Public Access Test
Is AKC a Part of the Solution or Adding to the Confusion?

On June 15, 2018 the American Kennel Club (AKC) announced in a press release that the AKC Urban CGC (Canine Good Citizen) test was being renamed the AKC Urban Canine Good Citizen Public Access Test. Dr. Mary Burch, Director of the AKC Canine Good Citizen Program, has received letters from groups representing assistance dog teams and the assistance dog community at large voicing their concern with this decision to include “Public Access Test” in the name of a test that is not exclusive for assistant dog teams seeking public access rights, but could be given to pet owners. The term “Public Access Test” has long been directly connected with evaluation of assistance dog teams’ readiness to work in public settings—a civil liberty, human-rights access issue for persons with disabilities codified in the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) and similar legislation in the USA and abroad.

As a note at the bottom of the press release there is a disclaimer:

Note: Passing the Urban CGC or a Canine Good Citizen test alone does not make a dog a service dog or emotional support dog. A key distinction of service or emotional support dogs is that the owner/handler has a disability. It is unethical to misrepresent a pet dog as a service or emotional support animal.

Despite this disclaimer, the press release contained statements that illustrate how broadly the phrase “public access test” is being interpreted and applied with hardly any regard for its historic and wide recognition in the context of “access rights” for persons with disabilities:

Excerpt(s)/bold emphasis added:

1. “AKCs Urban CGC test has always included the items needed for public access testing.” (Dr. Mary Burch);
2. “Public access tests demonstrate that the handler has good control over the dog and the dog is well-behaved when in public.” (Dr. Mary Burch);
3. “...The Urban CGC test facilitates dog owners to provide evidence that a dog has been trained to behave in public...The repositioning of Urban CGC as a public access test can provide a valuable public service to dog-friendly businesses.” (Doug Ljungren, Executive VP for Sports & Events).

Update on Proposed Rule Change
for Traveling By Air With a Service Animal
See story on page 8

Features You Shouldn’t Miss

Insights Into Training Your Dog. .......... Page 11
Tell Your Story With Meaning. .......... Page 12
IAADPs Holiday Wish List .......... Page 16
What Happens When A Service Dog Has To Retire .......... Page 17
Updates On International Laws .......... Page 20

Editor: Laura Rose
Copyright © 2018 All Rights Reserved
IAADPs logo is a registered trademark and may not be reproduced without prior written authorization in accordance with terms and conditions thereof.
Registries Popping Up in Anticipation of Government and Industry Endorsement

As we exercise our rights and uphold our responsibility to continue our work to educate and advocate for accuracy in the use of term Public Access Test. One of the issues under consideration within the rulemaking process is “whether to require documentation indicating whether or not a service animal was trained by the owner or an approved training organization.” Some believe that the possibility of an ‘accredited registry’ could become recognized and eventually incorporated into debated public policies and regulations to fulfill documentation requirements. Two such registries being developed were highlighted in a blog article by Adelina Lancianese posted on National Public Radio’s (NPR) website last July: Service Dog Registries to Streamline Travel for Veterans with ‘Invisible Injuries’.

The first registry, “Operation Service Dog Access,” was organized by American Humane and a small network of independent evaluators. The second registry mentioned was the American Service Dog Access Coalition (ASDAC) which is currently being workshopped by a group of service dog providers like K9s For Warriors. The qualifier for immediate approval is that veterans must have graduated from a recognized dog pairing and training program. For those veterans who self-train their dog, and, for service dogs acquired outside partner programs, ASDAC plans to use AKC registered evaluators at over 1,500 Petco store locations nationwide.

As of yet neither of the registries have received a formal endorsement of support from either a governmental agency or from any of the key players within the air travel industry. Operation Service Dog Access is up and running for handlers of assistance dogs to register their dog and for businesses and others to verify whether or not an assistance dog is registered in an effort to verify the legitimacy of an assistance dog’s qualifications. ASDAC has a 6 month projected roll out date, which means they would begin accepting applications for dogs to be placed into their registry database sometime around the end of January 2019.

For more information or to read the NPR article check out the following links:
Mental Health / NPR Blog - July 28, 2018: Service Dog Registries To Streamline Travel For Veterans With ‘Invisible Injuries’ By Adelina Lancianese

Operation Service Dog Access
https://www.servicedogaccess.org/contact-us
The American Service Dog Access Coalition
http://servicedogs4vets.org/american-service-dog-access-coalition/

DISCUSSION ON SOCIAL MEDIA (FACEBOOK)

Those within the assistance dog community wonder if FAA/ACAA (U.S. Federal Aviation Agency/Air Carrier Access Act of 1986) regulations in this next legislative cycle might evolve to incorporating some form of a national registry for assistance dogs, despite our persistent voiced opposition. We are concerned about erosion of basic human rights for persons with disabilities impacting their daily lives limiting inclusion and participation in society. In a response to our concern we invited discussion via IAADPs social media page on Facebook, August 8, 2018:

Here we go…Recently on the NPR (National Public Radio) website, an article was posted; “Service Dog Registries to Streamline Travel for Veterans with ‘Invisible Injuries’.” The author introduces two registries emerging in the American marketplace, Operation Service Dog Access (OSDA) and American Service Dog Access Coalition (ASDAC). Both are competing for widespread recognition and adoption. Will this increase public access for travel? Or, will it add barriers for assistance dog partners, and at what cost? Read the article and share your thoughts below!
Here is the link to the NPR Blog Post: https://www.npr.org/2018/07/28/633076559/service-dog-registries-to-streamline-travel-for-veterans-with-invisible-injuries

This post received several comments, shared below as examples, removing individual names:

1. Even though these groups are for veterans, we could all be required to do this. No matter what the FAA is thinking of the ADA states that no registration or certification is required and unless the ADA laws change then no reg

continued on page 3...
administration...period! I also think they need to unlink PSD’s under ESA’s since they are not ESA’s.

a. Exactly. I recently had my son’s principal ask if his SD was a therapy dog I told her no, I told her that he was a Psych SD. “Invisible disabilities” should not be set apart in any way from all other disabilities. I agree that rooting out frauds should receive the attention rather than creating a registry like this.

2. I think their heart is in the right direction, but I feel it is too hard to identify by paper a legit SD. I feel that getting tougher on the frauds is the answer, anyone can get a badge/patch paperwork for their dog, so if this registry then produces the same, how are you going to prove that the “golden retriever” or “white standard poodle” with actual paperwork from one of these registries is the dog that actually earned it? Not until it is too late most times. But it may be a step in the right direction...a small one but still a step.

EDITOR’S NOTE: A comment that was attached to this post suggested that IAADP Partner Membership is “automatic” when an individual is partnered with a dog from a “reputable training organization”, and that they receive an ID card that “verifies” their assistance dog is legitimate. This is not accurate, Partner Members do receive a Membership Card which is connected to obtaining some of the member benefits. However, we do not – nor have we ever – provided certification or registration of assistance dogs.

The following statement has been added for clarity on our website home page at http://www.iaadp.org:

ATTENTION! Our Partner Members must attest that their assistance dog meets or exceeds IAADP’s Minimum Training Standards. IAADP does not train or certify assistance dogs.

Please refer to the IAADP Membership - Information, Benefits, Application section, http://www.iaadp.org/iaadp-membership-application.html for more information and details regarding your IAADP membership benefits.

**IAADP Thank Yous**

Here are some of the comments emailed to IAADP:

- First, just want to say the Spring newsletter was great. And subsequent updates wonderful. I thank IAADP so much for all your do.
- Wow 2 issues of Partners Forum!! You’re the BEST! Thank you!
- Enjoyed the [recent] issues of the newsletter. Look forward to more!
- Great spring newsletter! Awesome! Congratulations!
- They were always so informative and I looked forward to getting them.
- We are planning for travel to Ireland next year so we will be searching your newsletter for advice!
- May I please secure the newsletter in disc format so that I can transfer it to my iPad and listen to it audibly? It appears to be a marvelous edition. I also enjoy reading it online when I am away from home.
- We’ve been receiving...print issues of Partners Forum and have greatly appreciated the gift.

And a recommendation given on IAADPs Facebook Social Media Page:

With nearly fifty years of dog guide partnership and travel to the dog’s and my credit, I have known this group and participated as a member, off and on, since the 1990s. Two dog guide owners [i.e. Co-Founders, Ed and Toni Ann Eames] are people who assisted in establishing the veterinary assistance and widening veterinary understanding of service dog functions. IAADP publishing of standards and training protocols benefit everyone and set standards for performance, a good idea. National conferences have given a sense of where performance and expectation meet and how to improve task-trained service dog understanding among members of disability groups and the public. ~Cheree Heppe

**Important Changes in Membership Benefits**

**MUTTLUKS Benefit Correction**

In a past issue of Partners Forum, Spring/Fall 2017, the article “Benefits for Partner Members of IAADP” (pp. 29-32) featured a matrix of benefits. We received notice of a misprint from MUTTLUKS by email, with clarifications on the generous discount for IAADP Partner Members. Here is the correction:

MUTTLUKS offers a 50% discount on boots for current IAADP Partner Members in the USA and Canada. To take advantage of this benefit, contact MUTTLUKS and identify yourself as a current IAADP Partner Member when placing your order. Phone: 888-MUTTLUK

(888-688-8585), Website: https://muttluks.com/

**KV Vet Supply Member Discount Discontinued**

At this time the IAADP Partner Member benefit from KV Vet Supply of 15% discount on all products except pharmaceuticals in the USA and Canada has been discontinued. The company transitioned ownership in 2013 and again in late 2016. KV Vet Supply - Phone: 1-800-423-8211, Website: https://www.kvsupply.com/
Public Access Test
Continued from page 1

The statement by Mr. Ljungren demonstrates his interpretation of the AKC Urban CGC intertwines the public access rights afforded service dogs in accordance with the ADA, with, the ‘evidence’ that pet dogs qualify for that same right of access when they pass the AKC Urban CGC test.

An AKC blog post from November 15, 2016 titled “Service Dog Training 101 – Everything You Need to Know” demonstrates appreciation for the significance and context of the phrase “Public Access Test” where the AKC Advanced Training Staff offers this expert advice:

Excerpt(s) last viewed on 2018 Nov 01 at: https://www.akc.org/expert-advice/training/service-dog-training-101/

“Service dog training is a long, arduous process. Dogs must be able to perform their tasks on command and the skills needed for a Public Access Test, a series of objectives designed to evaluate the dog’s behavior in distracting environments. Public access skills are the responsibility of service dog handlers each time they go into a public place. The team should present a positive image of service dogs. Established standards for service dog behavior in a Public Access Test include; controlled approach to a building - entry and exit through a doorway; respond to sit and down on command in various situations; controlled when the leash is dropped, etc. ADA regulations state that service dogs [must be] under control at all times in public.’”

