeth watched the dog get up and leave the living room and heard her toenails click across the tile on the kitchen floor – she thought, “What’s going on?” – she listened to all the weird sounds and then Licorice very proudly came back into the living room and dumped the roast beef at her feet. She promptly tore at the Saran wrap – got most of it off and lay down on the living room floor to have her supper. Elizabeth said she was so freaked out that she just watched – that a dog could actually reason this out. I laughed just as hard as she did and needless to say we installed a different method for Licorice to open the fridge and added more training.

To this day, I still laugh when I think of Licorice – she was invaluable for my very first assistance dog. I have never forgotten since that time that regardless of how intelligent, strong and beautiful a dog is – a dog is still a dog – and a rump roast looks wonderful to them – hot or cold!

However, just down the road – Licorice was about to be surpassed by…”The Dog Who Wouldn’t Leave Starbucks!”
NY State Attorney General vs. Jon Sabin, Seizure Alert Dogs for Life

By Joan Froling

You may recall the publicity about a boy in Fairfax, VA whose mother went on the TODAY Show on Jan. 4, 2011 to protest the school district’s refusal to allow his new $18,000 German Shepherd from Seizure Alert Dogs for Life in the classroom. Andrew has Lennox-Gastaut syndrome, a severe form of epilepsy and wears a padded helmet to protect his head during seizures.

Viewers learned the boy had a Vagus nerve stimulator implanted in his chest. The dog wears a magnet in her collar. When Alaya jumps up to lick the boy’s face during a seizure, the magnet in her collar passes over the Vagus nerve stimulator, triggering an electric impulse to the brain to lessen the severity of the seizure.

The school district’s spokesperson had expressed concern about the ability of the twelve year old autistic boy with epilepsy to control the dog. However, by that evening, under the tremendous pressure generated by the media, school officials agreed to a three to six week trial period with one of the parents handling the dog in school.

According to the TODAYshow.com update late that night: “Jon Sabin, who runs Seizure Alert Dogs for Life, told NBC News that Alaya is ‘probably one of the most highly trained seizure response dogs in the world,’ and said in a Washington Post interview that he believed ‘what the school is doing is heartless.’ ”

The TODAYshow.com update informs readers “A human can perform the same function; in fact, shortly before their appearance on TODAY, Nancy Stevens used a magnetic wrist band on Andrew to ward off a seizure. Fairfax Schools maintains that Andrew’s special education teachers could do the same thing for Andrew. But Sabin told the Washington Post that Alaya’s reaction time in detecting a seizure is five to six seconds; a teacher might have a reaction time of 30 to 45 seconds or more.”

“And, Nancy Stevens told Lauer Tuesday, not only is that response time crucial when Andrew is having a seizure, she believes that Alaya can actually predict a seizure before it happens. Lauer noted the evidence that an epilepsy service dog can sense an oncoming seizure is inconclusive, but Stevens remains convinced.”

An update on Jan. 11, 2011 from the website, NBCwashing-ton.com, startled many readers including me when it reported the dog failed to begin the trial period that day, not because of school authorities but because the Stevens family had notified the school that the dog was in heat. Jon Sabin discussed the five year old dog’s world class pedigree when interviewed. The story ended with the statement: “Sabin said that since Andrew’s story made national news, he has received more than 40,000 emails from across the world inquiring about purchasing seizure dogs.”

The latest update on this team that I could find was published on May 4, 2011 in the Washington Post magazine online by Kris Coronado. She wrote: “After three successful weeks, school officials allowed Andrew to continue going to school on his own with Alaya starting Jan. 31. The day that the family had fought so hard for turned out to be a typical one.” She also told readers the boy’s father said Andrew’s seizures are now down to one to five daily as the dog is often able to intervene before they occur.”

IAADP wishes Andrew, who is struggling with severe disabilities, and his family nothing but the very best with their seizure response dog. Just by hugging his dog and through other interactions, the magnet will frequently come in contact with the device in Andrew’s chest. Whenever contact with a magnet coincides with the onset of seizure activity, the device sends electric signals to the brain which are said to disrupt and subdue oncoming seizures. His mother told the Today Show it can even forestall a seizure.

To my surprise, the only other story I could locate on the Internet of a satisfied customer involved a mother in Victorville, CA who initially had trouble getting a license tag for their brand new seizure response dog because the German Shepherd bitch was unspayed. The July 31, 2011 article in the Victorville Daily Press goes on to say: “According to Keri’s trainer, Jon Sabin, Keri is only one of four seizure-detection dogs in the country trained to help stop seizures by waving a magnet over a Vagus nerve stimulator implanted in the patient.

“You want the animal to remain intact because the hormones play a large role in the training of these types of animals,” he said.”

Deferring to his expertise in training service dogs, town officials accepted the explanation and provided the license tag.

In the last month of 2011, a rather fabulous year that began with catapulting Jon Sabin and his for-profit business, Seizure Alert Dogs For Life, into the national limelight ended somewhat less brightly for him, to put it mildly.

Local television coverage on Dec. 22, 2011 at www. wwnytv.com shared the bitterness of a family in Kansas over the dog they’d worked so hard to raise $15,000 to buy. The mother said the dog turned out to be nothing but a pet. The dog not only failed to perform the promised task, biting a cell phone to call 911, the mother said he sometimes became sexually excited when her teenage daughter had a seizure or simulated one in accordance with Sabin’s instructions, which further traumatized her daughter.

The article on the television station’s website also reports: “A Colorado foundation gave grants to seven families to buy seizure dogs from Sabin. According to its president, all seven said the dogs were failures.

“He would start blaming the families for the dogs not working out and he was very vicious, in my opinion, in how he attacked these families,” said Chelsea Hutchinson Foundation President Julie Hutchinson.”

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NY State Attorney General vs. John Sabin
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“None of the families 7 News has heard from have gotten their money back and complaints are now being filed with the New York Attorney General.”

From ongoing coverage in the Watertown Daily Times, I learned that the New York State Attorney General had received more than a dozen consumer complaints from Washington, Colorado, Kansas, New York and Massachusetts in December 2011. The investigation led to swift action.

The indictment which runs over 20 pages in length from the Office of the State Attorney General alleges among other things that Jon Sabin provided dogs which did not alert minutes in advance to seizures and dogs which did not perform other tasks they were supposedly trained to do. It discussed the fact he did not disclose the history of aggression, health problems and failed placements in some of the dogs sold to new clients. He also is said to have fabricated endorsements on his website.

The Watertown Daily Times went on to inform readers that Assistant Attorney General Deanna R. Nelson accused Mr. Sabin of being unqualified and not properly taking steps to train the animals. She wrote in the petition that Mr. Sabin falsely represented the dogs as highly trained.

Ms. Nelson asked Judge Demarest to direct Mr. Sabin to return all money he has acquired through selling canines as service dogs and to hold a hearing where a proper amount of restitution can be determined.

She asked the judge to require Mr. Sabin to pay a civil penalty of no less than $5,000 per animal, and also to stop all promotion of his company. She also asked that the company be dissolved.

In January 2012, the Watertown Daily Times reported that State Supreme Court Judge David Demarest suspended Sabin’s right to sell dogs through his business. On March 15, an article by Josh Trove in the Watertown Daily Times told readers the State Supreme Court judge signed a show-cause order that required the owner of the South Colton dog training company to explain why he shouldn’t be fined thousands of dollars and have the business closed for allegedly duping clients. That piece ends with the news “Since the investigation began, Mr. Sabin has posted a disclaimer on his website that the canines he sells may not alert to seizures.”

On April 2, 2012, the Watertown Daily Times article revealed Judge Demarest leaned toward agreeing with Ms. Nelson during the hearing.

Judge David R. Demarest said he wants to see one of Mr. Sabin’s satisfied customers.

Judge Demarest said this wasn’t a simple contract issue because some clients depended on the service to keep their children safe and alive.

On Sept. 12, 2012, the Watertown Daily Times broke the news that Sabin filed a 75 Million Dollar lawsuit claiming violations of his constitutional rights and the Americans With Disabilities Act. Jon Sabin named Attorney General Eric T. Schneiderman, Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo and Assistant Attorney General Deanna R. Nelson in the lawsuit, which was filed in U.S. District Court.

According to one of his lawyers, “We’re no longer negotiating a settlement in the matter,” Ms. Narang said. “There was a violation of his rights and he wants to move forward in getting that discussed in the public.”

“The state has been trying to curb my speech. That’s why it’s a First Amendment claim,” Mr. Sabin said. “I don’t have the right to speak out against the New York state attorney general.”

Mr. Sabin vowed to take his case to the appeals court and, if necessary, to petition the U.S. Supreme Court.

“(Ms. Nelson) thinks she has global jurisdiction, or assumes she does, but she does not,” Mr. Sabin said. “Now it’s time to let the federal courts determine what is really a service dog, not the New York Attorney General based on fraudulent claims.”

Mr. Sabin denies claiming the canines could warn of impending seizures and said owners who complained about their dogs’ behavior did not follow proper care and obedience training, instead treating them “like pets.”

“If the client makes a statement that the dog does alert to the seizure, that’s the client making the statement, not me,” Mr. Sabin said. “There was no false or misleading advertising.”

Is Sabin completely innocent as he claims, of leading any client to believe a dog could be trained to detect the changes indicating an impending seizure like dogs with a natural ability to alert in advance to a seizure will do?

The owner of Seizure Alert Dogs for Life is quoted on the topic of seizure alerting in an article dated Jan. 22, 2010 found through a google search http://fredericksburg.com/News/FLS/2010/012010/01222010/522667. It was written by Cathy Dyson, titled “Seizure-alert dog would help Joshua.” North Stafford family is trying to raise money for a service dog to help their son who had three serious seizures in eighteen months.

To summarize:

Dyson reports: “The thought of what might happen if 4-year-old Joshua had a grand mal seizure at night, when she and her husband, Army Maj. Jeff Howell, were asleep, was too much to bear.

Joshua has dozens of petit mal seizures daily, during which he stares into space for a few minutes. But during the more violent grand mals, he blacks out, has convulsions and vomits.

“If he has a seizure at night,” Caitlin said, tears welling up in her eyes, “he’s going to drown.”

She told Dyson that a service dog would be Joshua’s constant companion – and be trained to alert his parents if a seizure is coming.

The dog also would help Joshua get into a safe place and keep him there until he recovers.

What Caitlin Howell liked most about the idea was that the dog would push Joshua on his side during a seizure to keep his airways open.

“That sold me,” she said.

