



Newsletter

The Quarterly Newsletter of Australian Support Dogs, Inc.

WINTER 2008

President's Report

I would like to thank everyone for their ongoing support and encouragement for ASDOG, from those involved directly on the Board to all our wonderful members who motivate us to do what we are doing so well.



participating in the City to Surf, our training has been an 'up hill' battle as we prepare to make our way up "Heart Break Hill". We will be trying to create awareness for ASDOG, with any funds collected going into our continued research and development.

I would like to welcome all new members to ASDOG and hope you invite your friends to join our wonderful cause. I also thank those generous people who donate, enabling us to continue our work giving independence to the recipients of our canine friends.

During the past twelve months public awareness of our organisation and its aims has been raised to an even higher level and participation in events such as the City to Surf should raise it even more, especially if we succeed in having at least one of our dogs take part in the event

As we reach mid-2008 the organisation has continued to grow steadily and with great courage. Alongside those who have been long time supporters of ASDOG, many new faces have contributed bigger and brighter ideas which have helped the organisation to move forward with the times.

Australian Support Dogs, Inc. will continue to be successful as we work together!

Michael Losciuto, President

Next month a small group of participants (including myself) will be running, walking or creatively

Thank You...

DONATIONS:

<i>Barbara Chappell</i>	<i>Lola Stowe</i>
<i>Mrs. R. Norrish</i>	<i>Helen Grant</i>
<i>J. & Y. Almgren</i>	<i>Shirley Bellamy</i>
<i>Nancy Somerville</i>	<i>Vivian Moller</i>
<i>Tricia Reid</i>	<i>Renee Vesper</i>
<i>N. Jones</i>	<i>Hendra Tatham</i>
<i>Aussie Travel Cover, Mona Vale</i>	

NEW MEMBERS:

Marilyn Roberts



ASDOG Board of Directors

President	<i>Michael Losciuto</i>
Vice President	<i>Ann Barnacoat</i>
Hon. Secretary	<i>Sheree Hurley</i>
Hon. Treasurer	<i>Pam Livingstone</i>
Director of Training	<i>Dianna Cooper</i>
Newsletter Distribution	<i>Sue Elstub</i>
Website	<i>Darren Cooper</i>
Newsletter Design	<i>Moyna Smeaton</i>

THE PUBLIC ACCESS TEST – What is it?

by Dianna Cooper, Director of Training

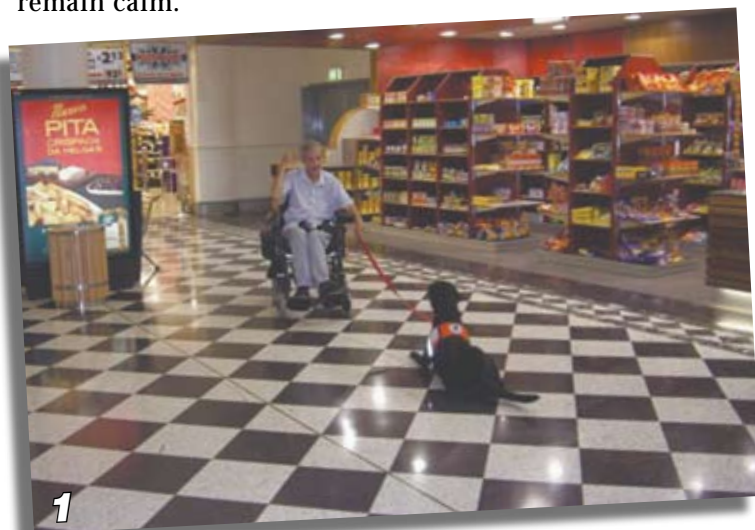
The Public Access Test ensures Assistance dogs are stable, well behaved and unobtrusive to the public.

It takes place in a public setting such as a mall where there are a lot of people and natural distractions. ASDOG uses the Assistance Dogs International Inc, with whom it is affiliated, Public Access Test. ASDOG recipients sit this test at the end of their 2 week team training course and are re-tested every 12 months for the working life of their dog to ensure the team is still working well in public.

The tests within the Public Access test are;

CONTROLLED UNLOAD OUT OF VEHICLE

The vehicle the team arrives in is parked, the dog comes out only when released and then another dog is walked past within 2 metres. The Assistance Dog must remain calm.