Later in the same blog post, AKC staff insert the reality of the “Epidemic of Fake Service Dogs” rising out of pet owners wanting to take their pets with them and thus have the same rights as the civil rights of assistance dog handlers to have public access into restaurants, stores, and the cabin area of airplanes, etc.

“For a certain amount of money and minimal application standards, a dog owner can receive a vest and certificate for an untrained pet. This practice is unethical and detrimental to the well-being of working service dogs. The exploitation of service dog laws is a federal crime.”

CALL TO ACTION

Although the AKC announced a decision to move forward with this name change, it is never too late to submit letters to AKC directors and other entities of interest. We call upon AKC to consider the concerns of constituents directly impacted by this issue regarding responsible use of terminology. Raise the proclamation high and loud. The education we provide these leaders in the dog industry is vital to the health of all dog owners and policy makers. It is up to us to shine the light in the darkness of confusion and misunderstanding around the life support we receive from our right of public access for assistance dog teams. The difference between a pet and a trained service dog must be established anew in the current environment where the public appearance of ‘pets’ has gone unchecked for far too long.

Using the AKC UCGC name change is the perfect backdrop to clarify what the words “public access”, ‘handler’, ‘assistance dog’, and ‘service dog’, etc. mean, how they apply to the rights of assistance dog teams and how they do not apply to dogs in the role of pet, comfort companion, emotional support or therapy animal.

Thoughts for consideration if you choose to write a letter of concern to AKC:

1. Continue to hold AKC accountable for the terminology they are knowingly choosing to attach the term “public access test” which is both an ADA recommendation in support of the expected behavior of assistance dogs and thus is a prominent component of the extensive training an assistance dog must accomplish.

2. Challenge the statement “service or emotional support dogs” within their disclaimer, which infers that these classifications are interchangeable.

3. Remind the AKC organization of its responsibility as a well-established leader in the field of dog education to uphold the integrity of the knowledge that they disseminate to dog owners. Share how their current trend to use the terminology in the press release and decision described above is counter-productive to their well-intended effort to contribute to fine tuning the understanding within our society of the exact nature of the terms “assistance dog” and “service dog”.

4. Share, from your experience, that one of the major contributors to the misuse of the terms “assistant dog” and “service dog” is the availability of patches and certificates to those who wish to legitify their pet dog as such. (Note: Upon completion of the aforementioned AKC test the owner receives a certificate and can order a patch for their dog’s vest.)

5. Validate AKC/Dr. Burch on the quality and consistency in the training that they provide, including the expertise and commitment of AKC Evaluators to honor the guidelines of the programs they teach. Accentuate that the concern is not with AKC, per se. Although they have clearly stated in the disclaimer that the test does not certify the dog as a service dog, the focus for the assistance dog community is the misuse by pet owners. Regardless of what the disclaimer says or how the AKC plans to market the test, some pet owners will misrepresent AKCs intention for expanding the design of the Urban CGC with a wider scope that emphasizes dog behavior in public settings. This misuse by pet owners would be accelerated because of this name change, given recognition afforded by the phrase “Public Access Test” where public access was established as a civil right against discrimination for persons with disabilities, including persons with disabilities partnered with assistance dogs (i.e. guide, hearing, service dogs). In addition, this name change places AKCs commitment to the strong position that owners of pet dogs should not misrepresent them as service dogs.

continued on page 5...
6. Use material in this article to provide AKC with the opportunity to revisit its decision regarding the Urban CGC Public Access Test.

AKC Headquarters
101 Park Avenue
New York, NY 10178
Telephone: (212) 696-8200
Office Hours: 8:15 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. ET

References / Endnotes:
AKC Press Release by Samantha Seymour (June 15, 2018)
Details of the Urban Canine Good Citizenship Public Access Test
https://www.akc.org/products-services/training-programs/canine-good-citizen/akc-urban-canine-good-citizen/about/
AKC Blog Post (2016 Nov. 15) Expert Advice - Service Dog Training 101—Everything You Need to Know
https://www.akc.org/expert-advice/training/service-dog-training-101/

Toni Ann Eames, M.S. IAADP President wrote a letter directly to Dr. Mary Burch, Director of AKC CGC Program, expressing concerns:

August 8, 2018
Dear Dr. Burch,

The International Association of Assistance Dog Partners (IAADP), a cross-disability advocacy organization, is strongly opposed to AKCs change in title for the Canine Good Citizen test.

Assistance Dogs International (ADI) has developed a Public Access Test which checks a trained dog’s readiness to serve a handler with a disability. AKCs change in title for the CGC to a public access test will do great harm to the disability community and create extreme confusion for pet owners. The AKC test is not meant to bring public access to dogs who have not had the months of training to be comfortable in public places. The name change will be misused by people wanting to bring their pets with them everywhere they go. Airline and store personnel will be further confused by those having ADI or AKC tests.

IAADP urges AKC to reconsider the ramifications of changing the name of the CGC to a public access test.

Thank you in advance.
Toni Ann Eames, M.S., IAADP President

Dr. Burch wrote this response email to Toni Ann Eames, M.S. IAADP President:

August 9, 2018
Dear Ms. Eames,

Thank you for contacting us. AKC is collaborating with a number of agencies (including service dog organizations) to make public access testing readily available to those who need it. We are passionate about service dogs and non-service dogs being properly trained.

The Urban CGC Public Access Test is not designed to be a service dog test. It is not marketed as such, nor will it be. As we have continued to state, with all of the CGC tests, these tests do not certify or in any way indicate that passing makes your dog a service dog. Our disclaimer clearly states that. Coupled with that is a strong position that pet dogs should not be misrepresented as service dogs.

We are looking forward to working with your organization in the future.

Sincerely,
Mary R. Burch, Ph.D.
Director, AKC Family Dog
850-877-2901
mrb@akc.org

Toni Ann Eames, M.S. IAADP President responded with a follow-up email to Dr. Burch:

August 26, 2018
Dear Dr. Burch,

When I was partnered with my first guide dog in 1967, the only dogs in public places were those working with blind and visually impaired people.

In the mid 70s, dogs were trained to work with people other than blindness. It is fantastic to learn how dogs can help humans, but unfortunately, it opened the gates to people wanting their special canines to accompany them everywhere.

Recently, I met a physical therapist with a poorly behaved, but beloved little dog. George bought a “therapy dog” vest on the internet, so he would not have to leave the pooh home alone. He did not know he was breaking the law, and stated he rarely met an assistance dog during his travels.

continued on page 6...
Public Access Test
Continued from page 5

I am now working with my sixth guide dog. She was raised and socialized in a puppy home, then had months of professional training before being partnered with me.

The AKC has good intentions in renaming the CGC as the Urban Public Access test, but those wanting access with their pets will simply have another way to circumvent the system. The AKC disclaimer will be ignored, and the problem of untrained dogs in public places will increase.

The International Association of Assistance Dog Partners, a consumer advocacy organization, pleads with the AKC to protect the rights of honestly disabled people with carefully trained dogs, so that our safety is guaranteed when we are in public.

Thank you for your consideration of our cause.
Toni Ann Eames, M.S., IAADP President

Additionally, USAUSA and PSDP (Psychiatric Service Dog Partners) created an online petition via Change.org (https://www.change.org/p/mary-r-burch-ph-d-stop-akc-before-they-harm-service-dog-handlers) regarding shared concerns on this matter and wrote Dr. Burch directly, then received a response from Dr. Burch and wrote a response to her response with vigor.

Psychiatric Service Dog Partners Letter to Dr. Mary Burch:
https://www.psychdogpartners.org/board-of-directors/board-activities/advocacy/akc-pat

Discussion and Petition Shared on Social Media (Facebook)
On August 13 IAADP posted on Facebook a link to the Change.org petition drafted by USAUSA:

Let’s avoid confusion regarding the terminology of ‘Public Access Test’. The AKC denies changing the name of an urban version of their Canine Good Citizen test will cause confusion but assistance dog experts disagree! Consider signing the petition started by USAUSA at Change.org on this topic at: https://www.change.org/p/mary-r-burch-ph-d-stop-akc-before-they-harm-service-dog-handlers

Assistance dog Public Access Tests, of which there are several versions put out by different organizations specifically designed with public access rights in mind, are used for internal/community-based self-checks for assistance dog team readiness.

EDITOR’S UPDATE:
As of November 18th, 2018 the USAUSA Petition has received 1,724 signatures. Examples of Readers Comments:

I strongly believe this will add to the confusion of the general public regarding public access and pets! There is NO practical reason to change the name. I believe this will add to the growing misuse of the ADA provision of public access for service dogs.

My level of discomfort is increasing regarding public stores becoming “pet-friendly” because this means that I and my dog will be around other dogs that aren’t trained and I do not see how this answers that problem. Our Service Dogs have been trained for months to give them the behavior to be with us in public.

This most likely cause so many more problems and confusion for employees of non-pet-friendly businesses who are already struggling to be properly educated on service dog laws. Plus people in general know of AKC as a credible and respected dog entity, so I think those who do not know any better will “believe” a pet dog certified for public access by the AKC is a service dog and not a pet.

There were 47 shares of this IAADP post (including Toni’s letter) on Facebook! Here is a sampling of responses attached to the shares:

Just when you think there is some headway being made in the “Service Dog Public Access World” the AKC decides they are going to rename their Canine Good Citizen (CGC) Test to the CGC Public Access Test (PAT). Can you imagine the impending confusion? Please read the entire piece by IAADP. The AKC could readily stop this foolishness and make a strong public statement about supporting service dogs rather than commencing steps to further obfuscate an issue that is clear as Mississippi Mud. The problems that those living with a disability and who employ a service dog will face more challenges as a direct result of those unsavory types who will use this and an internet vest an ID combo to pass of their pet as a service dog. (Note: AKC sells patches with the name of the test to the owners of dogs who pass.)

We don’t do petitions but this one really hit home for us. Please, help us stop the AKC from making a great program (CGC) a poor one and causing immeasurable harm to SDs and SD handlers nationwide. Perception is reality and we cannot get the public, or even practitioners & “trainers”, to understand that a Therapy Dog, S&R dog or Emotional Support dog are not SDs. We have suggested to AKC that they leave the test as CGC, as urban or non urban distinction is just not needed. The push back on the concerns is even worse than the original bad idea. Be sure to read Ms Eames letter to AKC and expand the text portion of the post for the answer from Dr. Burch to the concerns.