Some dogs have an innate ability to sense a seizure, said Jon Sabin, owner of Seizure Alert Dogs for Life. Researchers believe there’s a change in a person’s behavior or scent that signals an oncoming episode.

Other dogs can be trained to detect the changes, said Sabin, who lives in New York. [bold print added by IAADP’s editor]

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Sabin went on say that Joshua would be the youngest recipient of a dog from Seizure Alert Dogs for Life of the 32 he had placed prior to Jan. 2010.

Cathy Dyson reported the couple needed to raise $15,000 for Sabin to train a West German Show Line German Shepherd for the family, the only breed he uses. Their credit cards were maxed out on specialists, therapy, medication and dietary supplements. She detailed Caitlin’s urgent efforts to raise the funds and quotes a neighbor saying she’d never seen anyone so driven.

The mother of the four year old autistic boy with epilepsy did not want her husband to worry about their son’s safety when deployed again by the Army to Iraq or Afghanistan. “He needs to have his head in the game and not be thinking about what’s going on back home,” Caitlin Howell said. “A service dog will help him do that.”

The International Association of Assistance Dog Partners (IAADP) does not dispute the evidence that some dogs have the ability to sense an impending seizure and exhibit behavior before a seizure occurs which can serve as “an alert.” Rather, it is Sabin’s statement that, “Other dogs can be trained to detect the changes,” which gives me, the public and frightened parents like Caitlin the impression this is a trainable task.

Thousands of persons with epilepsy would love to obtain a dog trained to alert them to an impending seizure in time for them to get to a safe place before the seizure strikes. Unfortunately, nonprofit members of Assistance Dogs International, which tried to figure out a way to teach normal dogs to perform this function since the early 1990s, have never succeeded in developing a step by step method that other providers could replicate to provide such dogs. I admire the pioneering programs whose representatives shared information about their experimental efforts at ADI and IAADP conferences since 1994 and with me when I interviewed them. The general consensus today continues to be that it is NOT possible to teach dogs to reliably alert minutes, even hours, in advance of a seizure.

What may be possible when a provider identifies a dog who will alert naturally to an impending seizure is to try to change the way a dog alerts, through training, from barking, growling, fleeting the room or racing around the house in nervous excitement or knocking the client down, etc. into a more socially acceptable alert behavior for dogs whose handlers will have public access rights. This might be a nose nudge or pawing their partner’s leg or jumping up to get their partner’s attention.

IAADP’s Information & Advocacy Center also receives many inquiries from families seeking a dog who will alert them during a loved one’s seizure, especially at night. I share the information gleaned from an IAADP conference workshop put on by Paws With Cause, a provider with many years experience placing seizure response dogs. I also share input from other reputable sources, detailing the tasks that a seizure response dog might be taught to perform during or after certain kinds of seizures to earn a reward.

A very important caveat is that dogs dwell in the Here & Now. It is unrealistic to expect them to imagine and comprehend the potential danger to a human if they fail to perform as desired because they are dozing or preoccupied with an interesting distraction like a neighbor letting his dogs outdoors or for some other reason do not happen to be in the right mood to earn a treat and praise.

Giving a mere dog the responsibility for monitoring the safety of an infant, child or adult with a seizure disorder while everyone is sleeping or mom is downstairs in the belief the dog without a command will run to alert them every time a seizure occurs, the way Lassie would rush to alert a family member that Timmy just fell down the well, is playing Russian Roulette at best, no matter how much training a dog is given. Parents need to know a dog is not an adequate substitute for a human caregiver. I believe providers have a moral obligation to be very clear on that point so a parent can make a better informed decision as to how to handle the risk of a nocturnal seizure in a child like Joshua that could result in his death from aspirating on vomit.

Sabin’s lawyer insists the consumer complaints are nothing but a contractual dispute. Per the article in the NY Daily Observer-Courier on Aug. 24, 2012, Mr. Sabin faces accusations that he falsely advertised dogs as capable of detecting trouble minutes before an epileptic seizure occurs.

Mr. Sabin contends that he did not make such promises. “I never advertised that the dogs can alert to seizure,” he said. “There’s nothing in our contracts.”

Mr. Sabin said the owners who have complained did not handle the high-energy breed correctly.

In the event of a seizure, Mr. Sabin said, the dogs are trained to alert medical authorities, a service he said has saved his life several times as he also suffers from epilepsy.

“What happens is this – if you bond with the dog and the dog gets nervous, the toy is the phone case,” he said. “The dog starts picking up on cues, then it bites on a phone case.”

A client who is waiting for delivery of a dog she paid thousands of dollars for in January 2012 told Darren Ankrom who wrote that article on Aug. 24th that she is aware of Sabin’s legal troubles, but she does not care. She wants the dog, which he says is trained and ready to go to her in New Mexico.

“She entered into a contract. It’s her property,” Mr. Sabin said. “But if I get on a plane and fly that dog, they’ll put me in jail for contempt of court.”

“If this woman dies because her medical equipment isn’t there, who do they charge?” he added.

The article began with the news this client had dropped her 13 month old baby on his head on a concrete floor during her last seizure. Ankrom wrote “Though the baby was not hurt, Ms. Macias, who suffers from severe epilepsy, said the situation could have been avoided.

‘None of this would have happened if I had my dog here,’ she said.”

The reporter concludes the article with, “If she does receive Yetti, Ms. Macias expects several benefits.

‘It would make me more independent. It would make me able to stay alone with my children,’ she said. ‘I would be able to drive places without relying on my family to drive me everywhere. They wouldn’t have to worry about me as much as they do.’”

How can she drive a car with severe epilepsy?

The sad fact she dropped her baby on a cement floor in continued on page 16...
stead of setting the child down for safety’s sake prior to the seizure indicates she is not one of the lucky ones who experience any sort of aura such as a telltale change in vision before the seizure strikes.

The only thing that makes sense is that she is convinced this new dog will ensure she is no longer a deadly menace whenever she drives a car. Why?

Sabin repeatedly disputes the state attorney general’s charge that he led some clients to believe the dog he sold them would be able to alert in advance to a seizure by as much as a minute or more. He tells reporters the dog may bite a cell phone during a seizure to call medical authorities. Is it mere semantics? How can she be sure the dog will perform the cell phone task far enough in advance during a seizure to give her time to pull over and park before she blacks out? She will be gambling not just with her life but with that of passengers, other motorists and pedestrians every time she goes for a drive on her own with this dog and her children. It is a terrifying prospect.

One can only hope Sabin contacted her after he read about her expectations in the August 24th article so he could educate her on the folly of going for drives by herself and attempting child care alone after Yetti is delivered.

The article in the Watertown Daily Times on Sept. 12, 2012 noted that “Within his lawsuit, Mr. Schneiderman alleges that ‘none of the families who purchased dogs from Sabin were satisfied with the dogs’ training or ability’ and that, in April 2011, the mother of a recipient reported that the dog had attacked and bitten her and her son. This is one of several alleged aggressive instances documented in the 25-page lawsuit.”

Sabin’s $75,000,000 lawsuit against state officials argues that the Americans with Disabilities Act – which he said requires seizure dogs need only be “individually trained to perform a task beyond a reasonable doubt” – supersedes state laws governing seizure dog training and the controversy surrounding his canines.

“The New York Attorney General should leave everything up to the federal government when it comes to medical equipment and service animals,” Mr. Sabin said.

Will Mr. Sabin’s countersuit succeed in muddying the waters by shifting the focus to an alleged violation of his first amendment rights or the ADA vs. State Rights in federal court?

The consumer protection efforts of New York’s Assistant State Attorney General, Ms. Nelson could have far reaching benefits. If this provider is forced to make restitution and/or fined $5,000 per dog as a civil penalty for each one who failed the trusting families who invested in them, it might usher in a new era of accountability in the United States.

However, before we went to press, I did one more round of internet research and discovered a new legal twist to the case in a story filed on October 19, 2012, in the Watertown Daily Times. The staff reporter, Martha Ellen, revealed Sabin sold his company for the sum of one dollar to a Canadian. He denies this is an end run around Judge Demarest. He insists it is a way for him to continue to help people. He refused to reveal the name of the buyer or website domain because he does not want the individual to have to face the media, but concedes he will tell Judge Demarest if asked.

Martha Ellen tells readers that Mr. Sabin said he is training a handful of dogs in an unidentified location in Quebec and is considering shipping the animals, once his former company sells them, out of either Montreal or Burlington, VT. No dogs have yet been shipped and Mr. Sabin said he is not being paid.

“We’re waiting for some of this to be over in court,” he said. “We’ll see what the judge says.”

She ends her article with the quote: “Ms. Nelson and the state do not have global jurisdiction over him, Mr. Sabin said. “She can’t control me working in a foreign country,” he said.”

Sending My Puppy Off… to College!

By Patti Brehler

Patti Brehler is a freelance writer/photographer for her local paper, The Ogemaw County Voice in northeastern Michigan. She is also a volunteer puppy-raiser and puppy-counselor for Leader Dogs for the Blind. She wrote this article for Partner’s Forum when she was about to turn in her fourth puppy, Scout.

We Are Ready:

The sky gently weeps as buses pull into the unloading area at Rose City Elementary on the first day of school. Fresh new kindergartners grasp their mothers’ hands. One mother coaxes her little girl along. She looks a little shell-continued on page 17...
Overcoming Fear

FLD Scout was nine-months old when she and I, and another puppy-raiser with her six-month old yellow Labrador, gave Leader Dog presentations at Surline Middle School. We had 20 minutes each with five classrooms of second-graders.

“Hold your fists like this and try to look through,” I’d tell the students. “That’s all that some people can see. Don’t say ‘park’ too loud! What should you do when you see a dog like Scout wearing a jacket? Yep, that’s right, nothing.”

As a reward for sitting still, we offered to let the kids file past our puppies for gentle petting. But they were like a tsunami. By the end of the third class, Scout was cowering behind me trying to escape. I moved her away from the fracas. “You can pet the yellow puppy, but can you see how scared Scout is? We’ll just let her be, okay?” The younger pup was in her glory.

I now had a mission – help Scout get past her newfound fears.

Luckily, Mrs. Matthews’ second-grade class adopted us. Through the end of the school year, Scout and I visited the kids and served as chaperones on field trips to a local greenhouse, a bus ride for an afternoon swim in the high school pool, and a picnic in the town’s park. During the trip to the greenhouse she turned her head toward me when the kids approached to pet her but held her sit and put up with their attention. At the pool, Scout readily came to the edge to sniff a boy who was clinging to the ladder. He left the safety of the ladder and moved along the edge to be closer to her.

