



Foster Family Focus Volunteer Newsletter

www.adai.org

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Assistance Dogs of America, Inc. 8806 State Route 64 Swanton, OH 43537



ABC's of Foster Care- M for Mark

Mark is a new command that ADAI has just begun to use within the past year. It is easily confused with push, and often fosters find themselves confused on how to distinguish between the two commands. The command "Mark" is a directional command which teaches the dogs to bump their nose again a target or hand and to follow that target or hand when it is moved. Many times we use "mark" to teach the dogs in training commands such as "Front" or "Finish" in place of treat luring. "Mark" eliminates the need for a treat lure, thus the dog becomes less dependent on a food lure and is better able to think through what is expected of him on his own. The "mark" command also serves as the foundation for teaching your dog the command "Push". You teach them to target a lid using the command "mark". When your dog can reliably do this, you begin to put the lid against a drawer or cupboard. The command is changed to "Push" once your dog has begun to apply force against the target with his nose. The end result is that "Mark" is to follow a target and bump it with their nose. "Push" is to not only bump a target but to apply force to it as well. It is important to distinguish between these two in order to eliminate any confusion your dog may develop.



Meet the Foster- Rick and Karen Gallaway

Rick and Karen Gallaway are currently fostering their second dog, a yellow lab puppy named Cooper. They raised their first dog, a yellow lab named Chase, from a puppy; he graduated in our November 2005 class and was successfully placed as a walking service dog. They do an excellent job in their fostering, and help out at many of our events throughout the year. Karen is also very active in helping out on the graduation committee and has participated the past two years in our Summer Agility. Thank you to both Karen and Rick for your hard work and dedication to Assistance Dogs!



New Prison Program!!!

2006 is bringing a lot of great changes for ADAI. One of our biggest changes is the addition of our new Prison Puppy Program with the Toledo Correctional Institution (ToCI). This month we will be placing four puppies at Toledo Correctional Institution with specially interviewed and selected inmates. The inmates will be working with ADAI and ToCI staff both to meet the criteria of our training curriculum. The puppies are being specially selected and will remain in the Prison Puppy Program until they are one year old. At that time they will be evaluated and placed in a foster home until their final training. We will need Puppy Furlough Volunteers to take a puppy for a weekend to a week at a time. Furlough Volunteers will be responsible for socializing the puppies in public and basic house manners. If you can't be a Furlough Volunteer, we can still use your help! We are developing a wish list of items that we need for the Prison Puppy Program. If you are interested in making a wish list donation, becoming a Volunteer Furlough or would just like more information about our new program feel free to contact Kali at the facility or by email at KKosch@adai.org.

Spring Class



Mark it in your calendars now! Our Spring Client Team Training Class will begin on Monday, March 27th and go through Friday, April 7th. Keep watching the newsletter and emails for additional information!

Upcoming Events

Toledo Humane Society Mutt Show

On Saturday, February 11th the Toledo Area Humane Society will be hosting their third annual "Great American Mutt Show 2006" from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. at the Seagate Centre in Toledo. There will be a dog show with winners in "mostly" breed categories along with vendors and pet related organizations. We will need volunteers at two different shifts. The first shift will be from 10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. The second shift will be from 12:30 p.m. - 3 p.m. If you would like to help out at this event please contact me by email or call the office. Thank you so much in advance!

Volunteering Opportunity

Do you enjoy working with photos and scrapbooking? Do you have some extra time you'd like to spend volunteering with ADAI? If so, we have a job for you! We are looking for someone to help in the organization of our photos and creation of scrapbooks. We'll guide you in the process, we just need your creativity and time! If you would like to help, please contact us at the facility. Thanks!





Dear ADAI Fosters and Volunteers,
As many of you already know, this will be my last newsletter I will be writing for ADAI. January 31st will be my last day here as a staff member as I will be moving to North Carolina upon my husband's return from Afghanistan. I wanted to thank each and every one of you for your help and dedication to the program. I have learned so much from each one of you and cherish the friendships I've made. We don't tell you enough how much we appreciate the hard work and time you put into ADAI. All of you have helped to open my eyes to how important volunteerism is within non-profit organizations. It has been such a pleasure and an honor to get to know all of you while I have worked here. Again, thank you for everything you do!

-Trisha Martin

Staff Changes

I'd also like to introduce two new staff members to ADAI. Susan Paiva is our new part-time Prison Puppy Coordinator/Trainer who will be working with the Prison Puppy Program along with helping Kali at the facility. She lives with her husband and dogs in Toledo. She has volunteered for the organization for several months and is a welcome addition to the staff. Our other new staff member is Joanna Viola. She is coming to us from Michigan where she previously worked at a kennel. Joanna will be taking on the position of full-time Staff Trainer/Volunteer Coordinator. She will be working with Kali in the daily training of the dogs, helping with the Foster Family Program and will take over the organization of events. Please be sure to welcome them both to our staff the next time you are at the facility!

Is Your Dog Getting Enough Exercise?

During the cold months it's common for us to avoid braving the outside elements. As a result, our dogs tend to not get the amount of exercise they are used to or need. Here are some suggestions for some activities and ideas to keep your dog fit:



- 1) Play Hide & Seek- Hide somewhere in your house and have your dog come find you. Make it exciting and give them their favorite toy every time they find you.
- 2) Have a designated area of your house where it is safe to play fetch with toys and be sure to get in a play session whenever possible.
- 3) Take them for play dates with other dogs or to a daycare for the day. Pups 'N' People and Rover Come Over Doggy Daycare both offer a ton of fun and stimulating exercises for your dog during the day.
- 4) Cut back on treats- Switch to lean jerky and be sure you are only using small pieces of treats when training.
- 5) Go on frequent Community Outings- take a trip to the mall or use your time grocery shopping as a training opportunity.