As a CGC Evaluator and disabled service dog handler, I am disappointed by this news. As much as I respect the AKC Canine Good Citizen program as a way to demonstrate that a pet dog has a solid foundation in basic manners, this name change for the Urban CGC to include ‘Public Access’ is unnecessary! I believe it will increase the confusion with the public believing they can make their pets Service Dogs, Emotional Support Animals,
or Therapy Dogs by not understanding the terminology of each category. In the opinion of many Service Dog Teams this is extremely harmful, misleading, and needs to stop before the situation gets even more out of hand. Now the AKC is proposing to do the same thing to “clarify” this isn’t the Public Access Test service dog teams take even though it has the same name. Please help stop this before trained service dog teams are harmed even more. Thank you.

Public Access Tests Designed for Assistance Dogs:
A number of organizations have developed and/or administer versions of public access tests designed to evaluate assistance dogs readiness to work in public. Discussion of the concept “public access test” has been around since at least the 1990s by trainers, individuals and organizations in the assistance dog movement.

IAADP offers an explanation of the Minimum Training Standards for Public Access on our website at the following link: http://www.iaadp.org/iaadp-minimum-training-standards-for-public-access.html

Disclaimer: IAADP does not endorse any training provider or training program. IAADP does not guarantee the outcome of your dog’s response to the trainer you choose, including if you are the trainer, in regards to the ability for your dog to perform within a public setting. In addition, your membership card does not certify your assistance dog as having met the obligation of assurance in regards to their behavior in public. Thus, your IAADP membership does not represent any form of certification or registration of your assistance dog.

Mini-Glossary of Terms

What’s the difference, what’s the same, and what determines the use of one or the other?

NOTE: These definitions are based in part on the language within the ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990) and related documents.

Guide dogs have been individually trained to perform tasks that directly assist persons with disabilities related to blindness and/or vision impairment(s). For example, guide dogs assist with leading a person on a path, alerting to streets/curbs/intersections and other obstacles. They can qualify for public access under the ADA.

Hearing dogs have been individually trained to perform tasks that directly assist persons with disabilities related to deafness and/or hearing impairment(s). For example, hearing dogs assist with alerting a person to sounds such as an alarm, a door knock, etc. They can qualify for public access under the ADA.

Service dogs have been individually trained to perform tasks that directly assist persons with disabilities including but not limited to physical and/or mental impairment(s). For example, some service dogs assist individuals with mobility impairments, pulling wheelchairs, opening doors, etc. Some service dogs assist individuals with epilepsy/seizure conditions by detecting, alerting, and/or assisting a person to get help and/or find a safe position before a seizure episode. Some service dogs assist individuals with autism by assisting with guidance in the event of an alarm or overstimulation to a designated person or place. Some service dogs assist with tactile grounding and deep pressure during a panic attack. They can qualify for public access under the ADA.

Psychiatric service dogs have been individually trained to perform tasks that directly assist persons with disabilities related to psychiatric/mental health/cognitive impairment(s). They can qualify for public access under the ADA.

Assistance Dogs is an inclusive, collective term applying to Guide, Hearing and Service Dogs including Psychiatric Service Dogs. They can qualify for public access under the ADA. The term assistance dogs does not refer to therapy dogs, court dogs, comfort companions or emotional support animals.

Therapy Dogs are working dogs that visit facilities (i.e. hospitals, assisted living, etc.), public settings and/or residences as a comfort and support to individuals. They do not qualify for public access under the ADA.

Court Dogs (sometimes called Court Facility Dogs, Court Comfort Dogs or Court Therapy Dogs) are working dogs that may bring comfort to witnesses testifying, especially children, in a court of law. They do not qualify for public access under the ADA.

Companion Dogs (sometimes called Comfort Companions or Pets) are pets that may not necessarily be trained but live and/or work near and/or with individuals providing company, protection, comfort, exercise, etc. They do not qualify for public access under the ADA.

Emotional Support Animals are animals that provide comfort to individuals with verifiable emotional disability certified by a psychologist or other licensed/certified mental health professional. They do not qualify for public access under the ADA.

Disability is a condition with symptoms that substantially interfere with one or more major life activities such as breathing, eating, hygiene, sleeping, employment, etc.

Public Access refers to the rights of individuals with disabilities to be accompanied by an assistance dog in places open to the public without barriers and discrimination.

Public Access Test describes the evaluation criteria that a handler and assistance dog are safe and ready to work together in public. The assistance dog must maintain control, good behavior and attention without being distracted or distressed by people, food, noise, and other environmental factors.

NOTE: Definitions are often used in legislation, regulations, standards, best practices and other documents which may vary or evolve over time and across entities. Thus, these definitions may be subject to updates without notice.
n Partners Forum, Volume 23, No. 1 Spring 2018, we included the USAUSA Flight Access Survey Results (pages 16 thru 20). The content for this article came from the survey results which were submitted as a comment to the United States Department of Transportation’s Traveling by Air with Service Animals Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPRM) notice. The Proposed Rule was posted on May 23, 2018 and comments were accepted through July 15, 2018. The comments that were submitted (4,535 in total) were, in part, taken under advisement in the formation of H.R. 302 The FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018 (formerly H.R. 4). Below we have provided you with details about this bill.

H.R. 302 FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018 was passed in Congress, signed by the President and became Public Law No: 115-254 on October 5, 2018. It contains Section 437 - Harmonization of Service Animal Standards which directs the Secretary of Transportation to conduct a rulemaking proceeding and issue a rule within 18 months after considering whether to align the definition of “service animal” with regulations of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (Public Law 101–336).

As Brad Morris (USAUSA) pointed out, “It doesn’t direct DOT to actually incorporate the considerations it names. It directs DOT to consider those factors.” Also, this bill can “push DOT along a timeline to update their ACAA regulations.”

In addition, Section 417 prohibits live animals in the overhead storage bins of aircraft. Section 1950 Improvements for Screening of Passengers with Disabilities calls for consultation with disability organizations and revision of training requirements for Transportation Security Officers within 180 days, including persons traveling with service animals.

This link takes you to the complete text of 115th Congress H.B. 302: https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/302/text

Excerpt(s):

SEC. 437. HARMONIZATION OF SERVICE ANIMAL STANDARDS.
(a) Rulemaking. – The Secretary of Transportation shall conduct a rulemaking proceeding –
(1) to define the term “service animal” for purposes of air transportation; and
(2) to develop minimum standards for what is required for service and emotional support animals carried in aircraft cabins.
(b) Considerations. – In conducting the rulemaking under subsection (a), the Secretary shall consider, at a minimum –
(1) whether to align the definition of “service animal” with the definition of that term in regulations of the Department of Justice implementing the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (Public Law 101–336);
(2) reasonable measures to ensure pets are not claimed as service animals, such as –
(A) whether to require photo identification for a service animal identifying the type of animal, the breed of animal, and the service the animal provides to the passenger;
(B) whether to require documentation indicating whether or not a service animal was trained by the owner or an approved training organization;
(C) whether to require, from a licensed physician, documentation indicating the mitigating task or tasks a service animal provides to its owner; and
(D) whether to allow a passenger to be accompanied by more than 1 service animal;
(3) reasonable measures to ensure the safety of all passengers, such as –
(A) whether to require health and vaccination records for a service animal; and
(B) whether to require third-party proof of behavioral training for a service animal;
(4) the impact additional requirements on service animals could have on access to air transportation for passengers with disabilities; and
(5) if impacts on access to air transportation for passengers with disabilities are found, ways to eliminate or mitigate those impacts.
(c) Final Rule – Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall issue a final rule pursuant to the rulemaking conducted under this section.

SEC. 1950. Improvements for screening of passengers with disabilities.
(a) Revised training –
(1) In General – Not later than 180 days after the date
of enactment of this Act, the Administrator, in consultation with nationally-recognized veterans and disability organizations, shall revise the training requirements for Transportation Security Officers related to the screening of passengers with disabilities, including passengers with disabilities who participate in the PreCheck program.

(2) Training Specifications – In revising the training requirements under paragraph (1), the Administrator shall address the proper screening, and any particular sensitivities related to the screening, of a passenger with a disability –

(A) traveling with a medical device, including an indwelling medical device;
(B) traveling with a prosthetic;
(C) traveling with a wheelchair, walker, scooter, or other mobility device;
(D) traveling with a service animal; or
(E) with sensitivities to touch, pressure, sound, or hypersensitivity to stimuli in the environment.

(3) Training Frequency – The Administrator shall implement the revised training under paragraph (1) during initial and recurrent training of all Transportation Security Officers.

(b) Best practices – The individual at the TSA responsible for civil rights, liberties, and traveler engagement shall –

(1) record each complaint from a passenger with a disability regarding the screening practice of the TSA;
(2) identify the most frequent concerns raised, or accommodations requested, in the complaints;
(3) determine the best practices for addressing the concerns and requests identified in paragraph (2); and
(4) recommend appropriate training based on such best practices.

(c) Signage – At each category X airport, the TSA shall place signage at each security checkpoint that –

(1) specifies how to contact the appropriate TSA employee at the airport designated to address complaints of screening mistreatment based on disability; and
(2) describes how to receive assistance from that individual or other qualified personnel at the security screening checkpoint.

(d) Reports to Congress – Not later than September 30 of the first full fiscal year after the date of enactment of this Act, and each fiscal year thereafter, the Administrator shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the checkpoint experiences of passengers with disabilities, including the following:

(1) The number and most frequent types of disability-related complaints received.
(2) The best practices recommended under subsection (b) to address the top areas of concern.
(3) The estimated wait times for assist requests for passengers with disabilities, including disabled passengers who participate in the PreCheck program.

What can you do? Bark! Make some noise and wag your tails!

The Assistance Dog Movement needs your voice to inform policymakers and regulators on how vital preserving unencumbered public access is to a full and meaningful life for persons with disabilities partnered with assistance dogs!

Stay tuned for the U.S. Department of Transportation Rulemaking and Public Comment opportunities.


You can contact the Chairs of U.S. Congressional Committees charged with Oversight

You can also call, fax and/or write letters to the U.S. Congressional Committee Chairs who will oversee implementation of the H.R. 302 legislation including the aforementioned Sections 437 and 1950:

U.S. House of Representatives Energy and Commerce Committee Chair:
The Honorable Representative Greg Walden, Chair
U.S. House Energy & Commerce Committee
2185 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
Phone: (202) 225-6730
Fax: (202) 225-5774
https://energycommerce.house.gov/

U.S. Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee Chair:
The Honorable Senator Lamar Alexander, Chair
U.S. Senate Health, Education, Labor & Pensions Committee
428 Senate Dirksen Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Phone: (202) 224-5375
https://www.help.senate.gov

In addition, we strongly urge you to utilize the issues within the body of the letter you write and send to each of the committee chairs.