One Friday evening at the end of June, while wandering the streets during a downtown festival, one of Mrs. Matthews’ students came running up behind us, screaming, “Scouty!!!!” The girl had forgotten everything she had learned from our presentation. She lunged at Scout with a little-girl bear hug and buried her face in her silky black fur. I was startled, but Scout took it all in stride. Desensitization paid off!

Another event in July confirmed that Scout was past her fear reactions.

Leader Dogs offers volunteer puppy-counselors as liaisons between raisers and the organization. Counselors organize puppy outings and help answer raisers’ questions and concerns. Every year Leader Dogs brings the counselors to campus for three days of training. Scout and I attended this training – a unique opportunity to live in the Polk Residence Center, just like the clients who come to be paired with their dogs.

One afternoon during training, the thirty-nine puppy counselors and their puppies or breeding stock were seated at long tables in a conference room. Our two instructors and their puppies sat at a table facing the group. The energy in the room was calm and relaxed, just as it should be.

One of the instructors had a three-month old puppy asleep under her seat. Out of the blue the puppy – startled from his nap – screamed. A stocky black Lab “dad” under a table in the back of the room leapt up with a throaty “bark!” and raced forward to the rescue. His handler lunged for his leash. The entire room erupted in a flurry of barks and howls. The long table in the back tipped forward, spilling notebooks, pens, hard candy, and an open can of soda to the floor. The can hit the carpet and exploded like a geyser.

Scout and I were sitting right in front of the crashing table. She stood up and took a step back, but did not panic or bark. We both watched the mayhem in amazement. It only lasted about a minute and then the room quieted. I was pleased to see this example of Scout’s confidence amidst chaos.

Food Diving and Random Stops

When Scout turned one in July, I scheduled her return to Leader Dogs for September. With two months to go, I’ve felt myself slide into a holding pattern. I now know she’s continued on page 18...
Sending My Puppy Off To College!
Continued from page 17

pasting forward. I could utilize the "touch" technique if I would repeat this until Scout became more interested in me than the temptation on the floor. I could try moving my route to give greater distance. I could also pause and offer calm praise for looking at me instead of the temptation, then hand her morsels of food as I praised. I had the skills to effectively deal with them.

First – although Scout is a Labrador/Golden Retriever mix – like most Labs, Scout thinks every little speck that looks like food on the floor is something for her to inhale. A simple "leave it" and she’ll give me a quick glance, then return like a heat-seeking drone to the target.

Second, Scout has developed a propensity to stop for no apparent reason while we are walking. She doesn’t have to "park." She isn’t tired. Her baffling stops occur in stores, out of stores, along city sidewalks or country roads. There is no rhyme or reason.

At counselor training I asked our Leader Dog instructors for guidance on the food diving problem. They showed me how to plan my actions prior to coming upon a temptation. I could try moving my route to give greater distance. I could also pause and offer calm praise for looking at me instead of the temptation, then hand her morsels of food as I praised. I would repeat this until Scout became more interested in me than the temptation on the floor. I could utilize the “touch” command to divert her attention to my hand and keep moving forward.

After my attempts to problem-solve the “random stops” behavior were unsuccessful, I asked my puppy-counselor to work with Scout to see if she could determine what was up. “I think she’s bored,” was her report.

Perhaps Scout is bored. I realized she most often stops out of stores, along city sidewalks or country roads. There is no rhyme or reason.

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A Tail To Tell
By Toni Eames

Once again I write to you with a change in my family makeup. The doors to my heart for my elderly nursing home cats had closed and I needed to think about new adoptees.

I didn’t want to think kittens with their high energy level, so considered browsing the Valley Animal Center, the shelter from which Nifty, Bonzie and Bambi were selected. However, life has a way of playing tricks on us. My friend Janet told me about a young totally blind kitten who was rescued from a horse barn and pleaded with me to check her out. I couldn’t resist, since I am totally blind. Meadow, as I named her, was friendly and completely comfortable with my active and retired guide dogs.

Meadow is fearless, quickly learning her way around the house, and grooming the dogs when she encounters them. She greets each visitor as if he/she is here to attend a party as Meadow’s guest!

Several weeks after Meadow’s arrival, I was asked to foster three indoor cats when their family’s house caught on fire. The youngest was an orange and white kitten a few weeks older than Meadow. As you can guess, he joined my family and I named him Yancha, playful in Japanese. The two kittens are fabulous together, wrestling and chasing each other. If Meadow misses the mark, she picks herself up and keeps going. Yancha, as I feared, can become a flying squirrel at times and has broken several knickknacks, but I forgive him everything when he follows me around and cuddles at night! At a time in my life when I still grieve for my late husband Ed, it is joyous to have these two wondrous felines in my life!

I love visitors. Barbara Eves is a veterinarian with our VCP administrator, Nutramax Laboratories. Barbara was at a veterinary conference in Las Vegas, so it was a short trip to come to Fresno. The evening she arrived we had a quick dinner at home, and then took off to see the musical play Hair Spray. I enjoyed the fifties style music, but I wasn’t thrilled with the play. Barbara enjoyed it far more than I did.

The next day we had breakfast with friends and went tocontinued on page 19...
puppy-raiser Mary Flynn’s home so my Goldens, Keebler and Latrell had the opportunity to play in a fenced yard. The evening entertainment was a folk concert. Rick Shea was fine, but Mary McCaslin, although a great song writer, was a poor singer.

Saturday morning we joined Mary Harris’ puppy-raising group on their weekly outing. I waited in a cozy Starbucks reading a braille magazine, while Barbara followed the group around. Mary explained to her why the puppies needed to learn about open stairways, sidewalk grates, leash relieving, etc. Barbara was impressed with the level of obedience even the youngest puppies demonstrated. If only pet dogs could achieve such discipline!!

When the group completed their exercise, they gathered outside the restaurant and serenaded Keebler’s tenth birthday. I always enjoy mingling with the puppy-raisers and admire their dedication.

The evening entertainment was the play, When We Are Married. It takes place in England in the early 1900s. The cast did a good job of keeping up the British accents, and maybe it was because I was exhausted and falling asleep, but I just couldn’t concentrate on the plot.

Debbie Prieto joined us for breakfast Sunday morning and before we knew it, Barbara left for the airport. It was sad to see her go, but after she left, I took a long nap!

I’ve been talking for months about getting new rugs and having the downstairs painted, and I finally did it. I selected the carpet and the painter, and I started packing books, files, dolls, ceramics, records, tapes, etc. I rented a pod which was parked outside my townhouse, and the painter and his crew moved the boxes inside. My friend Ed Ferguson unplugged the electronics and reconnected the computer, televisions and stereo a week later.

The animals and I moved in with Marsha Eichholtz and husband Doug Low and their household of furries for the four days of redecoration. The dogs enjoyed the fenced yard, but I was especially proud of the kittens. Meadow couldn’t wait to explore the new house and Yancha enjoyed meeting the new dogs and climbing on all the high perches. Although things were a bit chaotic for a few weeks after we returned home, I am so glad I tackled this enormous job. My friends say the house looks fresh and new!

With the support of Hill’s Pet Nutrition, I traveled to several veterinary schools last year to deliver the message assistance dogs need specific attention to maintain their working health. I also acquaint the audience with comfortable patterns of interactions relating to different disabilities.

Since my mobility is now limited by severe back pain and I often need to be pushed in a wheelchair, Fresno friend Debbie Prieto is my travel companion. In April, we flew to Columbus, Ohio where I combined visits with friends with my lecture schedule.

Just prior to leaving Fresno, Keebler began showing signs of having a urinary tract infection. My girl, who can usually hold her urine for a long time, needed to go out urgently and frequently. Since her symptoms were getting worse and I would be lecturing Thursday afternoon at The Ohio State Veterinary School, I made an appointment to see the doctor. I figured I’d incorporate the experience with the presentation. The fourth year student who first examined Keebler was excellent, letting me know what he was doing every step of the way. To make a long story short, she did have a UTI and was placed on a course of antibiotics. The staff was impressed with her calm demeanor and her weight (she weighs the same as she did when she graduated from Guide Dogs for the Blind eight years ago) and her calm demeanor.

We flew from Columbus to St. Louis, Missouri where we were hosted by Mark and Peggy Holly, a couple I met on my first trip to South Africa. Mark drove us to Columbia where I met Dr. Karen Shenoy, the Hill’s liaison who arranged the lunch presentation to the veterinary students.

That evening we saw a fabulous play called Killer Joe. The play featuring five outstanding actors was relatively easy for me to follow with a minimum of visual help from Peggy.

Saturday we took Debbie to see the famous Arch, Gateway to the West. While Peggy and I stayed downstairs, Mark and Debbie rode up in the elevator capsule where Mark could remark on the points of interest they were seeing. Peggy and I toured a little museum where I was allowed to handle some of the artifacts such as animal skins and a Native American robe. I love introducing Debbie to things and places she later sees on television and brags she was there!

I finished out my vet school lecture series with a trip to Kansas and Nebraska in September. When we landed in Manhattan, Kansas, we were met by Pat Payne, the veterinarian who sat in on a lecture given by Ed and me several years ago which inspired Pat to become a puppy-raiser. Her current charge is yellow Lab, Champagne, from KSDS. Keebler found his puppy exuberance a bit overwhelming when they romped in the fenced yard.

Pat’s home is incredibly comfortable and so much nicer than a hotel!

Dr. Ronnie Elmore, Associate Dean, arranges each year for me to speak to his class on diversity. It’s a good group of interested students and I enjoy the interaction.

In the afternoon, we explored a new museum focusing on the history and geology of Kansas. After dinner, Debbie and I went off with Pat to the local firehouse to sit in on a presentation about disaster planning and animal rescue. I had the opportunity to practice on the stuffed mechanical dog and cat. I learned to find Keebler’s pulse and let others use her as a live model! It was a valuable lesson, one I hope never to need to use in reality!

Friday morning, Ronnie drove us to Topeka to meet Bill Acree for breakfast. Bill and his then wife Karen were the founders of KSDS, and Ed and I were early consultants. Our first trip to Washington, Kansas in 1990 or ’91 was a real eye-opener. It was a look at rural America totally unfamiliar to us urbanites! It was great seeing Bill and catching up on our lives.

We spent the bulk of the weekend in Lenexa, Kansas with Suzanne Andrews and her family. The highlight was an Irish folk concert where two of her children danced for the audience.

On Sunday Suzanne and her daughter Katie drove us to Lincoln, Nebraska where we were guests of Penny Gillett Silvius and her husband Eric.

