



Assistance Dogs of America, Incorporated

Volunteer Update

May 2007

ABCs of dog training:

S is for Stealing

Is your dog a canine version of Robin Hood: stealing from you to satisfy his needs? Dogs can be very sneaky at stealing, especially once they know it's wrong.

Common theft items: food from counters or tables (counter surfing), kid's toys, food from the floor, shoes, garbage items and rocks.

Prevention is key: The best way to solve stealing issues is to prevent the theft in the first place. Keep food off of counters and tables when you are not around. Pick up toys and garbage bins. Control your dog by leash or crate when you are not in a position to react properly to theft.

Catch your dog in the act: If you notice your dog going for the steal, use the command "Leave it" and reward them if they respond. If they get the object, trade the dog with a "Thank you" command and let him have something more appropriate. If they have stolen food, grab the item out of their mouth immediately. Even if they ate the item, make a big deal out of grabbing the object from their mouths (pretend if you have to).

Set them up: Sometimes it takes a set up to train your thief. For a toy, deliberately place the item in a room and walk your dog on leash by it. When he goes for it, say "Leave it" and reward correct responses. Do not allow access to that item without your control until you know your dog understands he cannot have it.

Spring Graduation



Mercedes, a black lab donated by Larry Lowry of Wauseon, will serve as a Therapy Dog for Emma Zorn, a second-grader from Taylor, Mich. Mercedes will help Emma, who has autism, socialize more and become more physically active. Mercedes was fostered by Frank and Brenda Cody of Maumee and Larry Lowry.

Cody, a golden retriever donated by Sandra McCartney of Leipsic, Ohio, will serve as an Assistance Dog for Susan Maziarz of Toledo. Susan has multiple sclerosis and Cody will help her with companionship and every day tasks such as



Tyler Yoder and Amber



Emma Zorn and Mercedes



Zach Zies and Zane

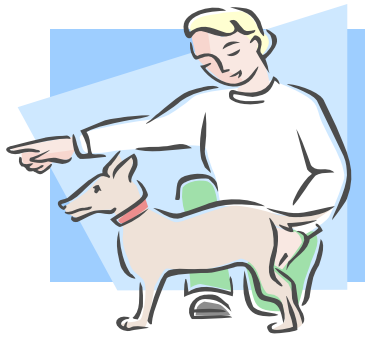


Susan and Cody

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If your dog enjoys stealing rocks, place some rocks in a specific location and walk your dog on leash near them. Follow the same rules and correct your dog if he does not listen.

Be vigilant and persistent: Some thieves are hard to reform, especially when the reward is so great (as in hot food from the counter). If you find your efforts are thwarted or not paying off, contact an ADAI trainer to have the behavior further evaluated.



Foster Class Schedule

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

- May 19: Intermediate—10 a.m.
- June 23: Beginner—9 a.m.
Puppy—10:30 a.m.
- June 29: Intermediate—9 a.m.
- July 14: Intermediate—9 a.m.
Advanced—10:30 a.m.
- July 21: Beginner—9 a.m.
Puppy—10:30 a.m.

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:

Rich Douglas
May

Karen Gallaway
April

We would like to thank...

- The fosters who have returned the following dogs for their final training: Judy and Doug Holdridge and Betty; Karen and Rick Gallaway and Cooper; Jill Kinsel and family and Lily; Diane Pickering and family and Sasha; and Margo Eagle and family and Tucker.
- Out of Town Puppy Raisers: Leanne Johnson and Sam; Lauren McGarry and Hank; Sheri Baird and Jake; LeeAnne Curtis and Wesley; Barb Ross and Watson.
- This year's Second-Year Fosters: Riley Sechrist and Danny; Jessica Buckingham and Stella; Sue Kroyer and Sullivan; and Kristen Nolte and Truman.
- Clean Up Day volunteers: Paul Johnson, Justin Schumacher, Chris Richie, Shanna Richie, Jessie Richie, Rich Douglas, Paul Johnson and Steph Johnson.
- Rebecca Schultz for taking puppies "last minute" and for daring to take two prison puppies (Sarah and Lydia) on furlough each month!

Spring Graduation, continued...

picking up items and opening doors. Cody was fostered by Sue Rakes and her daughter, Alicia Rakes of Napoleon, Ohio.

Tyler Yoder, whose first Assistance Dog, Duke, recently passed away, is now paired with Amber, a yellow lab from the Lagrange County Animal Shelter in Howe, Ind. Amber will help Tyler, who was diagnosed with a brain tumor at age 8, with balance, socialization and everyday tasks. Amber was fostered by Steve and Katie Stygles of Toledo.