We encourage you to employ the following strategies as you craft your letter:

1. introduce yourself, identifying if you are affected by the legislation directly or indirectly; you may also want to identify if you are a constituent of the committee chair and/or committee members
2. reference the legislation by number and title (e.g. H.R. 302 - FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018, Section 437 Harmonization of Service Animal Standards)
3. share how this is meaningful to you and your experience;
4. focus on the terminology of each proposed definition (i.e. service animal being separate and independent of emotional support animal);

continued on page 10...
5. aim for language that is clear, direct, and uncluttered from distracting emotion;
6. if able, propose a solution; and
7. consider raising questions that the committee may not have asked yet.

For background information regarding the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018 visit:
https://www.govtrack.us/search?q=Reauthorization+FAA
https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/115/hr302

U.S. Dept. of Transportation published a Revised Matrix of Service Animal Definitions and Issues (2016) online at:
https://www.regulations.gov/contentStreamer?documentId=DOT-OST-2015-0246-0150&attachmentNumber=1&contentType=pdf (PDF format requires Adobe Acrobat Reader viewer) or
https://www.regulations.gov/contentStreamer?documentId=DOT-OST-2015-0246-0150&attachmentNumber=1&contentType=msw12 (DOC format requires MS Word viewer to open)

Excerpt(s):

**Definition of the Term - ‘Service Animal’:**

**Air Carrier Access Act (ACAA) and 14 CFR Part 382**
Current Definition: Any animal that is individually trained or able to provide assistance to a qualified person with a disability; or any animal shown by documentation to be necessary for the emotional well-being of a passenger.

**DOJ interpretation of Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA)**
Current Definition: Dogs and miniature horses that are individually trained to do work or perform tasks for people with disabilities.

**Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) interpretation of Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA)**
49 CFR 37.3
Current Definition: Service animal means any guide dog, signal dog, or other animal individually trained to work or perform tasks for an individual with a disability, including, but not limited to, guiding individuals with impaired vision, alerting individuals with impaired hearing to intruders or sounds, providing minimal protection or rescue work, pulling a wheelchair, or fetching dropped items.

**Federal Transit Administration (FTA) interpretation of Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)**
49 CFR 37.3, 37.167(d)
Current Definition: Any guide dog, signal dog, or other animal individually trained to work or perform tasks for an individual with a disability, including, but not limited to, guiding individuals with impaired vision, alerting individuals with impaired hearing to intruders or sounds, providing minimal protection or rescue work, pulling a wheelchair, or fetching dropped items.

H.R. 302 Is Now Law
Continued from page 9

5. aim for language that is clear, direct, and uncluttered from distracting emotion;
6. if able, propose a solution; and
7. consider raising questions that the committee may not have asked yet.

For background information regarding the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018 visit:
https://www.govtrack.us/search?q=Reauthorization+FAA
https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/115/hr302

U.S. Dept. of Transportation published a Revised Matrix of Service Animal Definitions and Issues (2016) online at:
https://www.regulations.gov/contentStreamer?documentId=DOT-OST-2015-0246-0150&attachmentNumber=1&contentType=pdf (PDF format requires Adobe Acrobat Reader viewer) or
https://www.regulations.gov/contentStreamer?documentId=DOT-OST-2015-0246-0150&attachmentNumber=1&contentType=msw12 (DOC format requires MS Word viewer to open)

Excerpt(s):

**Definition of the Term - ‘Service Animal’:**

**Air Carrier Access Act (ACAA) and 14 CFR Part 382**
Current Definition: Any animal that is individually trained or able to provide assistance to a qualified person with a disability; or any animal shown by documentation to be necessary for the emotional well-being of a passenger.

**DOJ interpretation of Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA)**
Current Definition: Dogs and miniature horses that are individually trained to do work or perform tasks for people with disabilities.

**Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) interpretation of Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA)**
49 CFR 37.3
Current Definition: Service animal means any guide dog, signal dog, or other animal individually trained to work or perform tasks for an individual with a disability, including, but not limited to, guiding individuals with impaired vision, alerting individuals with impaired hearing to intruders or sounds, providing minimal protection or rescue work, pulling a wheelchair, or fetching dropped items.

**Federal Transit Administration (FTA) interpretation of Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)**
49 CFR 37.3, 37.167(d)
Current Definition: Any guide dog, signal dog, or other animal individually trained to work or perform tasks for an individual with a disability, including, but not limited to, guiding individuals with impaired vision, alerting individuals with impaired hearing to intruders or sounds, providing minimal protection or rescue work, pulling a wheelchair, or fetching dropped items.

**Issues:**

**Should disability mitigation training for the animal be required as a condition of access?**

**Air Carrier Access Act (ACAA) and 14 CFR Part 382**
Trained or, in certain cases, untrained animals may qualify as service animals.

**DOJ interpretation of Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA)**
Service animals are animals that are “individually trained to work or perform tasks.” Formal training (e.g., school for service animals) is not required.

**Should public access training for the animal be required as a condition of access?**

**Air Carrier Access Act (ACAA) and 14 CFR Part 382**
All service animals must be trained to behave appropriately in a public setting.

**DOJ interpretation of Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA)**
Dogs must be housebroken.

**Should the rule distinguish between psychiatric service animals and other service animals? If so, what are the practical implications of that distinction?**

**Air Carrier Access Act (ACAA) and 14 CFR Part 382**
Psychiatric service animals are recognized as service animals, but are considered to be emotional support animals and, therefore, subject to the applicable regulatory requirements, i.e., documentation.

**DOJ interpretation of Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA)**
Psychiatric service animals are recognized as service animals.

**Should the rule preserve a distinct emotional support animal category? If so, what are the practical implications of that distinction?**

**Air Carrier Access Act (ACAA) and 14 CFR Part 382**
Emotional support animals are recognized as service animals.

**DOJ interpretation of Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA)**
Emotional support animals are not recognized as service animals.

**What requirements should the rule impose to prevent fraud in the documentation process?**

**Air Carrier Access Act (ACAA) and 14 CFR Part 382**
DOT suggests five steps to determine whether an animal is a service animal or pet:  

continued on page 11...
(1) obtain credible verbal assurance; (2) look for physical indicators on the animal (e.g., harnesses, vests); (3) request documentation for service animals if passenger’s verbal assurance is not credible; (4) request documentation for emotional support and psychiatric service animals; and (5) observe behavior of animal.

To obtain credible verbal assurances carriers are permitted to ask the following: 
“Is this your pet?” “What tasks or functions does your animal perform for you?” “What has it been trained to do for you?” “Would you describe how the animal performs this task (or function) for you?” Carriers cannot ask about the person’s disability.

DOJ interpretation of Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA)
When it is not obvious what service an animal provides, only limited inquiries are allowed. Staff may ask two questions:
(1) is the dog a service animal required because of a disability, and
(2) what work or task has the dog been trained to perform. Staff cannot ask about the person’s disability, require medical documentation, require a special identification card or training documentation for the dog, or ask that the dog demonstrate its ability to perform the work or task.

We have listed what we believe to be the most pertinent current definitions aligned with the issues being considered for the upcoming rulemaking for the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018. Please refer to the link given for additional issues and the current definitions.

Also, stay tuned for updates that may be posted to IAADPs social media Facebook page:
https://www.facebook.com/IAADP

In the last issue, Volume 23, Number 1–Spring 2018, I provided a reading list for those who wish to explore training their own assistance dog, or who want to expand your assistance dog library. Preparation is essential for training success. Make sure the research you do to find: that author, that website, that trainer, that veterinarian, even that pet store is thoroughly vetted. Be specific, ask questions, read reviews, and match your education materials with your dogs need and your learning style. Remember the first exercise: 1. Make a list of all the medical challenges you have. 2. For each challenge, list what assistance is needed. 3. For each assistance needed, list how your assistance dog might help. I do not have a computer, so I use a posterboard to graph out the answers to these questions in spreadsheet fashion. Visually, this is your goal-oriented map to mark achievements, set standards of practice, and to also see where your journey will lead you.

You and your dog are a team. You are always learning from each other. Those that are quiet, introspective, compassionate, yet tenacious, are special leaders, and sometimes they have four paws. This is where learning about your canine’s breed or mix of breeds becomes advantageous. The more you know, the better you may understand their qualities, characteristic traits, as well as possible disadvantages for the dog you are choosing as your assistance dog. It was well over ten years from the first time I ever saw a Bouvier des Flandres, to me adopting Brandy in 1998. By then, I was well versed in the breed. I created/developed and taught with Bisonté, “Animal Companions: The Best Remedy for a Healthy Life” a course offered at the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute on the campus of Southern Oregon University (SOU). The books I recommended to you previously, were incorporated into my curriculum. Yet, this is just the beginning. However, at this point, some of you may be asking: “Where are the training insights?” The fact is, I am here and you are there. I know what works between Breezy and I. My limitations demand that I be creative in my training. I have built an extensive personal library as I have researched and discovered my path. In addition, I have mentors I may call upon to problem-solve with and gain support from. There is no singular approach fitting every partnership. Rather, it is a lifelong journey of learning together. I have had 2 superb medical-alert mobility service dogs that showed me nuances to successfully train for my particular challenges. Embrace the gift of learning together because that is what will build your relationship. Even by making mistakes, the both of you will become a stronger team. For every success, the two of you will expand your horizons. So keep searching for what best training techniques and information are always coming out, new skills, new opportunities. Also, remember that we in the assistance dog world need to be each others coaches, supporters and confidantes in this journey of life. All things are possible with an assistance canine by your side.
Tell Your Story With Meaning - Use Language That Elevates Change

"Language works invisibly and it shapes our way of thinking. Words have the capacity to affect our character, development and our behavior. Words mold our way of thinking about people, actions and the world around us."

~ Darren Bates, Global Inclusion Strategist

In our last issue of Partners Forum we researched and reported the overwhelming urgency for a national standard of behavior for assistance dogs that was felt strongly by industry, business, citizens and a host of others who depend on the assistance dog community to lead the way and provide the answers that only you can.

When we are working on tough problems – whether it is a change in law or a new direction in the focus of a program – we naturally seek out the people who are co-thinkers, to become co-creators of our destiny. The environment within the assistance dog community is sustainable and nurturing. Although we do not agree 100% on all of the aspects of living within this community, we all are generally in unison about the issue of Public Access, including administration of the “Public Access Test.” The concern over how our rights might be impacted by possible changes in access rights is at the forefront on many levels, world-wide, international, national, as well as regional and local. The primary contributor to the uptick in conversations around this vital provision structuring the quality of life for assistance dog teams is the urgency to resolve the overwhelming impact of pets illegally identified as assistance dogs.