Ed and I met Penny shortly after moving to Fresno. She was a wheelchair user as a result of multiple sclerosis and worked with a service dog named Francine. Penny and Francine are prominently mentioned in our book, Partners.
A Tail to Tell
Continued from page 19

in Independence. When her precious dog died, Ed and I helped her obtain Sushi, her now 14-year-old service dog. Penny has a gorgeous house on eight acres, but silly Keebler did not take advantage of running in the fenced yard. In Keebler’s mind, yards are for relieving and houses are for playing! Suzanne and Katie had a three-hour drive back to Lenexa, so they didn’t stay long.

The next day, Eric drove us to the U of Nebraska for my Hill’s-sponsored presentation to the veterinary students. The lecture was simulcast to the students at Iowa State. Penny was able to attend with Sushi when her personal assistant drove her to the university. We had to leave immediately after the lecture to make our flight back to Fresno, only to find a huge delay at the airport. If I had known, I could have stayed around to chat with folks.

My last trip was a six-hour drive to San Diego with veterinary technician friend Lynn Danell where I was to give three presentations at the American Veterinary Medical Association convention.

We stopped off for a visit with IAADP Board member Glen Gregos and his wife Ellen. They treated us to yummy lunch and dinner barbecues and delightful conversations. Although the pool was right there, the non-swimming Keebler did not indulge!

Renewed by a good night’s sleep and a delicious breakfast, we completed the drive, and met up with long-time friend Dr. Carin Smith and her entomologist partner Andy at the San Diego Safari Park. I chose to leave Keebler in a safe and comfortable kennel because there were so many restricted areas where she was not allowed. After a light lunch, we did a bit of walking around sightseeing with Lynn, Carin and Andy taking turns pushing me in the wheelchair. Two narrated tram rides gave my companions a view of the Asian and African animals in the park. It was like being back in South Africa where I took my enjoyment from the reactions of the people around me. My Golden girl was calm and peaceful, but very happy to be reunited with Lynn and me at the end of our tour.

I couldn’t be in San Diego without visiting Pawsitive Teams. Charli King and Carol Davis started with a dream and developed their program into a splendid reality. They and their volunteer trainers take young puppies and not only socialize them, but train their service skills until they are ready for placement with a person with physical disabilities. The team training is in the San Diego area and is monitored over a period of time until the team is comfortable together.

Next on the social agenda was a visit with Bob Walker and Frances Mooney famous for their Cats’ House. Bob is a photographer/carpenter and his wife Frances is an artist. They transformed their home into a paradise for their cats. You may have seen them on television or read about them in magazines. Their colorful home has overhead walkways and tunnels cutting through walls and closets. There are stairs and ramps and climbing poles where the cats can chase one another or rest on overhead platforms. I met this interesting couple several years ago at a meeting of the Cat Writers. I’ve heard and read about their home, but it was great fun to touch the various hidey-holes and escape hatches!

After sharing a yummy seafood dinner with these incredible cat lovers, Lynn and I headed back to the hotel, we thought! Actually, Lynn missed the sign saying last exit before entering Mexico and, without the ability to turn around, we were on the path to Tijuana. Lynn tried to explain to the Mexican border crossing guard she had made a wrong turn, but he did not speak English. We knew we had arrived in Mexico because the atmosphere was so different. Music blasted from everywhere and beggars implored us to save their children from starvation. Lynn wasn’t scared; just irritated over the circumstances.

As the passenger, I found the whole event amusing! We needed to find a gas station before lining up for the slow-moving line back to the U.S. Somehow Lynn got into another lane, but she was pulled over for an extensive inspection. Her driver’s license and my ID card were taken and run through the CIA or FBI files. Drug sniffing and police dogs roamed the area but did not approach our vehicle. The American Customs officer opened the doors to Lynn’s SUV and questioned how long we had been in Mexico and what we purchased. Lynn explained we didn’t intend to be there, but it must be a common statement of drug smugglers, because we were warned that the car could be confiscated and a $5,000 fine could be levied if we did this too often. Lynn assured the officer we had no intentions of doing it again. I was curious, but never got to ask, how often constitutes too often, for the fine! We were dismissed with the warning and did not get stuck in the wall to wall car traffic in the other lane. Lynn was glad to find the hotel and it was early to bed for us!

My two presentations to the Human Animal Bond Veterinarians on Sunday and the one to the diversity segment on Monday went well. I got to see old friends and make new contacts for IAADP.

My friend Laura Otis with service dog Zoë has long hoped I could meet her third grade class and talk to the children about blindness and guide dogs. Her school wasn’t out of the way on our drive home to Fresno, so I had an enjoyable interaction with her students.

Lynn was a real trouper about pushing me in the wheelchair, but I had a big wakeup call that this was my future if I didn’t take more drastic steps. The medications are not working and I don’t want to get involved with narcotics. I am tired and forgetful enough on the Topiramate and Cymbalta I am currently taking. I feel I am cheating Keebler of her career as guide dog. I am motivated to avoid surgery and will be enrolled as an out patient in the Rosomoff Comprehensive Rehabilitation Pain Center in Miami, Florida for the month of November. Keebler will be an active part of my therapy. I can’t wait to tell you about my recovery in the next issue of Partners Forum.

MEMBERSHIP QUERIES?
CHANGE OF ADDRESS or DOG?
Contact Membership Coordinator at
888-54-IAADP 888-544-2237
membership@iaadp.org
I have experienced the joy and beauty of being partnered with a guide dog for 15 years now. I am so grateful for the freedom and independence that my two guides have given me. Over those years I have had many opportunities to educate people about the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and how it applies to guide dogs. For example, I recall being told to leave a grocery store and having the manager actually call the police. What evolved from that was that the owner took responsibility for his error and enforced training for all his employees. I taught them about the ADA and the many services that a guide dog and other service animals can offer. Each experience, especially when I can “turn lemons into lemonade” like that, has increased my confidence and my belief in the importance of advocating.

My experience that started on June 15, 2012, has furthered my journey of advocacy for myself and others. On this beautiful summer day I walked into the new Ann Taylor store in the City Creek Center shopping district of Salt Lake City with my guide dog, Cricket. I told Cricket, “Find the stairs,” then “left,” “right,” and “inside” into the store. I recall walking into the store with a smile on my face, feeling a sense of accomplishment because I had found this new store by myself, although I was prepared to ask for a little shopping assistance before meeting my husband for lunch.

What unfolded next was different than past access denials. This is what I posted on my blog, Cruisin’ with Cricket, the next day:

“Cricket and I navigated into the store. I was so excited. Unfortunately, I was greeted by a clerk with her first words indicating I needed to leave the store with my dog. I politely explained that she was a guide dog and allowed to be here. She indicated again dogs were not allowed and she would need to talk to her store manager. Unfortunately, the manager also was not too helpful and indicated that dogs were not allowed.

I knew there were other people there as well, and I felt really alone. No one stood up and said, “This is a guide dog; she can be in this store.” I again explained she was a guide dog and allowed to be here. At this point, I found myself just wanting to leave and go to another store where I was welcome. I turned and said, “Cricket outside.”

One of the clerks came out after me and said she was sorry, she liked dogs. I explained that it isn’t about whether one likes or doesn’t like dogs. Cricket is my guide dog and thanks to the Americans with Disabilities Act she is allowed to enter Ann Taylor and any other public place that we want to go. She is my eyes.”

I felt stunned and humiliated. My husband returned and spoke with the store manager and made an effort to educate them again on the ADA. He also told them, “You’ve kicked out a very loyal, frequent shopper who has a closet full of your clothes.” Immediately, my daughter, Natalie, contacted Ann Taylor via Twitter, sending this tweet: “Seriously @AnnTaylor at @CityCreekCenter did you really just kick out my blind mom and her guide dog? Ugh. She’s one of your top customers!”

Ann Taylor tweeted right back, saying, “Please email us so that we can take care of this as soon as possible!” Natalie contacted corporate offices and was told that they would investigate and get back to her. Realizing that much education is still needed, I posted about the experience on my blog, hoping to turn this negative into a positive.

Four days later, when my daughter still had not gotten an answer from Ann Taylor’s corporate headquarters, she tipped off The Consumerist, a nonprofit consumer advocacy blog, and they ran a story. This is when my experience reached beyond the boundaries of Salt Lake City and throughout the country. Within a day of The Consumerist story, The Huffington Post, Jezebel, and several other prominent media outlets were sharing my access denial story.

While my initial hope on June 15 was to go shopping in a new store, my experience inside the store had become a conversation point throughout the country! People were talking and commenting about the ADA. Five days after the incident, I was interviewed by KSL-TV – a local NBC affiliate. The news segment was very well done. My husband and I watched the segment and were thrilled with the exposure and education on the ADA. Unfolding before me was the realization that what happened at Ann Taylor wasn’t all about me. This was about all of us who face this type of discrimination.

Unfortunately, the situation took an additional turn when Catherine Fisher, Vice President of Corporate Communications at Ann Taylor, issued a statement that said: “When this customer entered the store with an unharnessed dog, the associate did not realize it was a guide dog. Upon realizing her error, she apologized and said the guide dog could stay in the store.”

This felt like an attack on my character as a responsible guide dog handler. Of course, my guide had her harness on! I was appalled and humiliated that they issued a false statement not only to the news station but also throughout the internet; it appeared on The Consumerist, The Huffington Post, Jezebel, and elsewhere. Further, readers who had advocated on my behalf and sent emails to Ann Taylor either received this statement indicating that my dog was not in harness or never received a response at all.

Then Fisher issued a follow-up statement: “In our previous statement we said that her guide dog was unharnessed. This was not the case. We were misinformed. …We are reaching out to Mrs. Andrews and her family to make this situation right.” We don’t know how or why they now changed to the truth, but this statement was not sent to all the people who had previously received the false statement, including the thousands who read Ann Taylor’s initial falsification of my experience.

David Seinicrope, Vice President – Director of Stores for Ann Taylor, called six days after the incident. He apolo- continued on page 22...
gized for my being kicked out of the store. I explained that the store had discriminated by not allowing me in and done further damage to my credibility as a person and as a responsible guide dog team by issuing a totally false statement. I said this took away from the discussion of the real issue of access rights. Instead, I had to explain and defend that my dog was in harness. I hung up the phone feeling like he did not understand the seriousness or the violation of what they had done.

