



AssistanceDogs of America, Incorporated

Volunteer Update

October/November 2006

ABCs of dog training:

P is for “place!”

The command “place” refers to a dog lying down in a designated area, particularly a mat or bed, until released.

In order for this command to be successful, we suggest starting out by placing a mat or dog bed on the floor and lure your dog until he is standing with all four feet on the mat or bed. Click and treat him immediately when he does as he is told. Repeat this step, placing the dog in all directions on the mat or bed.



After the dog easily walks onto the mat or bed with all four paws from differing directions, add the cue “place.” He should soon begin to go to the bed and stand on it when you use this command. Make sure you follow through by

saying “free” before allowing the dog to walk off the bed.

Once the dog learns the command start luring him into a “down” position as soon as he is on the mat or bed. Try not to say “down” or “stay” as the goal is to have the understand that “place” means to go to the bed, lie down and stay until released—without any extra cues.

While your dog in in the “down” position treat him several times to reinforce the command before releasing him. Gradually require him to maintain a “down” position for longer periods of time until eventually you can walk around and he remains on his place.

Many of our clients use the command “place” when they need to answer the door, have dinner or work in the office. This command allows the dog to have a place to relax while still being supervised. Remember, practice makes perfect!

In the Spotlight:



Eric Johnson and Toby visit the pet store as part of final training before graduation. Four others were also paired with special dogs. For story and details, please see Page 3.

ADAI Fund-raiser Event:

“Dealin’ for Dogs” a success!

Hundreds of ADAI supporters had a blast under heated tents at the home of gracious hosts Jenni and Tim Yoder on Sept. 30 to take part in the first “Dealin’ for Dogs” Casino Night and BBQ.

ADAI would like to recognize and thank the following volunteers who helped make this night a grand success!

Committee Members: Karen Bade (Committee Chair), Judy and Ted Eckel, Jan Quail, Sue Rakes, Cathy Witte, *Jenni Yoder, Karen Galloway, *Julie Johns, Marcia Stager, and *Patti Jo Fantozz.

Board Members: Nasreen Bhumbra, Gary Johnson, Pam and Bill Davis, Dr. Wayne North, Greg Bakies, and Kim Hanson

Volunteers: Steve Hanson, Tonya Wilhelm, Nathalie and Clyde Givens, Woody McIntyre, Annette Coker, Frank Cody, Rich Douglas, and Pete Preston

Staff: Cindy Preston, Myndi Milliken, Joanna Viola, Kate McComb, Karen Swartz-Dowling, and Marilyn Lazarus.

*also a board member



Thank you to all of our volunteers. You are the heart of our program!

Mark Your Calendars!



Foster Class Schedule:

Please remember that if you are unable to make a foster class, to schedule a private lesson with Kali or Joanna by calling 419-825-3622.

Nov. 11

- Beginner—9 a.m.
- Puppy 10:30 a.m.

Nov. 18

- Intermediate 9 a.m.
- Advanced 10:30 a.m.

Dec. 9

- Beginner—9 a.m.
- Puppy 10:30 a.m.

Dec. 16

- Intermediate 9 a.m.
- Advanced 10:30 a.m.

Look for these events via email!

Share-A-Meal: Nov. 13

Community Day: Nov. 11 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Elder-Beerman store in Northwood's Woodville Mall.

Volunteer/Foster Holiday Party: Dec. 2 at 6:30 p.m. at Karen Bade's home.

Volunteers of the Month!

Congratulations to our Volunteers of the Month. ADAI would like to recognize the following volunteers for their hard work and dedication.

Karen Lemle — May

Sue Kroyer — June

Jill Kinsel — July

Ann Studer — August

Barb Ross — September

Abigail & LeeAnne Curtis — October

Annual Golf Classic a success

A big thank-you is offered by ADAI staff and volunteers to everyone who supported the annual Golf Classic held May 22. More than 120 golfers hit the greens and took part in live and silent auctions that helped raise \$30,000 for ADAI.

Golfers were treated to a sack lunch, steak/chicken dinner and a take-home golf club for their generous support.

This year's honorees were Breck Davis and his black lab Jett, and in memory of Cub.

Thank you to everyone who helped make this event a success!



Above: Golfing for support



Left: Breck Davis and Jett

Working around strange dogs

Encountering strange dogs will be inevitable and necessary as you take your assistance dogs on outings. There's sure to be dogs at the park, pet store and even the local ice cream parlor. You can use these encounters to train your dog in a positive way.

Here are some tips on a successful outing while encountering strange dogs:

1. Never allow your dog to greet a strange dog. When you see another dog, correct your dog with "leave it" if he shows interest in the other dog. If he responds to your command and gives you eye contact, praise and reward him with a really good treat.

2. If your dog does not respond to you, turn away from the strange dog until your dog has settled, then re-approach. You may need to do this several times every time you see a new dog until your dog has it down.

3. Practice the "watch" command while having a friend walk a

dog past your dog. You can also take your dog to the park to expose him to many different, breeds, ages and sizes (and temperments) of dogs.