When we share our insights and opinions – whether with family, friends, businesses, or government agencies – we want our message to be heard and well-received. The information we have to share is important and has value and meaning. It is natural to approach such conversation with a prominence on our point of view. However, there can be a risk of being perceived as confrontational, overbearing, arrogant, one-sided or defensive. In the short term, we can get our point across directly, however, this is not always the best way to accomplish our long term goal of creating a lasting change. The way to achieve greatness is to develop meaningful conversations. A very powerful way to make this happen is to listen, learn, and show authentic interest in the other person’s values, perspective and experiences.

“A successful man lays a firm foundation with the bricks others have thrown at him.”

~ David Brinkley

You then have the opportunity to strengthen your presentation and increase the likelihood of being heard by identifying and building common ground with the receiver’s perspective and concerns. This does not mean you should abandon your beliefs, thoughts and ideas on the topics of the conversation. Your contributions have a better chance to be heard if the receiver believes you are willing to hear and consider their side of the story. The focus can be kept on the topic at hand while maintaining consideration for the future potential in a longer term relationship with the receiver, as unforeseen opportunities for collaboration can arise in the future.

Language directs the climate of our society’s culture. Language inspires change, sparks innovation, expresses our feelings of love, and language can equally engender hate, foster discrimination, and destroy our humanity.

“...language shapes our attitudes; our attitudes shape our language, they’re intertwined...and attitudes and language drive actions!”

~ Kathy Snow, Disability Advocate

The aim of an engaging conversation with the intention to persuade others to believe that their action or idea needs reconsideration. A useful exercise might be to develop your personal story by identifying and/or forming a connection with the opposite position; factor the ways their perspective affects how you live and interact with others in society. Ideas that stick have stories which create meaning and resonate with those who you intend to persuade. Depending on your audience and context, you can choose the level to which you frame your story in passion, bringing it to life from authenticity and personal lived experience.

“Don’t look any further than your own reflection for a hero.”

~ Allyson Partridge

As leaders in the assistance dog community, we have a responsibility to foster a culture where opinions can be shared, valued, and challenged in order to advance our rights, our missions, objectives and vision. One need not be wrong for another to be right, but two people can hold differing perspectives and find away to accept that both have value. Like an elephant has many parts, people have many experiences and encounters in life shaping their worldview. How different the trunk is from the tail, yet they are
both on the same creature. Also, holding space for what we
don’t even know that we don’t know yet allows us opportu-
nities to expand our imaginations and increase our collec-
tive, creative problem-solving capacity. A favorite quote
we share with inventors: “The optimist invented the air-
plane. The pessimist invented the parachute.” So, it is not
necessary for one to be wrong that one may be right.

“Throughout human history, our greatest
leaders and thinkers have used the power
of words to transform our emotions,
to enlist us in their causes, and to shape
the course of destiny. Words not only create
emotions they can create action. And
from our actions flow the results of our lives.”

~ Tony Robbins, Motivational Speaker,
Life Coach & Author

May you be inspired to share the wisdom you possess,
may you be empowered to chose your words wisely as you
engage in conversations around the issues that resonate
within you and motivate you to take action.

Sources:

How to Make Your Opinions Matter By Jon Mertz
On: Thin Difference Leaders Finding Common Ground
https://www.thindifference.com/2012/04/how-to-make-
your-opinions-matter/

10 Ways To Voice Your Opinions & Actually Be Heard By
Toria Sheffield On: Bustle
https://www.bustle.com/articles/164169-10-ways-to-voice-
your-opinions-actually-be-heard

How to Make Sure You’re Heard in a Difficult Conversa-
tion by Amy Gallo On: Harvard Business Review
https://hbr.org/2015/11/how-to-make-sure-youre-heard-in-
a-difficult-conversation

Here are some links that you may find helpful for choos-
ing inclusive language to educate rather than divide:
https://www.motivationalmemo.com/constructive-
destructive-power-words/
https://open.buffer.com/motivation-words/
https://www.nssga.org/advocacy/grass-roots/
reauthorization-roadmap/make-voice-heard/

One-Time, Recurring and/or
Memorial Donations accepted at
give.iaadp.org

Movie Review

The Dog-umentary:
“Pick of The Litter”

The title “Pick of the Litter” might make you think
that this is a movie only about dogs. While five
adorable Labrador Retrievers; Patriot, Potomac, Primrose,
Poppet, and Phil; do play the leading roles in the film, the
heart of the movie are the stories of the people whose lives
these little bundles of joy intertwined with along their jour-
ney to becoming a Guide Dog. Don Hardy Jr. and Dana
Nachman’s documentary showcases the large village of
people that work together to shape a puppy into a dedicat-
ed assistance dog. It all
starts with the volun-
teers who foster each
puppy, they are placed
with different indivi-
duals and families for
more than a year so
they can mature before
entering formal train-
ing. The trainers who
walk them through the
paces to learn and re-
tain the necessary skills
in safety, environmen-
tal awareness, and the
specific tasks for that
one special person who
will become their hu-
man partner for life. The heroic actions played out through
the relationships that develop between these assistance dog
teams is beyond inspirational. The audience is left with a
greater understanding of the process that transforms a dog
into a life partner of a person, providing them with the
support needed to mitigate their disability. As this deeper
appreciation unfolds for the witnesses of this powerful tes-
mony of the commitment of each dog there isn’t a dry eye
or an empty heart in the theater. The everyday exchanges
between the partners forge an unbreakable connection that
lasts for their life long journey together. It’s an amazing re-
alization of the outstanding abilities just waiting to be un-
covered beneath the fur of our most faithful friends.

https://www.pickofthelittermovie.com/
https://www.guidedogs.com/pickofthelitter

Reprinted with Permission / Courtesy of IFC Films
Toni Ann Eames, President & Co-Founder of IAADP and I attended a special meeting on Tuesday, September 4, 2018, with California Assemblyman, Jim Patterson in Fresno, California. This was a great opportunity for us not only to meet our Assemblyman, but also to promote our cause – for the assistance dog community and finally seek his assistance with our hopes and concerns, here in the state of California.

In this meeting with us was both Assemblyman Patterson and his District Director, Alisha Gallon. The assemblyman presented us with the “California Legislature Assembly Resolution” which recognized August 5 through August 11, 2018 as International Assistance Dog Week.

This was the first type of State Resolution recognizing International Assistance Dog Week ever received. I communicated with the Assemblyman both via written request and via phone seeking his help to receive this State Resolution here in California. We have over the years, received numerous Gubernatorial, Mayoral and City Council Proclamations, however this is the first State Resolution. In the future, we will pursue State Resolutions to support the important recognition of the assistance dog community, both here in California and around the United States. Adora (Toni’s assistance dog partner) supervised the presentation.

We also, spent time during the meeting further educating “Assemblyman Patterson” about:
- International Assistance Dog Week (www.assistancedogweek.org),
- International Association of Assistance Dog Partners (iaadp.org),
- My Assistance Dog Inc. (www.myassistedoginc.org),
- Canine Partners for Life (k94life.org)
- Assistance Dogs for Veterans
- Issues and concerns about assistance dog laws
- Problems with assistance dog fraud

I truly believe that both Toni Ann Eames and I made a great connection with our Assemblyman, that will be very helpful supporting our cause, moving forward.

Note: My only regret was that my canine partner, “Alepo” was not there standing by my side. (You can read the article about Alepo’s retirement reported and published in the Fresno Bee, reprinted in this issue on page 17)

If you would like to be a part of the Partners Forum Newsletter Team please email: volunteer@iaadp.org or call (541) 972-3647
Looking back to December 2015 when Breezy came into my life, such wonderful experiences happened. She was in awe of her brother felines Athos and Ember. Quickly she understood to revere Athos who was in his teens. Whereas, she found Ember to be a gentle playmate. Breezy was an immediate heat source whenever she napped. As the weeks passed, with the guidance of Dr. Liana, administering the vaccines with preventative flea-tick-heartworm programs and sage advice for puppy physical and emotional growth, we were embarking upon the next milestone in any dog’s life: puppy socialization.

With the much-needed and required vaccinations, we now could partake in puppy classes. Like any new mother searching for a “mommy and me” class, you ask your vet, pet store, yellow-pages or internet searches, people at the dog park: “Who is the best trainer?”, etc. It is essential for your puppy to be surrounded by people who understand all that encompasses a sound foundation for a self-confident, calm dog who can perform tasks and including any necessary life-saving medical necessities for their human. One rotten experience can spoil a much-needed dog for any type of assistance.

Case in point: Breezy loved her classes, and she revealed confidence and lacked fear whenever a new task was introduced. She walked on it, through it, over it, under it, and around it. She was curious and bold, but most of all, happy to play with the other puppies her same age when breaks were allowed. We graduated from two classes, the first one ending March 5, 2016 and the second one ending April 30, 2016. I was grateful that Breezy and I were becoming a part of a quality dog community, like Brandy and I had years ago in another state.

Breezy and I had been taking in new experiences after she was fully vaccinated, impeccably groomed, wearing her vest from *Raspberry Field. She was still learning, we went to every medical doctor appointment together. I made it a practice to request permission before bringing my SDIT (service dog in training), checking with the respective office manager and/or doctor beforehand. There were new smells and cute puppy wiggles that lured people to want to pet her. But when people approached and wanted to pet or interact with Breezy, I would calmly ask: “Would you like to see her succeed as a medical alert mobility service dog?” Usually catching them off guard, a slow answer of “Yes” would be given. I would then say, “She’s doing some on-the-job training and requires all of her concentration right now.” Then I would thank them for their patience and support. Of course, this was said on a good pain-free day, otherwise, my response was simply, “Thank you for asking, but, no”.

Breezy was amazing riding her first elevators. Think about it: a bunch of people crammed into a closet sized room bringing smells, conversation, and all you can see are shins, knees, wheelchairs and purses. You, as a pup, are staying close to the one that brought you. The doors close. Then that room shifts, giving you butterflies in your tummy. Movement stops. The doors open with fresh air and scents tickling your nose. You exit, only to find more fascinating experiences! Breezy took every venue in with such joy.

I could always tell when she was tired and naps are a must for a growing pup. So we did short positive shopping, visits, and appointments. She did great! Gradually, Breezy and I found a rhythm that worked for us. Training was part of our playtime. New tasks/skills were introduced. I will say this, each one of my medical alert mobility service dogs were novels unto themselves, unique with fully-rounded stories.