The outcome thus far is that Ann Taylor made a contribution to Guide Dogs for the Blind, sent me a letter of apology with a gift card to their store, and has received training materials from Guide Dogs for the Blind. I offered to provide training to Ann Taylor sales associates about working around service dogs, but they have not taken me up on it.

What outcome would I hope for? Lemonade. I would love to feel like this corporation had a strong resolve that this would not happen again. They have the opportunity to demonstrate this by implementing further training on the ADA. Certainly committing to serve as one of our partners in this cause would be wonderful lemonade. It would be wonderful to receive a letter indicating their resolve and specific steps they have taken to implement training. Up to this point, that has not happened.

At first I was shaken; indeed it has taken some effort to once again hold my head high. I am walking confidently again with my guide dog into any store, knowing that I have every right to be there. I am committed to being that voice that many were for me who said, “This is not okay. How can I support you?” Perhaps I cannot change further how this corporation chooses to handle this incident. Independence is being in charge of one’s own choices. I will shop at stores that come from a place of integrity, respect, and beauty.

I have reflected on this experience regularly over the past couple of months. Would I handle it differently if it happened again? No. I told them several times that my guide dog was indeed allowed in their store. I reported the incident. I chose to share my story to bring attention to the accessibility challenges that still occur – to remind us all that there is still much education and access work to be done, even in the places we least expect. I hope that I represented others with guide dogs or other service animals in a professional, assertive manner.

I saw so much goodness in the world from people who care and are committed to disability access. I experienced people talking about guide dogs, service animals, blindness, and other disabilities. I saw people who care about the rights of each of us as individuals. I was inspired by the people who took a stand and shared this story with many others. I was touched by the many people who took the time to write to this corporation to say this is not only against the law but that we matter as individuals. I went from feeling so discriminated against, alone, and humiliated by this company to being uplifted by the outpouring of those who reminded me to continue on.

I’m a stronger, more confident person. I recognize that each time dialogue occurred, positive education was happening. I hope that people who didn’t understand the ADA have a better understanding now. I hope people who have felt discrimination and humiliation feel empowered and that their voice is strengthened. I hope everyone who joined the conversation walks away with a better understanding of how an unfortunate situation can be an opportunity to do what is right, to present a united voice of support – building confidence and empowering every person who walks through the door of life.

Update on Breed Ban vs. the ADA

By Joan Froling

In the last issue of Partners Forum, IAADP featured an article about James Sak, a Vietnam Veteran and retired police officer who is struggling to cope with the aftermath of a very debilitating stroke with the help of his service dog. He moved to Aurelia, Iowa, so his wife could provide the caregiver help needed by her 87 year old mother who wanted to continue to live in her own home.

Shortly after their arrival a handful of citizens circulated a petition urging the City Council to enforce the pit bull ban it had enacted. This particular pit bull mix had no history of aggression or complaints on nuisance behavior. It was a case of judging a book by its cover.

The Council knew the six year old dog was a service dog protected by the Americans With Disabilities Act. Sak’s physical therapist at the University of Illinois Medical Center submitted a letter on his behalf on Dec. 2, 2011. She had worked with him for two years after his stroke in 2008 and she attested to the fact his service dog had been individually trained to mitigate his disability by performing tasks related to walking, balance and retrieving.

On December 14th, Council members decided against making an exception to its pit bull ordinance for James Sak. The city only gave James Sak one day to find a new home for Snickers or face the seizure and possible execution of his service dog. One day!

Sak reluctantly boarded the pit bull mix whom he had raised from a puppy at a kennel outside of Aurelia’s city limits over the Christmas holidays. The Animal Farm Foundation assisted him with his legal fight to get his service dog back.

Two weeks later, at a hearing in late December, U.S. District Court Judge Mark Bennett called breed specific legislation/pit bull ordinances “myopic” according to the report by the North County Gazette in New York.

“Indeed,” he ruled, “the Department of Justice does not
believe it is consistent with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) to defer to local laws that prohibit certain breeds of dogs based on local concerns that these breeds may have a history of unprovoked aggression or attacks. The opinion is that “(s)uch deference would have the effect of limiting the rights of persons with disabilities under the ADA who use certain service animals based on where they live rather than on whether the use of a particular animal poses a direct threat to the health and safety of others.”

The judge issued a preliminary injunction on December 28th which would reunite James and Snickers until the lawsuit was resolved. The City Council stubbornly refused to settle, issuing a statement they would take the matter to trial.

Diagnosed with throat cancer at the beginning of 2012, Sak refused to give up his service dog and resolved to fight on.

According to published reports, the City Council later decided to approve a settlement in split vote, 3-2, that will permit James Sak to keep his service dog. The city is paying Sak and his wife $30,000 for its violations of his civil rights under the Americans with Disabilities Act. The settlement requires the Saks to keep the fence they already have around the entire property. Snickers must be on leash if leaving the property. At any time in the future if the couple moves to a different home within city limits, a similar fence would also be required.

The Des Moines Register obtained a statement from Aurelia's Mayor, Jim Tell, who said the city had reached a settlement to eliminate the publicity the situation was causing.

Equipment News

As editor I asked to take a closer look at a couple items from Bold Lead Designs (http://boldlead designs.com) which offers several harnesses, innovative leashes and ID choices.

Those with a guide dog or balance support harness handles may share my appreciation for the banner ID signs with large eye catching messages like “Service Dog “DO NOT DISTRACT” that attaches with velcro tabs to your handle.

The very stable, lightweight harness with an ergonomic, height adjustable, fold down balance support handle, exhibited at IADP’s 2010 conference, now converts to a combo harness. Since one handle cannot perform both functions, a short clip-on guide dog harness handle may fill the bill for blind persons who also need an upright steel balance handle they can grab onto in a pinch to steady themselves. Alternatively, there is a pull strap for those needing help to achieve or sustain forward momentum, especially on inclines or steps.

Ladies may welcome the availability of stylish new pouches with compartments in two sizes and three colors. Those who may have a sturdy Circle E balance support harness, a Bridgeport harness or a guide dog harness may need to add two or three D-rings to attach it to the rear side of the part of the harness that spans the dog’s back. Men may prefer a Circle E nylon pouch. This and retrieve/tug task related items can be found at http://www.circleeleather.com.

Editor’s Book Review

Sago, A Very Special Service Dog

Of all the dog-related books I’ve sent over the years for birthdays and holidays, this large hardcover book proved to be the hands down favorite of my niece and nephew who were ages five and seven when it arrived last Christmas.

When I finally secured temporary loan of it for two weeks, I discovered the author, Beth Davis, has cleverly incorporated several approaches to keep a child’s attention while learning about assistance dog partnership and the value of other dogs too.

She begins by introducing, Sago, a Golden Retriever who has been trained by New Horizons Service Dogs in Florida to assist Deb Schilling, a wheelchair user, to live more independently through performing a variety of tasks. That section closes by touching on how guide dogs and hearing dogs and pet dogs too enrich the lives of their owners.

The majority of the book is imaginatively illustrated with a blend of pastels, water colors and pen and ink. In the bio section on the second to last page, we learn Sago’s partner, Deborah Schilling, is a professional illustrator of books for children. She is the one who did the very colorful and educational illustrations that compliment the text. The bio section also contains a photo and bio of Sago himself and one of the author.

On page nineteen, the book switches to a page of charming photos and captions. Children will see real Golden Retriever service dogs in action, performing tasks and lovingly interacting with disabled graduates of different ages and gender. One photo captioned “Future Service Dog” shows an adorable Golden puppy in a green vest making friends with a horse.

This is followed by two pages illustrated by Schilling with comic book type blurbs in which Sago and Deb discuss the do’s and don’ts of interacting with assistance dogs and why these rules are important, reinforcing what was discussed earlier.

The next two pages feature captioned photos obviously taken by a professional with excellent information for children on different kinds of working dogs. It includes assistance dogs, herding dogs, a soldier with a military dog, a police officer with a member of their K-9 unit, and therapy dogs. There are two photos of children reading aloud to therapy dogs. That text in that section ends by asking children if they would like to read to a dog someday?

The final page contains information on Sago’s program and suggests ways children and adult could help if they wish to become more involved with assistance dogs.

The proceeds from the purchase of this book go to benefit New Horizons Service Dogs, an accredited member of Assistance Dogs International.
The Many Adventures of Ryan and Josephine

By Tracy Jones

My son, Ryan Jones, received Josephine II, a beautiful yellow labrador-golden retriever mix with the most soulful brown eyes, August 2003. What I didn’t know then was how this AMAZING dog would change the life of my then 11 year old son, who happens to have cerebral palsy from a birth injury. When I started the application process, I had read how helpful and wonderful these dogs could be and was happy about the prospect of Ryan getting one. After getting called up to the August team training class, we were a little nervous but excited.

The team training was intense but so much fun, we loved getting to know the trainers, the dogs and the other families/recipients. The first dog we got matched with was not quite working out, so they approached us at lunch about making a change. They wanted to try a dog that really hadn’t been in the team training circulation. They brought out Josephine, aka The World’s Best Dog, and it just felt right!

The first night we got to bring her back with us to the hotel, I knew things were going to be different. She brought the tennis ball (her all time favorite toy) to Ryan and tossed it into his lap so he could throw it, he was cracking up at her antics. I put him on the bed to stretch out and after playing ball awhile longer, she got up beside him. Verbal communication skills are not his strong point so I was worried this might pose a problem in bonding with Jo but the look on his face said it all. He was happy. I watched them with tears in my eyes since my son, who really didn’t have many friends, finally had a friend and utter acceptance for who he was.

We had a slight hiccup with the East Coast blackout, losing power and being stranded in a hotel with no electricity, food, etc. but we prevailed with some other classmates and found some pizza! It was the best pizza ever! We still attended the final classes and the dogs couldn’t be bathed for graduation but no one cared. This was a mind-blowing, life-changing experience that couldn’t be dampened by lost power.

At graduation, we got to meet Jo’s puppy raisers, David and Regina Benjamin. They are such wonderful people and we are thrilled that we have been able to keep in touch with them over the years. There were many tears shed that day, just knowing the amount of time and energy that goes into each of these dogs is overwhelming. From the puppy raisers to the trainers, to the administrative side and all of the generous donors, without whom there would be no CCI.

I was still worried how much Ryan and Jo would bond, but even with Ryan’s limited verbal skills, they have forged a bond I could never have imagined. We followed the instructors tips and everything fell into place. Someone is always at CCI, especially Laura Ann, and ready to help whenever we have a question. This is especially reassuring when you are first bringing your dog home.