4. Make sure you have his gentle



Don't allow your dog to greet strange dogs. Work on "leave it" and "watch" instead.

leader or triple crown collar fitted properly and that you have it on whenever you are out in public.

The ultimate goal is to have your dog ignore all dogs and give you eye contact instead. Remember, this takes practice! Be sure to report any incident where your dog has barked or acted aggressively toward another dog.

Prison Puppy Update

ADAI currently has six puppies in the program, where approved prisoners are teamed up with a puppy to raise during its first year with ADAI.

NEW PUPPY:

The latest addition to the group is Truman, a golden-doodle male puppy who enjoys learning and playing with the other dogs. Also in the program are Belle, Carson, Scarlet, and Jay.

JAZZY MOVES ON:

The program's black Lab puppy turned a year old in October and "graduated" to her second year of training. She's currently at ADAI's facility and will be placed in a foster home for more training. Jazzy has been a good student under her inmate trainer, Lee Vogelsong.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

ADAI's furlough volunteers take the prison pups for a week each month to accustom them to a home environment and take them on community outings. We are always looking for new volunteers for long-term and short-term stays. If you are interested, please contact Myndi at 419-825-3622.

SCARLET'S FACE LIFT

Scarlet was born without the skin that covers the top of her head. Scar tissue would form to close up the area, but because she was a growing puppy, the tissue would open and cause infection. Dr. Wayne North at Perrysburg Animal Care took care of Scarlet's issues once and for all by performing a face lift and removing the affected skin. Scarlet was on medical furlough to recover for three weeks and she's now infection-free!

Meet the Foster: Diane Pickering

Diane Pickering, a first grade teacher at Arlington Elementary and a mother of two, is currently fostering Sasha, a 1-year-old black Labrador retriever.

In the past, she and her family have welcomed Windsor, a golden retriever, into their home. Windsor was released from the program in 2005 and is now a permanent resident of the Pickering household.

A special thank-you to Diane and her family for their hard work and dedication!



Diane with Sasha

Graduation Day!!



ADAI recently honored five new graduating dogs and their new owners in a ceremony at Valleywood Golf Club in Swanton. The following is a brief description of each graduate and who they were paired with:

Toby, a male yellow lab that was a pet home donation, will be assisting Eric Johnson, of Berea, OH. Toby will be assisting Eric with his power wheelchair, retrieving, pushing access buttons and closing the garage door.



Eric with Toby



Gary with Cedar

Cedar, a female yellow lab donated by a breeder, will assist Gary Phipps, of Swanton, with retrieving his cane and other items, pulling off his socks and lifting his legs into bed.

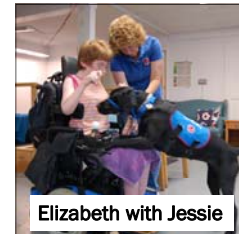
Raven, a female black lab from the Lucas County Pound, will help Percy Johnson, of Oregon, with retrieving, getting his crutches and

walker, and lifting his legs.

Jessie, a female black lab donated by a breeder, will assist Elizabeth Schrack, of Akron, with going to school (even riding the bus), opening doors, retrieving items, and getting her backpack.



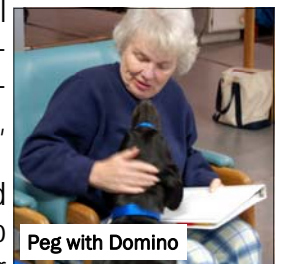
Percy with Raven



Elizabeth with Jessie

Domino, a male black lab-mix who came from an animal shelter, will serve as a constant companion to Peg Ray, of Perrysburg.

ADAI would also like to thank our puppy-raisers and fosters who helped with these dogs: Dawn Tyndall-Sheater, Karen Bade, Judy Holdridge, Jenna Badenhop, Nathalie Givens, Paul and Stephany Johnson, and Chris Diefenthaler.



Peg with Domino

8806 State Route 64
Swanton, Ohio 43558
419-825-3622



Scout dresses up as a super dog for foster Karen Edwards.



Video showcasing ADAI makes debut

Those who want to help spread the word on what ADAI is all about now have a new tool—a video showcasing our program, people and dogs. Thanks to some special people, ADAI has a new general information video.

The video was produced and donated by Hanson, Inc., with videography donated by Mike Malone. WTOL-News 11's Melissa Voetsch gave her time to narrate the piece, and testimonials were given by Breck Davis, Jenni and Tyler Yoder, Tom Wattersworth and family, and Tanya Eversole.

"We now have a professional piece that eloquently and emotionally describes what ADAI does," said Kim Hanson, ADAI board member. "This will make it easy for volunteers and staff to make presentations to the public now."

If you would like to use a copy at your next function or event, please contact ADAI at 419-825-3622.

Fosters! Send your photos to us for the newsletter!
mmilliken@adai.org



ADAI gets new logo

Assistance Dogs of America, Inc. still works hard to train and place service dogs with people who need them. What is new is a redesigned logo!

Directed by ADAI Board Member Kim Hanson, Dan Weeks of Weeks & Associates designed this contemporary look.

"It helps represent our growth and momentum," Hanson said. "We thought a lot about what we stood for and what we wanted to communicate."