As my disability changes/evolves, heck, even as I age, my service dog’s role in my life changes. Brandy was the best first service dog. Bisonté took care of Brandy as she aged and he was the best second service dog for me. Now with Breezy, she is the perfect service dog for what I need now. At the age of three, she has settled into her work. There were five years apart between Brandy and Bisonté. Together, they served me for nine years. Since it takes two years to train a medical alert mobility service dog, Breezy could use a little help when she turns five years old. Yes, I will be making a trip to see Chantal in December to pickup Misty who was born in October 2018.

To be continued...

*Raspberry Field, is a twenty-year-old family owned business in Gresham, Oregon, specializing in garments and supplies for working dogs which are handmade onsite in their workshop. The owner, Curtis Von Ahn, has generously offered IAADP members a 20% discount, just mention IAADP and give them your IAADP Member ID number. If you are interested here is their contact information:

Raspberry Field
P.O. Box 771
Gresham, OR 97030
503-661-2284
curtis@raspberryfield.com
http://www.raspberryfield.com
Hi All,

Five years ago, darling Adora joined our family. We celebrated her seventh birthday on October 22 by attending a concert performance. Multipet sent the lucky Golden two birthday gifts, and Charity sent a photo of Adora holding one of the talking toys to the company. Adora is so wonderfully lovable, and she enriches my life!

I was part of another Youtube interview, this time about dogs and other animals. Watch: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7c0SqmaKs4I

With summer temps over 100 almost every day here in Fresno, California, the blacktop and pavement is too hot for Adora. She wears these beautiful blue Pawz Boots, which are biodegradable, waterproof, disposable, and come in seven sizes. Each package comes with twelve boots. I forgot to take off Adora’s boots one day, so she took them off herself! Thankfully, I had replacements. If we were back in New York, the boots would protect on ice, snow and the deicing salt. Dogs accept these boots made of soft rubber because they can feel the ground through the boots. These versatile footwear can also protect against mud, sand, lawn chemicals, allergens, and they help to stop dogs from licking their paws. As you can tell, I am sold on these items! They are available in most pet stores.

I’m no longer exercising in my neighbor’s pool now that it has cooled off. We gave Adora every opportunity to join me in the pool, but she wanted no part of it! What a Golden Retriever! The big medical news in this issue is me! Hopefully, my pain level will greatly improve now that I have a permanent Medtronic Neurostimulator surgically implanted. It took about a week to overcome the surgical pain in order to concentrate on the effective pain relief. Keep your fingers crossed for me!

The California fires nowhere near Fresno are so incredibly awful. It’s difficult to imagine how these folks can go on. Several nonprofit groups are hosting Thanksgiving meals for the displaced homeowners.

Adora had a Thanksgiving celebration of her own. Friend Renate took Adora, her elderly pet Golden and a miniature Australian Shepherd to play at the river. Surprisingly, Adora ran with the other dogs and even swam in the river! Unlike me, Adora prefers the cold water of the river to a sheltered pool!

I hope you are as committed to IAADP as I am. When you order merchandise from Amazon, please sign up for the AmazonSmile marking IAADPs name as your charity-of-choice so we can benefit from your purchases. Are you taking advantage of eScrip? Giving Assistant? Even the smallest amounts of money can benefit IAADP.

In addition, we need workers. Do you have skills as a writer, editor, fundraiser, speaker or outreach coordinator? IAADP is an organization for all of us, and we need committed members to make us grow! Please call me at 559-446-1080 (I do not text and I am in Pacific Time) or email me at teames559@gmail.com to let me know your skill set.

In my last Tail to Tell, I spoke about Ebony, one of three kittens rescued by James over 17 years ago. Boots is the most outgoing, sitting on the table staring at James and meowing for attention. Ebony is doing well on the hyperthyroid medicine, and is even interacting more. However, Ivory has been so shy, she spent most of her life under the bed, and it was only in the last few days of her life, did she sit on my lap and I was able to pet her. Her health turned bad quickly, and she barely ate. Since I was unable to interact with her, I didn’t know just how sick she was. On October 25, we took her to the vet for a quality of life exam. I appreciated Dr. K.T.’s honesty when she advised not to have expensive testing when Ivory was so debilitated. James’ helper Robert, Charity, James and I said goodbye to Ivory as she was peacefully guided into death.

I hope you are well.

Fondly,
Toni and diminished Fur Family

IAADPs Holiday Wish List

• Pro-Bono Legal Counsel
• Volunteer Coordinator Talent
• Membership Engagement Talent
• Sponsorship for IAADPs Newsletter, Partners Forum
• Sponsorship for IAADPs Website Update and Makeover

www.iaadp.org
www.facebook.com/IAADP

We have a volunteer Web Team working to update the look and format of our website. Accessibility is top priority. If you have ideas or input or time to volunteer, please let us know. Send an email to: volunteer@iaadp.org
On September 6, 2018 we shared a post on Facebook about the retirement of Ed Crane's assistance dog Alepo. The local paper in Ed’s community, “The Fresno Bee”, interviewed Ed and Alepo at his home in Fresno. We have reprinted the article (with permission) in its entirety below. You can also watch the very touching video of the interview by following the link provided at the bottom of the story.

Edward Crane sat across from three service dogs trying to pick one when a cream-colored Labrador retriever named Alepo came to him and rubbed a furry head across his knees. The dog’s action warned Crane, who has epilepsy, of an imminent seizure. At that moment, Crane knew he had found his canine partner. “Every day, he has made it possible for me to deal with my epilepsy,” Crane, 61, says of the past six years with Alepo. Without an assistance dog, Crane’s life is restricted. He has chronic head pain from a surgery that sometimes forces him to spend hours in his darkened bedroom in Clovis. Seizures leave him prone to falling. Without an assistance dog he uses a cane, but even then he constantly worries about falling.

Alepo restored a sense of security to Crane’s life. The dog was fitted with a harness that Crane could grasp to steady himself. He could do almost anything, go anywhere with the trusty Lab by his side. The two have been to Disneyland, zoos and on cruises. They have visited governors’ offices and doctors’ offices and sat (or in Alepo’s case, laid) in the front row of concerts. “I’ve met more bands,” Crane says. “They like the dog.” Taking Alepo everywhere became second nature, Crane says. “You get so used to working as a team, it’s almost as if life was supposed to be that way.”

Life in transition

Then this summer, everything changed. Crane noticed Alepo had lost his appetite. On July 19, Alepo had emergency gallbladder surgery. The 11-year-old Lab had to officially be retired as Crane’s epilepsy assistance dog. Alepo’s harness now sits by the front door, ready to be returned to Canine Partners for Life, a Pennsylvania service dog provider that trained Alepo to react to a scent emitted by the human body in the minutes before a seizure occurs. Crane says Alepo has never failed to alert him, and four years ago he warned a stranger of an impending seizure at an airport. Crane is preparing to go to Canine Partners for Life in November to get a new assistance dog. He had a choice to return with Alepo. Service dog providers have foster families ready to take in retired assistance dogs. It can be expensive to care for an older, retired animal. Crane’s disability income is limited. He had to leave his job as a Manhattan insurance underwriter 17 years ago because of the epilepsy.

Five years ago, Crane created My Assistance Dog Inc., a nonprofit to provide information about assistance dogs. The website has lists of organizations that provide service dogs and information about how to get help to pay for them, among other resources. His latest effort is providing information to veterans on how they can get service dogs for free. “The problem is there are long waits to get a dog and people are not up to waiting,” he says.

Crane hesitated to sign up for a successor dog for Alepo. He says the expense of caring for a second dog was a factor. Crane’s sister, Helen Markus, says otherwise. Her brother’s hesitation probably had little to do with finances, she says. Canine Partners for Life suspects Crane’s reluctance revolved around his feelings for Alepo. “They said, ‘We definitely think Ed is going through something because of the surgery, and the guilt of bringing another dog in.’”

Alepo is not Crane’s first assistance dog. He and Charity, a female black Lab, were partners for eight years. Charity died suddenly, however, and it was easier for Crane to accept a new partner. There were no worries over how his old partner would react to a replacement. Tonya Guy, associate director of communications at Canine Partners for Life, says Alepo likely is ready for a life of leisure. “Some dogs love retirement and go right into going on the couch,” she says. Typically when a retired canine partner is introduced

continued on page 18...
An Unbreakable Bond
Continued from page 17

to the successor service dog, the two hit it off, she says. No service dog can show any sign of aggression to be placed with an individual.

Old and new bonds
Canine Partners for Life has a dog – Zern – already chosen for Crane. He’s a yellow Lab. Crane and Zern should get along. Service dogs are matched to the person. In Crane’s case, the dog has to have the ability to alert to seizures. He needs to be mellow and calm, traits agreeable to Crane, Guy says. Zern has to walk at a slower pace to match Crane’s gait, and he has to like to travel, because Crane is an adventurer.

Alepo definitely was a good match for Crane. The partners have shared an unbreakable bond.

Crane says his relationship with Alepo is only a little different from the loving relationships that humans are used to sharing with each other. Alepo will always have a home with him, he says.

Alepo continues to want to help Crane, immediately going into service mode when his old harness is temporarily strapped on so that Crane can show how the two used to walk together.

Crane ascribes attributes of loyalty to Alepo that would make a human partner blush. “He doesn’t want to give up. I think the key is that he has been trained to be a leader and to perform his function and do it accurately, and at the same time show his support and love.”

Since his partner has been sidelined, Crane has had to leave Alepo home a couple of times to go to doctor appointments. “Just coming back home he was looking at me saying, ‘Hey, what’s going on? What’s changed?’” For Crane, the trips have been upsetting. He has had to revert to carrying a cane; and the possibility of falling is a fear he can’t shake. “Just getting into a car and going to a doctor without him by my side just doesn’t feel right.”

NOTE: Alepo needs gallbladder surgery. The cost for this procedure is $6,441. On August 17, 2018 Ed created a GoFundMe account. At the time the Fresno Bee published this article (September 6, 2018) $780 had been raised. As of November 12, 2018 77 generous individuals donated $4,155 dedicated to Alepo and Ed.