Some of the tasks Jo does for Ryan are: pick things up for him, push or tug open doors, she can put her dishes in the sink, put his laundry in the hamper and turn on a light switch. My husband and I mainly give the commands but she listens to Ryan on more simple things that he can say, and he loves it! She is intuitive with him and it is amazing to watch. :) Some things we did not foresee that are even more monumental are being by his side and providing reassurance when he has to get a lab draw or an xray or some other procedure. She’s the one he asked for when he was admitted to the hospital so Bruce, Ryan’s dad, brought her every morning and she stayed the day, sleeping beside him and comforting him with painful procedures. One of the hospital stays, Ryan was very sick and I decided to leave her at home since I couldn’t leave his side to take her out. Bruce said she stayed in her crate almost the entire time, normally she loves to greet everyone that comes in, but not so this time. When we finally brought Ryan home she was beside herself with excitement, so happy to see him. All was right in her world and she was back to her old self!

She has also changed the way people view and react to Ryan. Before Jo came into our lives, most people didn’t know how to interact with Ryan and usually avoided looking at him, talking to him, etc. Now with Josephine by his side, people approach us all of the time. They now see him as the kid with the cool and beautiful dog! When people ask about her, we use this opportunity to work on Ryan’s verbal and interaction skills. They learn that he can talk and is just like any other kid in so many ways and he learns to respond and interact, loving to tell everyone she is his dog and how much he loves her. So I guess you could add therapist to Jo’s list of tasks! He has gained acceptance and understanding about his disability, thanks to Josephine!

She travels with us and goes out as much as possible: she has been to Florida, wowing everyone at Disney World and has been as far north as Canada and so many places in between. We have found that it usually takes us much longer to get from point A to point B since so many people stop to talk to us, which is fabulous as we have met so many wonderful people along the way (we just give ourselves extra... continued on page 25...
time these days!). Josephine is now 10 years old and we watch closely for signs of her getting tired and wanting to retire, but she still pouts at us when we leave her at home, often staring at us with those big sad eyes and her head down between her shoulders. She is very good at giving us the “I’m so pitiful look” when left at home.

Jo is the one whom Ryan looks for as soon as he gets home from school and she is waiting, tail wagging, at the door to greet him, often going to lay beside the door when it is close to time for the bus. They have their routine and she follows him room to room, dog beds all over the house so she can be comfortable wherever they go. I will hear him talking to her when they are in the room by themselves, telling her things about his day. She even has an elevated dog bed Bruce built so she can sleep beside him, at his eye level. He doesn’t want to go to sleep unless she is there beside him. When Ryan went surfing and crashed a few times, the first thing he asked for was Jo and she came over and comforted him with some doggie kisses! She assists him and provides unimaginable companionship. What a team!

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ADI Conference in Spain 2012

By Joan Froling

The Assistance Dogs International Conference in Barcelona, Spain, July 27-29, 2012 was attended by 53 member programs.

The next International ADI Conference is going to be held in the USA in Denver, Colorado in 2014, at last word. ADI’s new website also shows plans by ADI’s North American regional board to hold a conference in 2013, but no details are available as to location or dates as we go to press. Check back with ADI at www.adionline.org for more information.

Al Peters, CEO of Can Do Canines [formerly called Hearing & Service Dogs of Minnesota] is a recognized expert on the training of diabetic alert dogs. He generously shared the step by step methodology he developed with some input from IAADP in a workshop at the ADI 2010 Conference in Toronto. His goal was to empower other providers to help applicants born with Type One diabetes who become dangerously insensitive to sudden lows or highs in their blood sugar level. He recently let me know that he participated as a guest speaker in an interesting panel discussion in Barcelona with Clare Guest from the UK and Hotsche Luik from Germany to share their methods and experiences with conference guests. ADI now has a small committee on this topic to facilitate information sharing.

To inform our readers about the range of workshops available to ADI members, I will provide the titles below.

**Keynote Presentations included:**
- Increasing Awareness of the Value of Dogs in Society – Daniel Mills;
- The Benefits of Scientific Research for Assistance Dog Organizations – Peter Gorbing;
- Publishing Scientific Data – Karen Overall DVM;
- Companion Animals and Health Systems – Jaume Fatjo;
- K7 – Nick Allen;
- The Use of Probiotics in Working Dogs & Breeding Canines – Russ Kelly;
- US Airways/Puppies in Flight – Kelly Balthazor;
- Stress Resilience & Life Skills for Assistance Dogs – Daniel Mills;
- Canine Cognition: From Basic Research to Practical Application – Evan MacLean.

**Workshop Presentations included:**
- Preparing Children with Autism for Assistance Dogs – Teo Mariscal;
- Online Fundraising: Priorities For Your NGO – Nick Allen;
- Diabetic Alert Dogs – Claire Guest, Hotsche Luik, Alan Peters;
- Neonatal Diseases – Simon Marti.

- Supporting Service Dogs for Children with Developmental Disabilities & their Families – Lucija Katalenic;
- Access & Awareness – Cris Carles, Mark van Gelder, Martin Zwart;
- Challenges of Working With People With Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) – Clark Pappas;
- DNA Chip to Access Genetic Predisposition for Hip Dysplasia – Alfonso Velasco Franco.

- Animal Assisted Intervention International (AAII) – Sven Hultman;
- Pups in Prison – Richard Lord;
- Prison Puppy Programs – Sheila O’Brien;
- Silent Partners: Canine Sign Language (CSL) & Gaze Training (GT) for Non-verbal Clients – Mo Maurer and Catherine Dorr.

If you would like more information about one of these presentations, you may contact me at joan@iaadp.org.
Cruising with My Guide Dog

By Andrea Giudice

As I walk along the promenade deck with the ship’s engines a deep rumble below my feet and the ocean a magnificent roar in my ears; a couple of porpoise and a whale make a brief appearance as the sun shines down and the wind whips my face. Ketchikan is 15 hours behind and Seattle is still over 15 hours ahead as I enjoy the fifth day of my cruise.

Striding along the deck at a brisk clip enough to have the sea air whistling in my ears I reflect on my cruising experience. This walk is a real treat; so freeing and invigorating! I have explored Juneau and Ketchikan. Partaken of delectable food, attended spectacular shows, participated in games hosted by the ship staff, enjoyed time with old friends and made new ones, shopped on board and on land alike, started to learn my way around this ridiculously enormous ship, actually stayed passed last call at one of the shipboard bars and even dressed up for dinner. Oh yes, best of all, I did all this with my guide dog Yolo at my side.

Around 3:30 p.m. on a beautiful Tuesday afternoon Yolo and I, along with 16 other blind folks and 14 other guide dogs, erupted aboard the ship who’s decadence would be our home for the next five plus days. Our group, 26 in total, was from all over the United States and Canada. Some of our number had cruised before with their guides while many of us were pure novices. The first few hours were chaos as we all found our staterooms and, most importantly, the dog relief area, “Can you say poop deck anyone?” By the time we sat down for dinner I was totally overwhelmed and wanted my mommy.

Wednesday was a day spent at sea and was a pivotal day in my feeling about the trip. Slowly I was building a tentative picture of the ship in my mind; using my stateroom as the “you are here” point for reference. I am certain this ship was the biggest one ever to sail the ocean blue! Gargantuan was the biggest one ever to sail the ocean blue! Gargantuan is a gross understatement to adequately describe the floating metropolis I found myself on.

Eighteen decks and as long as your imagination there were different floor plans on many of the decks and elevators at the bow, amid ship and aft. To make matters worse not all elevators went to all decks. My stateroom was on deck 12, dinner was on deck six and the dog relief area was on eight. *grimace*

Exploring Juneau with new friends on an unexpectedly sunny Thursday gave us a chance to find our land legs again. The next day found Yolo and me solo on a trip into Ketchikan. First on a shore excursion aboard a fun and informative amphibious duck vehicle tour of the town and harbor. After that we explored the shops. Yolo confidently guiding me along the wharf and in and out of the establishments in which I chose to browse.

Lingerering over a third cup of hot cocoa, one is supposed to be indulgent to one’s self on a cruise after all, on my last full day of this most wonderful and illuminating vacation I was pondering having my guide dog along on a cruise. I commented to my friend and state roommate, Maile, what an unbelievably awesome and remarkable job Yolo had been doing guiding while on this cruise. I struggled then, as I am now, to put into words just exactly how I was feeling.

Yolo had been guiding me around the ship with the same level of excellence, competence, confidence and professionalism which he shows guiding me around my neighborhood at home as we visit our usual haunts. All during the cruise I have been working him with the attitude and trust of business as usual. Yet nothing about this working environment was business as usual. For starters the environment was in constant motion. While I had a rudimentary idea of the layout of the ship the lion’s share of the navigating fell to him. I almost never felt assured in my own understanding of my bearings to issue directional commands with the confidence Yolo looks to me for. In addition we found ourselves walking through areas that were at times so loud I couldn’t even be sure Yolo could hear my voice. There were throngs of people and innumerable obstacles of every size and shape. At all times Yolo stepped out with purpose and total confidence. He never became flustered by the motion of the ship, which at times was quite pronounced, or my near constant confusion he could read clearly through the harness. From first leaving the stateroom in the morning until whatever crazy hour I finally went to bed he was eager to work. When finally at rest for the night he simply crawled under my bed, creating his own crate away from home, cuddled up with his bone and crashed like a champ.

What I was trying to express then to Maile, and now, was that I was working Yolo like normal and he was working just like we were doing normal stuff but there was absolutely nothing normal about what I was asking him to do. He was working as if he was trained to guide on cruise ships, like he had been trained to guide ME on THIS cruise ship.

I don’t want to go on endlessly or to belabor a point, however, this experience was so terrific and special. Going so far out of my comfort zone really reinforced just how phenomenal and worthy of remark the relationship is that I share with Yolo. Reminded me just how truly outstanding it is to be partnered with such an amazing creature. This trip served to remind me to recognize and acknowledge how lucky I am every day, whether on familiar ground or striding along the breezy deck of an unfamiliar ship in the middle of the ocean, to step out in to the world at the end of the harness from my guide…the safe, expert, brave, unflappable fabulous rock star; my very own Yolo!

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Contact Sharon@iaadp.org or leave a message at 586-826-3938
Thank You for Your Votes!

By Joan Froling

I AADP would like to express our deep appreciation to all of our members and supporters who participated in the American Humane Association’s Hero Dog Awards competition in 2012. When we decided to participate as a Charity Partner, I did not realize how much behind the scenes work it would entail to do justice to that commitment. However it did seem like a very worthwhile way to draw attention to the wonderful work performed by assistance dogs and others in their chosen careers. For I AADP, there was the possibility of a grant at the end of the road and with it, some good publicity about our mission. However, we were mindful there were twelve other worthy nonprofits who were also Charity Partners in the Service Dog category.