Zane, a black lab from the Lagrange County Animal Shelter in Howe, Ind., will serve as an Assistance Dog to Zac Zies, 11, of Perysburg. Zane will help Zac, who has Friedreich's Ataxia, with getting his shoes, walking and retrieving dropped items. Zane was fostered by Sue Kroyer of Toledo.

Assistance Dogs of America, Inc. expresses its deepest gratitude to the donors, volunteers, foster families, clients and families of those receiving dogs--everyone is an important component of our mission and goals!

ADAI ALERT!

If you have paper shredders in your home or office, please make sure they are turned off unless you are using them! There have been several cases reported of dogs getting their tongues stuck and injured in these shredders. Many dogs have to be put down because of the painful injuries they receive.

Prison Puppy Program Update:



(L-R): Sarah and Dezmon, Connor and Tim, Sage and Lee, Jimmy and Joe, and Lydia and Lance.

Our prison program continues to change!

Handlers Julius Burch, who raised Scarlet and began to work with Sarah, and Tim Riley, who had Jay and Connor, have left the program. Sarah is now being raised by new handler Dezmon Lawrence. Connor is being raised by new handler Eric Oen. Dezmon and Eric were both selected after a stringent interview and 5-week orientation process.

Our puppies are doing very well—all of them have easily passed their monthly puppy training evaluations. Two, Jimmy and Sage, even know additional tricks like “play dead”. As you can see from the photo, they don’t mind their bunny ears either!

We would like to thank our current furlough volunteers: Rebecca Schultz (Lydia and Sarah), Matt and Tracee Wielinski (Jimmy), Cindy Preston (Sage) and Karen Gallaway (Connor).

We would like to have 15 puppies in the program by the end of the year, which means we have a great demand for furlough volunteers. Each puppy must go on “furlough” for one week each month so they can learn about outside environments, go on outings and know what living with a family is like. If you or anyone you know can offer a “furlough” please contact Myndi Milliken at 419-825-3622.

Rawhides can be dangerous

Recently, one of our dogs got a rawhide stuck in its intestine and required major surgery. Our policy advocates against the use of rawhides and certain animal bones.

Rawhides, made of animal products and hides, are popular toys but pose risks. They are digested slowly and can cause vomiting or diarrhea. If the rawhides are swallowed in large chunks, they can cause choking, irritation of the throat or blockages in the intestines (leading to surgery or death). In some countries, arsenic-based preservatives are used in processing rawhides! Recently, there was a FDA alert about the risk of Salmonella poisoning from dog chew products made from pork or beef. Also, cow hooves, pig ears, chicken bones and a variety of other animal bones can splinter and puncture intestines.

We recommend Kong toys, Pup Treads, Nylabone products or bleached marrowbones. These are durable for the average chewer and many brands also make an “extreme” version for strong chewers. You can find these treats at pet stores and supermarkets. Fillings of Kong toys, pup treads, and marrowbones will need to be done in moderation for fitness and weight control.

Calling all volunteers...

Summer's community events are quickly approaching! We invite you to come out and show your support and talk about your experiences with ADAI. By promoting ADAI, we can raise awareness about our organization and obtain more foster families and puppy raisers.

- May 20: Oregon Fest, 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Dustin Rd, Oregon (two shifts available)
- May 20: Toledo Area Humane Society's Walk for Animals "Bark in the Park," 9 a.m. at TAHS, 1920 Indian Wood Circle, Maumee
- May 28: American Legion of Swanton's Parade, 10:30 a.m. at Crestwood school

Please contact Kate McComb, volunteer coordinator, at 419-825-3622 or kmccomb@adai.org.



Tyler Yoder meets his new Assistance Dog, Amber, during ADAL's Spring Team Training.

SNAPSHOT...



Smiles for the
Easter Bunny!

Cooper had his photo taken for the holiday...can you guess what he's trying to say?

Thanks to Cooper's foster, Karen Gallaway for sharing this photo and for volunteering with us!

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

Agility Nights!!

Every summer, Judy Eckel helps with agility nights for fosters, volunteers, and staff to have fun with their dogs, and teach them some basic skills. It's great for their self-confidence and it's great exercise.

The class usually starts in June, after the Memorial Day holiday and go until the end of August. It is very basic, and no experience is necessary.

If you do not have a foster dog, you are welcome to run one of the facility dogs, or you may bring your pet if he is well-behaved. If you are interested, please email Judy at lublalsalot@aol.com.