If you want to check out the video of Ed and Alepo’s interview here is the link: https://www.fresnobee.com/latest-news/article217463305.html

Alepo’s GoFundMe page: https://www.gofundme.com/quotalepoquot-needed-emergency-surgery

Suggestions for Having Your Assistance Dog with You at Work and Sensitivity to Your Co-Workers’ Allergies

If your co-worker(s) are concerned about your service dog because of potential allergies, here are some questions you might ask with the intention to create a healthy work environment for everyone. After giving your co-worker(s) concerns some honest and open consideration, decide if the conversation should continue in a team setting or if keeping the discussion private between yourself, your co-worker(s), and preferably your boss is the best choice. In an effort to develop a plan that is inclusive and resolute, utilize the following suggestion from the Federal Job Accommodation Network database:

• Is it possible for employees to work in different areas of the building?
• Is it practical for either or both the service dog and those who have allergies to take different paths to move within the building, are not using common areas such as the break room and conference room at the same time?
• Is it workable for one or both of the employees to have a private/enclosed workspace?
• Would using a portable air purifier at each workstation be beneficial?
• Can those affected have flexible work schedules so they are not in the building at the same time or work from home or work at a different office location?
• Arrange for alternative means to in-person communication, such as e-mail, telephone, teleconferencing, and videoconferencing.
• Can your employer add HEPA filters to the existing ventilation system and have the work areas – including carpets, cubicle walls, and window treatments – cleaned, dusted, and vacuumed more often then the regular schedule?

Resources:
JAN (Job Accommodation Network)
https://askjan.org/topics/servanim.cfm

Northwest ADA Center
http://nwadacenter.org/factsheet/service-animals-employment-accommodation
Grief: Resources and Reflections

By Helene DeMartinez

Holiday expectations and winter temperatures sometimes bring about reflections of what once was, with feelings of loss and often physical and emotional pain. Isolation may intensify these feelings bringing about great sadness. This is when you, as your assistant canine’s partner, need to connect and share your feelings with someone who takes the time to listen and really hear you. Your assistant canine partner depends on your health and wellbeing, so that you to are present and active as a team partner. Balance in life is essential, not just for you, but also your canine partner. Knowing the signs when help is needed and then asking for help is vital. Mental health professionals can guide you to services that may best serve you. However, finding the right fit may take time, so be prepared.

However, should your canine partner be ill, in pain, and you might be experiencing anticipatory grief or making end of life decisions preparing to say goodbye, my heart and prayers are with you. No words can truly comfort. This is when you need to be heard and comforted with a compassionate heart. And, by people who are well versed and specialize in the human-animal bond. After Mystique and Brandy passed away, months apart in 2012, I was devastated. I sought out a local bereavement nonprofit organization. I received compassionate support by an animal companion pet loss support specialist. I was so impressed, so I trained along with Bisonté to be an animal companion pet loss support specialist. I have held group sessions but my main focus is one-on-one phone support services.

Some options for your consideration:

IAADPs Assistance Dog Loss Committee (ADLC) has contact information in every issue of Partners Forum. Email: adlc@iaadp.org

WinterSpring Center for Transforming Grief and Loss is another organization offering grief support and education, information and referral, a library, speakers bureau and more. Phone: 541-552-0620 Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/WinterSpring89/ Website: http://www.winterspring.org (forthcoming, under construction).

The Argus Institute offers clinic support programs and pets hospice programs which are overseen by Colorado State University Veterinary Teaching Hospital. The clinical counselors and veterinary students provide compassionate end of life care and emotional support for animal companions and their partners. You can order and download their brochure “Making Decisions When Your Companion Animal is Sick” in hard copy or in electronic PDF format for a small fee at: https://www.cvmbs.colostate.edu/cc/making-decisions-when-your-companion-animal-is-sick-downloadable-pdf. Phone: 970-297-1242 Email: argus@colostate.edu Website: http://www.argusinstitute.colostate.edu

Editor’s Addition:

Honoring the Bond is a program at Ohio State University Veterinary Medical Center with support services by social workers for clients. Their website features many resources including reading lists, hotlines, handouts with coping tips, and a 10-page brochure booklet with an assessment tool “How Will I Know? Assessing Quality of Life and Making Difficult Decisions” available for download in electronic PDF format at: https://vet.osu.edu/vmc/sites/default/files/files/companion/HTB/Difficult%20decisions%202017%20web%20proof1.pdf Phone: 614-247-8607 Website: http://vet.osu.edu/honoringthebond

About the Author

Helene DeMartinez served in the law and justice field in both the public and private sector before retiring. She has been involved as a volunteer in disaster preparedness over the last forty years, most recently teaching on disaster psychology. Helene currently is a bereavement facilitator for Winterspring in Southern, Oregon specializing in animal companion loss which Breezy assists with.

Assistance Dog Loss Committee

Are you grieving the loss or impending retirement of your assistance dog? Would you like to participate in our monthly call by phone with others in the same situation? Many have found that it helps to share their feelings with those experiencing similar issues.

If you are interested, please email ADLC@iaadp.org and one of our support facilitators will be in touch to see if it’s right for you. Since there are limited spots in each monthly call, those who contact us first will be given priority.

If you have been through the loss of an assistance dog and would like to consider helping the committee, you may get in touch with the committee using the email listed above.
Resources from ADI (Assistance Dogs International) & ADEU (ADI Europe):

For international legislative activities regarding public access laws in Europe, ADEU has compiled a list published online at: https://www.assistancedogsinternational.org/access-and-laws/europe-adeu/

For more information, the web page says to contact Mark van Gelder by email at: m.van.gelder@assistancedogs.org

In addition there is an international guide published by ADI (Assistance Dogs International) from 2006 outlining access laws (PDF format, 83 pages) at: http://www.assistancedogsinternational.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/01/ADI20062ndprint.pdf

CANADA

The Blind Side Podcast 83 regarding the Canadian standards: “Federal hands are off Canadian harnesses...” https://overcast.fm/+E0zAbydEM

The Blind Side Podcasts with Jonathan Mosen https://www.theblindside.libsyn.com

Roy Green, host of the Roy Green Show on the Global News Radio network, said “Damn it, man! Write the cheque.” when he commented about the situation of unspent funds for veterans ($372 Million), effectively denying service dogs and other services for veterans struggling to cope with PTSD. Further, the Prime Minister Justin Trudeau publicly stated that he would not commit to fully-funding service dogs despite the government report showing ‘significant’ reduction in PTSD symptoms.

Read Roy Green’s article and watch videos at this link: https://globalnews.ca/news/4470935/roy-green-veterans-service-dogs

ISRAEL

Hila Meudah, 24, was recently posted to the Military Advocate General as a legal advisor to the Israel Air Force. Although there are 21 visually impaired soldiers in the military, Hila is the first and only one to date who has been granted support for her assistance dog, Niels, to work with her at Camp Rabin in Tel Aviv.


Did you know that Tel Aviv is branding itself a dog-friendly city?!

There are an estimated 30,000 dogs, living with the 413,000 residents. Recently Tel Aviv was declared to be the friendliest city for dogs in the world! In Tel Aviv you may take your dog everywhere, dogs are a part of the community! They are welcome in most cafes, stores and even high-end restaurants, as well as on city buses and trains and in taxi vans. The residents of Tel Aviv along with city government have developed 70 dog parks and four dog beaches. DogMen, a fast-growing dog walking service that sends owners photographs of their dogs on Whatsapp, and Dogiz, helps owners find dog services in their neighborhood and lets them track their dog’s daily walks in real time. Dafna Shir-Vertesh, an anthropologist who studies human-animal relations at Ben-Gurion University believes, “It is often believed that people can’t really do anything about all the horrible things going on around us. But maybe [including dogs in our community] is our way of making a change in the world.”


AUSTRALIA

Miracle Assistance Dogs Training Program Responds to Supply & Demand Capacity Issues by Lending Support and Training for Owners to Train their Future Assistance Dogs

In an effort to reduce the bottleneck of assistance dog provision in Australia, the Miracle Assistance Dog trainers are experimenting with training people to train their future assistance dogs. In her article, Annabelle Regan points out that there are “only five individuals in Australia able to conduct the public access test for people who have trained their own dogs...” including Ms. Kaczmar, qualified with Transport NSW to certify an assistance dog team.


Learn more about Miracle Assistance Dogs at their website: https://www.miracleassistancedogs.org.au/

JAPAN

As Japan continues to prepare for the 2020 Olympics and Paralympics, assistance dog champions and advocates including Mariko Yamamoto, Naoto Anzue, and others are eager to see public access for assistance dog teams gain acceptance. IAADP board members have met and collaborated with Mariko Yamamoto on several occasions since connecting at the Assistance Dog Partner Conference in Japan in 2010.
Anders’ 7th Birthday

by Andrea Leigh Giudice

September 20, 2018

Yet again I find myself in the wee hours of my sweet boy’s birthday contemplating how to capture in mere words the epicness of him!

I have said it all before…he is ridiculously smart, a stupendous guide, a colossal nut ball, a prodigious flirt, absurdly sweet, enormously cuddly, astoundingly laid-back, a gigantic cutie and the most velvety eared dog ever!!

So, what more can I say? How can I say it differently? Maybe I can’t but I feel as if I must try.

Anders’ presence beside me as we navigate life is a gift I strive each day to deserve. His excellence is cherished, his partnership treasured, his gentle strength valued, his quiet way of “shouting” his belief in me, staggering!

Happy birthday my Anders. May your dreams be filled with endless piles of toys and your days be filled with the joyous challenge of work and the gleeful abandon of play!!!!

With respect, gratitude, and overwhelming love,
Mom, AKA the lesser half of the A Team

MEMBERSHIP QUESTIONS?
CHANGE OF ADDRESS or DOG?

Contact
Membership Coordinator at
888-54-IAADP  888-544-2237
membership@iaadp.org

Presenting IAADP at The Total Life Expo

by Andrea Leigh Giudice with Mr. A, GDB yellow lab guide dog

I was lucky enough to represent IAADP at The Total Life Expo with my guide dog in November. This multifaceted event took place in a sprawling ballroom at the Mohegan Sun Casino, organized by the Chamber of Commerce of Eastern Connecticut on behalf of the Mohegan Tribe to bring wellness services and information to the local community. Before arriving the morning of Saturday, November 10th, I expected IAADP to be among a modest group of the “usual suspects” – organizations serving people with disabilities, veterans, people experiencing houselessness, lack of insurance and under-representation. However, I was amazed by the vast array of organizations, companies and crafts each setting up in the enormous space. Throughout the day, there was a constant parade of performers (dancers, singers, musicians) strutting their stuff on the stage as hordes of attendees assembled in the grand high-ceiling room. Not only were there organizations of every stripe serving the aforementioned populations, there were local hospitals, traditional and nontraditional health providers, plus tables with bakers and candlestick makers. Jewelry, textile and other local artisans rubbed shoulders with representatives from newspapers, telephone companies, and commercial enterprises important to the infrastructure of any community. Although some attendees scampered about “trick or treating” to grab freebies and avoid conversation, most were genuinely interested in each organization’s activities and the messages they had to share. Many stopped by our table, learning about the assistance dog movement and quite a few shared their frustrations with the epidemic of fake service dogs polluting public spaces from grocery stores to airplanes and everywhere in between. I would like to extend my thanks to IAADP for asking me to be our representative at this event, for Megan Gilbert reaching out to IAADP to participate, and to my able assistants without whom I would not have been able to carry this off – Mom, Janet and Gail, auntie of my heart.