I’d like to salute the nominees who chose I AADP as their Charity Partner in the Service Dog Category! It was an honor to be chosen by you. We kept our fingers crossed for all of you as we solicited votes for you through our website and emails to our members and supporters.

At the close of the first round of voting, we received the exciting news that one of teams who designated I AADP as their Charity Partner, Shanna Wilkinson and her beautiful Shetland Sheepdog, “Holly,” had become the top vote getter in the Service Dog Category. As this team’s designated Charity Partner, I AADP will receive a Five Thousand Dollar grant!

Our board has decided we will put this grant into our fund to “Save a Partnership,” to directly benefit I AADP members whose assistance dog needs surgery or some other critical veterinary care beyond their ability to afford it.

A number of newspapers, radio stations and television stations publicized the competition and here is what many of them told the public about the contestant from Utah in the Service Dog Category and that team’s Charity Partner, the International Association of Assistance Dog Partners. They took this from the AHA Hero Dog Awards website.

“Holly is my amazing 11-year-old seizure alert and response service dog. The bond and partnership with Holly has changed my life, and saved it on multiple occasions. Because of having Holly, I was able to graduate from college. Together we have traveled the country. I am so thankful for Holly every day we find ways to give back to the community by supporting charity fundraising efforts. Together, Holly and I have raised over $6,000 for different causes and charities in the past year alone. We have also gone to elementary schools to teach children about Service Dogs. Holly is beyond amazing, she is my Hero Dog!”

Holly is supporting the International Association of Assistance Dog Partners (I AADP), a nonprofit organization founded in 1993 by disabled persons to foster the assistance dog movement through its networking publication, Partners Forum, conference workshops, an informative website and other education, advocacy and peer support initiatives. Reducing the financial burden of partnership on the most impoverished segment of society is another important goal.

I AADP works with generous corporate partners and other benefactors to help members to maintain the health of their guide, hearing and service dogs through donated products and discounts. I AADP also fundraises in order to provide a grant of financial aid to help “Save a Partnership” in cases where a beloved assistance dog develops a major veterinary problem that is treatable, but the disabled person can’t afford the surgery or other recommended treatment which could enable their working partnership to continue.

In the second round of voting, Holly was in the running with the seven other contestants in different categories for title “America’s Hero Dog.” We asked our members via email to consider voting every day from June till the voting closed in October 2012, as the highest vote getter would win an additional Ten Thousand Dollar grant for their Charity Partner.

I applaud all of you who took the time to respond to our daily voting reminder during this phase of the competition! When the votes were tallied from the public and celebrity judges and the winner was announced at a gala dinner on October 6th, we learned an outstanding military dog named “Gabe” received the title of America’s Hero Dog.

Many I AADP members may have felt a twinge of disappointment, especially those who faithfully voted to try to help Holly and Shanna win an additional grant to benefit our organization. However I’m sure we would all agree that each of the candidates were very deserving.

On November 8th, the Hallmark Channel broadcast some highlights of the gala event for all who could not be there in person, with a heartwarming video tribute to each of the eight finalists. Hopefully it will be repeated for the benefit of those who were unable to view the premiere.

It has been interesting to be part of this prestigious event which raised awareness of I AADP’s mission and celebrated the contribution that is made by these remarkable canines to the lives of their partners and many others who have been touched by their presence in ways large and small over the years.

Thank You for Your Votes!
Editor’s Book Review

Here to Bump and Bump to Hear

This is the first children’s book about a hearing dog to come our way. It is a delightful entry into the genre of books about assistance dogs.

Author Jane Biehl, Ph.D., tells the true story of her own dog’s journey from a shelter to a hearing dog career. Sita is a yellow Lab mix who will be taught to use her nose to bump the trainer’s leg instead of barking at sounds like a knock at the door. The trainer first must show Sita where to bump, targeting the side of Tracy’s leg above the knee, for which Sita receives a treat. Then Sita must learn to alert her trainer with a bump to particular sounds she hears and lead Tracy to the source of each sound, which becomes the basis for the book’s title.

The book is a softcover magazine size volume, attractively formatted, with large photos, many of them closeups of Sita capturing her in different moods that coincide with the text. There are only two to five lines of text on most of the forty pages. The quality of the photos are excellent and some of them are quite thought provoking.

As the story unfolds, Sita is adopted from the shelter by Maryls, the founder of Circle Tail, a service and hearing dog training program in Ohio. Sita is pleased to be brought to the founder’s home for an initial evaluation, where she gets to mingle with other dogs, a fat cat and eat yummy food.

Sita’s happiness fades when she is taken to a prison program for obedience training. The reader is told that the prison initially reminds Sita of the shelter. There is a rather chilling photo of a cell block showing a long row of prison cells separated by an empty aisle, an interesting bit of realism sure to be “a first” for most children.

Sita’s mood quickly improves when introduced to Steve, the prisoner who will work with her for several months to teach her good manners. She is sad and bewildered when it is time to say goodbye. The reader is told Steve has tears in his eyes as he hands her leash over to a strange lady in the prison cafeteria.

Moving in with Tracy, her new foster mom and hearing dog trainer, soon makes Sita a very happy camper. Most of the book details the schooling Sita received. It could actually serve as a primer for trainers interested in learning how to train a hearing dog. It will educate those of us with other kinds of assistance dogs and the public as well.

In addition to visiting stores, other public places, there are trips every Saturday to Circle Tail for classes where Sita observes some dogs doing tasks like wheelchair pulling and balance support work for ambulatory individuals. Other dogs are drilled on good manners. Photos give the reader a couple glimpses of a class in progress.

Sita soon learns when she wears an orange vest, she must ignore dogs, cats and other distractions, focusing on her handler’s needs.

The big day comes when she meets her future partner, Jane. In the photos, “Jane” is a child with a pony tail, about age eleven, sure to heighten reader interest. After some relationship building, it becomes time for Tracy to say goodbye. This time when the leash is handed over, and then she alerts Jane to a sound, Sita realizes it will be the last time her leash is handed over to somebody else, thus ending this story on very positive note.

On the final page, the author adds an autobiographical section that briefly explains she was actually an adult when she first met Sita, rather than a child. The author goes on to share how much Sita has changed her life for the better while she has pursued her career as a therapist and then as a teacher on Deaf Culture and Interpreting at a community college.

It is truly amazing how different this book is from other children’s books about assistance dogs, rather than a re-hash. To be fair, I have found them all to be unique and worth reading, for each is told from a different perspective and focuses on different aspects of the journey taken by disabled persons and their assistance dogs to become a team.

Updated Rules for VCP Grants USA

Low income IAADP members in the USA may qualify to apply for a financial aid grant to assist with the expense of an assistance dog’s sudden need for surgery or other high cost veterinary intervention. The case will merit consideration ONLY when such a case meets all of the guidelines to follow.

Please read these rules so you can educate your veterinarian as to what may qualify and what is not in keeping with the purpose of this fund to “Save A Partnership.” Pay particular attention to Guideline #6 which has been expanded to prevent future misunderstandings on the part of a veterinarian or IAADP member. Thank you very much!

Veterinary Care Partnership Fund

IAADP has established an emergency veterinary care fund to help IAADP Partner Members in the USA when their partnership is threatened by the need for high cost veterinary intervention beyond their ability to pay. Five
caring companies in the animal health community have responded to the need for this supportive fund with an annual contribution: Bayer Animal Health, Hill’s Pet Nutrition, Inc., Nestle Purina, Nutramax Laboratories and Procter & Gamble.

IAADP is thrilled to have them participate in this humanitarian effort to assist disabled members on a low income. The VCP fund is intended for those cases in which an assistance dog develops a sudden illness or injury that is treatable but the high cost of veterinary intervention to maintain a working partnership is unaffordable, so the disabled person is faced with the heartbreak of signing the dog over to the training program or to a rescue so the dog can receive the treatment deemed critical by the veterinarian. As per the guidelines to follow, in such cases the veterinarian may apply to our VCP fund for financial aid on behalf of the IAADP Partner Member’s assistance dog.

The goal is to “Save a Partnership.” Please realize our funds are very limited. IAADP asks Assistance Dog Partner members to only apply for funding when conditions of severe financial hardship exist.

This is a grant, not an insurance or entitlement program. **ONLY the veterinarian can initiate the request for a grant to Nutramax Laboratories, administrator of the program. Members contacting Nutramax Laboratories directly will VOID their eligibility for a grant.**

The following guidelines have been developed and adopted by the IAADP Board of Directors to clarify the conditions under which grants will be made: (These changes will go into effect December 31, 2012)

1. You must be a United States IAADP Partner Member in good standing, currently partnered with an adult hearing, guide or service dog. Dogs under 18 months and retired dogs are not eligible.

2. To be considered an IAADP Partner Member in good standing, eligible to apply for a VCP Grant, a New or Lapsed Renewal Member must be enrolled a minimum of 45 days prior to the veterinarian’s application to VCP. The 45 days will be determined according to the records in IAADP’s database showing the enrollment date, the precise date when the Membership ID card was first issued by the Database Manager.

3. Grants will only be considered if the assistance dog’s health problem seriously interferes with the ability to work or has the potential of shortening the dog’s working life if left untreated. The proposed treatment should have a high probability of restoring the canine assistant to an active working life or extending the dog’s working life by a year or more.

4. VCP funds will be a capped amount available to members on a calendar year basis from January 1 to December 31; however, regardless of year, grants for a single diagnosis and/or illness shall not exceed the capped amount.

5. Pre-existing conditions are not covered.

6. Routine expenses such as annual exams, vaccinations, flea prevention, heartworm products or routine tests or elective procedures like teeth cleaning, the removal of fatty tumors, a wellness panel of blood tests or minor problems like an ear infection, impacted anal sacks, etcetera **WILL NOT** be considered for a grant. (Note: Some of these items are included as general member benefits and have separate application procedures).

7. Member must be experiencing a severe financial hardship at the time of the grant request. Remember that the intent is to maintain a partnership threatened by high cost veterinary intervention.

8. Evidence of routine veterinary care during the previous twelve months may be requested to be eligible for grant consideration.

9. **ONLY** the Veterinarian can initiate the request for a grant. Members contacting Nutramax Laboratories directly will VOID their eligibility for a grant.

10. Written Pre-Authorization is required. Exceptions will be evaluated for documented after hours emergency cases or a documented dire emergency during office hours [like a dog being hit by a car or life threatening case of bloat] when the case is submitted to Nutramax Laboratories on the next business day following such emergency treatment.

11. A minimum of $200 per grant request, covering no more than one office visit, is required for a grant to be considered. The IAADP Partner Member is responsible for the first $100 of expenses, thus the amount of $100 will be deducted from any grant request, and i.e. for a $500 grant request a check for $400 will be issued.

12. If, as part of a diagnosis and treatment plan for the serious health condition affecting the dog’s working ability, on-going medications are required, grant requests for the medications will be considered subject to these rules:

* No more than one request per quarter
* Each request must meet the minimum of $200 per grant request covering no more than one office visit and subject to the $100 deductible.

* No more than a three month supply per medication can be included in the grant request.

As the Administrator of the VCP Program, Nutramax Laboratories has full discretion to approve or decline grants.

If any member is found to be abusing the VCP Program, he/she will be barred from any participation in the VCP Program and this abuse will affect membership status in IAADP.

*This document dated December 31, 2012, supercedes all previously published guidelines.*
Does your dog snap at you if you approach his food bowl while eating? Food guarding is a natural instinct for a dog. Before we ever domesticated the dog, he had to guard whatever he was eating or he would have starved! However, as we have domesticated the dog, it is now our responsibility to teach the dog that he doesn’t need to guard his food and that we are his source for food. We also need to remember it’s not just food the dog will guard… it is any object the dog feels is his… toys, his bed, your bed (if your dog sleeps on your bed), etc. Let’s just call all these items the dog’s resources.

First of all let’s talk about the signs to watch for that show a dog is “resource guarding”:
1. The dog’s body will stiffen as you approach him.
2. If eating, he will hurry to finish as you get close so you can’t get his food.
3. If you can see the dog’s eyes, you will see what’s called “whales eye” as their eyes get bigger and they shift their eyes to look at you and you can see more white in their eyes.
4. He may just stop eating, but stand with his head still down in the dish.
5. His lips may curl in a snarl.
6. He may growl.
7. He may lurch and snap.

Although all seven items are signs of food/object guarding, the last three items are pretty obvious to owners. However, owners can easily overlook the first four items.

There are exercises that can and should be done by all puppy owners that can prevent resource guarding from ever starting. Remember this is a natural instinct for a dog so even the most mild mannered puppy can grow to be a dog that guards its’ resources.

Please remember these are PREVENTATIVE exercises. If you have a dog that is displaying any of the seven signs (above), you should consult an experienced trainer to help you.

Here are some exercises you can do to prevent food guarding:
1. Before you put the dog’s food bowl down, put the dog on leash and have him sit and tell him to wait. If your dog doesn’t already know what “wait” means, you can have another person hold his leash while you set the bowl down. If you are alone, you will have to apply tension to the leash while you set the bowl down. After you set the bowl down, try to release the tension in the leash a bit for just a few seconds as you remind the dog to “wait.” Then release him by saying “o.k.” (or whatever your release command is), and allow him to go eat. This exercise reminds the dog you are in charge of when he eats.
2. Put half the dog’s food in the food bowl and allow him to eat it. When he is done, pick up the dish and put the other half in and give it to him. This also reminds the dog you are in charge of his food.
3. Put all the dog’s food in his bowl and allow him to start eating. While he is eating, approach the food bowl and add a really good food item to the bowl (steak, chicken, cheese, etc.). This allows the dog to associate a hand coming towards his food bowl with something good happening.
4. While the dog is eating, approach the food bowl and add a really good food item and keep your hand in the dish and stir the food around for a couple of seconds. Once again this shows the dog that a hand coming towards his food bowl is a good thing, and allows him to learn to accept a hand staying near his face while he is eating. This comes in handy in case he is ever choking on something and you need to open his mouth and pull the item out!
5. Stroke and pet your dog while he is eating and at the same time talk to him in a calming tone. All you are doing at this point is showing your dog that it is a good thing for you to be around.
6. When your dog is eating, call him over to you, when he gets to you reward him, make it worth his while then let him back to the food bowl.

You can also practice this type of exercise with toys, chew bones, etc. Start out by having a really good treat in your hand. Once again it must be a high value treat like steak or chicken, etc. – if it is not of higher value than the toy/chew the dog is playing with then the exercise won’t work. Approach the dog and hold out your hand with the treat and let him smell it. Have the empty hand right near the dog’s mouth so you are ready to take the toy/chew from him. If it’s a high value treat the dog, the dog will open his mouth to take it and will drop the toy/chew in the process. As he is opening his mouth, say “give” or “drop.” You take the toy/chew and you give the dog the treat. Repeat this exercise three or four times and then just let the dog keep his toy/chew. Again, this helps the dog learn to accept someone approaching while he is playing with a toy, and also teaches him to “give/drop” on command.

Practice these exercises on a regular basis to ensure a dog that is comfortable with someone near their food bowl, toy, or any other treasure.

If this puppy is being raised for a provider as a future Assistance Dog, someday the handler will appreciate you giving the puppy this training.

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TSA Rules for Service Animal Teams in USA

The Transportation Security Administration published these “Rules for Passengers with Service Dogs” in a recent email circulated in the online community of assistance dog partners.

If a passenger has a service dog due to a disability or medical condition, both the passenger and the dog will be screened. The passenger should inform a security officer that the dog is a service animal and not a pet and it is helpful if the animal is wearing gear (a harness, vest, etc.) to indicate that it is a service animal.

Passengers are expected to maintain control of their service dogs by holding onto the leash throughout the screening process and they should not be separated from their dogs by TSA personnel.

Passengers with service dogs will be screened either by a metal detector or thorough patdown if the passenger does not want to be screened by metal detector. Regardless of how the passenger is screened, he or she may be subject to explosives trace testing. If explosive material is detected, the passenger will have to undergo additional screening.

If the passenger and service dog are screened by a metal detector, they can proceed one of three ways:

1. The passenger can walk through first with the dog following behind on its leash.
2. The dog can walk through first on its leash with the passenger following behind.
3. The passenger and dog can walk through at the same time.

If the passenger and the dog walk through at the same time and the metal detector alarms, both the passenger and dog are subject to additional screening, including a thorough patdown.

If the passenger and dog walk through separately and the passenger alarms, the passenger will receive additional screening, including a patdown.

If the service dog alarms but the passenger does not, it is very important that the passenger not make contact with the dog (other than holding the leash) until the dog has been cleared and inspected by an officer.

Regardless of how the passenger and dog proceed through metal detector, the dog will receive additional screening. The officer will inspect the dog and the dog’s belongings (collar, harness, leash, backpack, vest, etc.). Although the dog’s harness will not be removed, it and other items that he or she may be carrying such as a backpack are subject to screening.

If a passenger exits past the checkpoint to relieve his or her dog, the passenger and dog will need to undergo the screening process again. When he or she returns to the security checkpoint, he or she can ask to move to the front of the screening line.

Medication for service animals is permitted through security checkpoints once it has undergone X-ray or inspection screening. Passengers should tell an officer in advance if there are medically necessary liquids for the service dog that need to be screened, and these should be separated from other items in the passenger’s carry-on.

http://www.tsa.gov/traveler-information/passengers-service-dogs

Puppy Raiser Recipe

By Nancy Piotrowski

Start with an innocent, baby puppy. It’s small, cute and cuddly, complete with sweet puppy breath, tiny toes, little paw prints, and big kisses.

Then gather together little pee spots, the occasional hairball, random cries in the middle of the night, early mornings, and mix it together with razor sharp teeth.

Next combine love bites, chewed up tissue, stolen socks, missing shoes, puppy sighs, tender moments, and the first successful sit for greeting.

Mix it all together with puppy classes, shopping together, reading newspapers at the coffee shop, quick darts to the potty yard, and wrap it up in a training cape.

Then start a slow roast by attending a bazillion classes and a bunch of outings, teaching obedience and starting skills, and baste it with a few tricks.

Let it cool when the puppy will not do in front of a trainer that which it will do everywhere else, when the public outing burns your patience, and when the puppy figures out it can think for itself and it has become a teenager.

Finally, transfer into adulthood, relax, look at your finished product, be proud, take credit and a lot of pictures, show off your results to friends and family, and be very proud of what you’ve done. Then carefully turn it over to Can Do Canines.

http://www.cando.canines

Used by permission of Can Do Canines.
Partner Member Benefits

Free benefits unless otherwise noted

All Members Worldwide
- “Partners Forum” Newsletter
- Muttluks - 50% discount on boots, 50% discount on shipping in North America
- International Help-line [call or write]

Available in United States
- Advantage Multi from Bayer Animal Health (includes heartworm preventative, flea control)
- Advantage or Advantix from Bayer Animal Health
- Dasuquin, Cosequin, Velaxin, Denosyl from Nutramax Laboratories
- AVID Microchip - Avid Microchip ID Systems, Inc.
- Registration in PETtrac and/or the AKC Companion Animal Recovery Program
- Veterinary Care Partnership Grant (eligibility guidelines on website)
- KV Vet Supply offers 15% off all non-pharmaceutical products
- Veterinary Centers of America - 10% discount
- Kansas State University Veterinary Diagnostic Labs - 10% discount on titer testing.

Available in Canada
- Advantage or Advantage Multi from Bayer Animal Health Canada
- Advantix from Bayer Animal Health Canada

Note: Members in other countries are encouraged to seek similar benefits from companies for their geographical area.

Who Do I Ask? Where Do I Send It?

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Membership Information

Membership Dues: Partner Member $40; Renewal $40; or join/renew, 3 years for the price of 2 years! $80; Partners outside North America $20 per year or $40 for 3 years; Friend $40; Provider $50.

Send check with signed application from website at http://www.iaadp.org/iaadp-membership-application.html to IAADP, P.O. Box 638, Sterling Heights, Michigan 48311. You may also obtain membership application with S.A.S.E., or send a letter with your signature affirming you’re partnered with an assistance dog and who trained it. Credit Cards accepted online! Specify newsletter format - Print, Cassette, Data CD or Email. Renewal notices may or may not reach you. Please renew 45 days in advance of the Expiration Date on Partner Membership Card to maintain your eligibility for benefits. Change of dog? You must notify us to update your dog’s name in our database file!

IAADP Information & Advocacy Center
Call (586) 826-3938 or email joan@iaadp.org or see contact info on IAADP Website: www.iaadp.org

You can also contact us by mail at IAADP, P.O. Box 638, Sterling Heights, MI 48311