About the Author:

Andrea Leigh Giudice serves as President of the Connecticut Council of the Blind (CTCB), an affiliate of the American Council of the Blind (ACB) and as the 2019 GDUI Convention Coordinator for Guide Dog Users, Inc. (GDUI)

A quote by Mariko Yamamoto appeared in an article of The California Aggie by Harnoor Gill: “Currently, there are only 1,111 assistance dogs in Japan…In the assistance dog law, only adults with visual disabilities, hearing disabilities and mobility disabilities can live with an assistance dog. People with other types of disabilities, such as epilepsy, diabetes, autism and [mental illness], are not eligible to have one.”


A quote by Mariko Yamamoto appeared in an article of The California Aggie by Harnoor Gill: “Currently, there are only 1,111 assistance dogs in Japan…In the assistance dog law, only adults with visual disabilities, hearing disabilities and mobility disabilities can live with an assistance dog. People with other types of disabilities, such as epilepsy, diabetes, autism and [mental illness], are not eligible to have one.”

After reading articles on the topic of holiday food safety for dogs, there is a common message of avoiding foods high in fat and sugar, vegetables in the onion family (i.e. scallions, red/white/yellow/green onions, leeks, garlic, etc.), and foods with spices. If it is important to you to include your dog in the family feast, prepare them a small plate of unseasoned white turkey meat from the part of the turkey breast without skin, fat or bones. Skip scraps from your plate and absolutely no pie!

**Keep these numbers in a place that is visible! If an accident happens these numbers may be your dogs lifeline!**

ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center Phone Number: (888) 426-4435

24/7 Animal Poison Control Center: (855) 764-7661

**Links to online articles:**

Holiday Eats – What’s safe, what’s toxic!  
https://www.dogster.com/dog-food/dog-safe-thanks-giving-foods

These foods are on most of the American tables for Thanksgiving celebrations…But they have NO place in your dog’s food dish!  
https://www.petsbest.com/blog/thanksgiving-foods-pets-shouldnt-have/

Paws Off! All the foods on this list are not worth the risk!  

It’s just not food that poses a hazard for your dog…This link offers a list of all that is glittery and shiny and hazardous!  

This link is for a list of everyday foods that can be toxic to dogs, provided by ASPCA  
https://www.aspca.org/pet-care/animal-poison-control/people-foods-avoid-feeding-your-pets

---

**DISCLAIMER:** Dietary and nutrition needs may be individualized for any person and any creature as there may be allergies or other special needs, thus you are hereby notified and advised to seek counsel from qualified professionals such as a veterinarian and doctor before selecting food and treats for any person and any creature, to use at your own risk and expense. IAADP assumes no liability whatsoever. Nothing in this communication nor any content linking to or from this communication is intended to substitute for medical advice or professional advice of any kind whatsoever. Nothing in this communication has been evaluated by the FDA and nothing in this communication is intended to diagnose, cure, or treat any disease or condition.

---

**Pumpkin Peanut Butter Dog Treats**

**Ingredients**

- 2½ C Grain Free Flour - Garbanzo, Almond, Rice, etc.
- ½ Tbsp Peanut Butter
- 2 Large Eggs
- ¼ C Pumpkin Puree

**Directions**

1. Remember to preheat your oven to 300°
2. Blend together all of the ingredients: grain-free flour, peanut butter, eggs and pumpkin puree.
   
   Once the batter is thoroughly combined it should be sticky, so have a small bowl of extra flour handy to keep everything coated and sticky free! Everything means the wax paper, rolling pin, cookie cutter, and your hands!
3. Place the dough (this is what you call the batter once it’s mixed) on a floured piece of wax paper, roll it into ¼" thick circle. In order to effectively create your treats that are just right for your dogs enjoyment use a cookie-cutter of your choice.
4. Re-roll the scraps and cut out more treats!
5. Place your dog treats on a parchment-lined baking sheet. Bake 30 to 40 minutes or until golden brown.

Your dogs yummy treats will be stay fresh for up to 2 weeks in an airtight container.

---

**Daily Nutrition for The Health of Your Dog**

*By Helene DeMartinez*

Food can be a very complex subject, walk down any pet food aisle and the multitude of choices can be overwhelming. Then add the food offered at pet speciality stores, online, and at your veterinary office. Oh, and don’t forget the homemade and raw diets. So where does one begin? Let alone how is it that I am writing about this subject? Years before I became a disabled individual with a medical-alert / mobility assistance dog, I worked within the health and fitness industry where nutrition was an area of particular focus. When my assistance dog, Brandy, came into my life I concentrated on finding the best food as fuel to support her in every aspect.

Thankfully, my broad-minded out-of-state veterinarian supported my exploration into a variety of options. Brandy and I visited a veterinary dermatologist/allergist and a holistic veterinarian as a part of my research, these wonderful specialists were very patient and kind in educating me what to look for and what to avoid to meet Brandy’s nutritional requirements.

When Bisonté came into our lives his needs were entirely different. We as assistance dog teams require the...
very best information to support our canines’ needs with good nutrition to prevent illness. For a good read, the best resource I have found to date on this topic is “Feed Your Best Friend Better” by Rick Woodford, the “Dog Food Dude.” This book educates canine owners on nutrition, portion size, foods to avoid, foods to share, treats, feeding growing puppies, meals for ailing dogs, choosing a commercial dog food, addressing problem mealtime behaviors, and additional resources like recipes using whole foods with advisable daily portions for the size of your dog, a guide to reading commercial dog food labels, and a comparison of the benefits quality food. This book is easy to read and is still available at various book sites such as Amazon GoodReads and Barnes and Noble. If you are like me, and do not use the internet, here is the information for your local bookstore to find it or order it for you:

Publish Date: Apr 10, 2012
ISBN-10: 1449409938

If you do use the internet and would like to find out what Rick Woodford is up to these days, check out his website: http://www.dogfooddude.com/fyfbf.html

Calendar of Events

Go to the link http://calendar.iaadp.org and find out what is happening around the world in the ADP community and many fun and insightful celebrations, conferences and observances. If you have an event of interest to share with the assistance dog partner community, please email editor@iaadp.org with the details and links.

Notice and Disclaimer: These events are external to IAADP and are listed solely as a courtesy. Event listings do not constitute endorsements. IAADP and its directors, volunteers, and supporters may not agree in whole or part with the viewpoints, philosophy, recommendations, or content, including any content linking directly or indirectly to or from content related to the event(s) by the parties. IAADP accepts no liability of any kind whatsoever. IAADP makes no guarantees, including but not limited to, the accuracy of information or fitness of purpose. Nothing in this newsletter, or any content linking to or from, is intended to diagnose, treat or cure any condition. Nothing in this newsletter, or any content linking to or from, is intended to substitute for legal advice, medical advice or other professional advice. You are hereby notified and advised to seek advice from qualified professionals at your own risk and expense.

December

December 5  International Volunteer Day
December 10  International Human Rights Day
December 13-16  Fetch dvm360: West; San Diego, CA
December 15-16  AKC National Championship Dog Show (Check local listings for broadcast times)

January 2019

January 1  Scholarship Application Deadline for the Psychiatric Service Dog Partners Convention
January 1-30  Dog Training Education Month
January 2  National Train Your Dog Month
January 10-13  National Walk Your Pet Month
January 14  National Pet Travel Safety Day
January 24  National Dress Up Your Pet Day
January 27-30  Change a Pet’s Life Day
January 29  Pet Industry Leadership Conference; San Antonio, TX
January 29  Anniversary of The Seeing Eye

Nominate IAADP to Receive Funding

There are several online fundraising resources such as like Charitocracy, AmazonSmile, and GivingAssistant which help not-for-profit organizations like IAADP receive monies to sustain the ongoing mission work of our kind volunteers. You can nominate, vote for and/or designate IAADP as your “Charity of Choice” to receive funding. If you nominate IAADP for funding or awards, please let our Social Media Team leader (jill@iaadp.org) know so we can get the word out!

WANTED

Articles, Stories and Photos

Please send to editor@iaadp.org
Board Update

Official notification was sent out to eligible Partner Members to vote on 2 ballot items: 1) Board candidates brought forward by the Nominating Committee to serve for a four-year term including: Toni Ann Eames; Jill Exposito; Devon Wilkins; Edward Crane; Megan Kennedy; Cindi Fleishans; and Laura Rose. 2) Proposed action to change IAADPs Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws to change from a membership to a directorship organization structure. Historically, response rates and turnouts have been low yet the expenses quite high (thousands of US dollars) for notices, annual meetings, travel, etc. The board believes the financial resources required by membership structure would be better used for more pressing mission-related activities. IAADPs Partner Members would no longer vote. IAADPs Board of Directors would be responsible for decisions regarding the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws going forward. However, members would continue to have a voice by sharing concerns, comments, questions and more with the Board of Directors. The greatest contribution to the assistance dog community would continue to be the work of IAADP member involvement. Votes will be tallied and results announced by 12/15/2018. For more information, contact board.iaadp@gmail.com or call 541-972-3743.

Who Do I Ask? Where Do I Send It?

Toni Eames, IAADP President
toni@iaadp.org

Laura Rose, Chair and Editor
laurarose@iaadp.org

Jill Exposito, Vice President and Treasurer (USA)
jill@iaadp.org

Devon Wilkins, Vice President (Canada)
devon@iaadp.org

Edward Crane, Secretary
edward@iaadp.org

Cindi Fleishans, Board Member
cindi@iaadp.org

Megan Kennedy, Board Member
megan@iaadp.org

Dana Spears, Membership Coordinator
mc.iaadp@gmail.com

Database, VCP Member Benefits

Membership Questions
(888) 544-2237 (USA/North America) (248) 693-9911 (International)

Newsletter Editor
editor@iaadp.org

Information & Advocacy Center
info@iaadp.org

National Helpline
(541) 972-3647 (248) 693-9911

International Helpline

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

To unsubscribe, you can send an email to info@iaadp.org with unsubscribe in the subject line

Membership Information

Membership Dues: Partner Member $40; Renewal $40; or join/renew, 3 years for the price of 2 years! $80; Partners outside United States $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 a membership application with S.A.S.E. Credit/Debit Cards accepted online! Specify newsletter format - Print, Cassette, Data CD or Email. Renewal notices may or may not reach you. Please renew 45 to 60 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! To unsubscribe, you can send an email to info@iaadp.org with unsubscribe in the subject line.