FUTURE ISSUES...

We would welcome *YOUR* suggestions for stories you would like to see in our Newsletter. If there is anything in particular you are curious about, just write, or email us with your questions/suggestions and we will endeavour to include it in future issues.



APPROACHING THE BUILDING

As team manoeuvres through the car park to the building, the dog must stay in a relative heel position, not be worried about cars or traffic noises and stop when the individual stops.

CONTROLLED ENTRY THROUGH A DOORWAY

The individual goes through the doors in a safe way. If he goes first, the dog must wait patiently or if they go through together the dog must not pull on the lead or try to push past.

HEELING THROUGH THE BUILDING

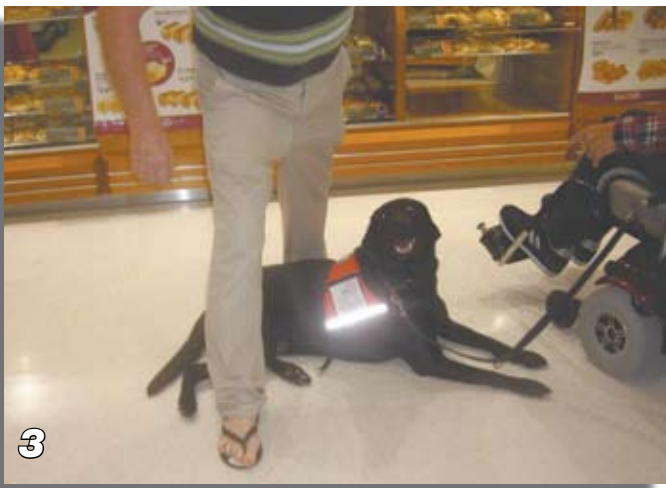
Once inside the building the dog should always be beside the individual, with loose lead. She must readily adjust to turning corners, speed changes and ignore the public.

TWO METRE RECALL ON LEAD – (Photo 1)

In an open area in the building, the dog will be left in a Sit/Stay while the individual moves 2 metres away then calls the dog. The dog should come promptly to at least touching distance.

SITS ON COMMAND – (Photo 2, point 2)

- The dog will sit next to a plate of food placed on the ground. The dog must not attempt to eat or sniff the food. The individual can distract the dog away from it.
- The dog will sit while an assistant with a shopping trolley approaches within 1 metre of the dog and continues past. The dog remains sitting and shows no fear.
- With the dog on a Sit/Stay a person walks up behind the team, talks to the person then pets the dog. The dog must hold position and not break it to solicit attention.



DOWNNS ON COMMAND – (Photo 3, point 3)

- The dog will be lying down at a table where food will be dropped on the floor. The dog should not go to or sniff the food. The individual may remind the dog to Stay.
- The dog will be in a Down/Stay position and an adult and child should approach the dog. The dog should maintain the down and not solicit attention, even if petted.
- The dog will be in a Down/stay and either a stranger or an assistant will step over her. The dog may not break the stay to solicit attention from the stranger

NOISE DISTRACTION

A clipboard will be dropped behind the team while they are moving along. The dog may acknowledge the noise, but not show aggression or fear and should quickly recover.

RESTAURANT – (Photo 4)

At a restaurant the dog should go under the table or, if size prevents that, stay close by the individual. The dog must sit or lie down with only occasional movement for comfort.

STRANGER TAKES THE DOG'S LEAD – (Photo 5)

A stranger takes the dog's lead and holds it without interaction with the dog while the individual moves two metres away. The dog should remain calm.

OFF LEAD

The person will drop the lead while moving, so it is apparent to the dog. The individual will maintain control of the dog and get the leash back into the proper position.



CONTROLLED EXIT

The team leaves the building in a similar manner to entering, proceeds across the parking lot and back to the vehicle. The dog must be calm and controlled.

CONTROLLED LOAD INTO THE VEHICLE

The individual will load the dog into the vehicle, with either entering first. The dog must wait patiently for instructions and the emphasis is on safety and control.

The photos featured in this story are of John and Ruby during their Public Access Test – which they passed easily.

ASDOG Newsletter

Is published quarterly by AUSTRALIAN SUPPORT DOGS INC. (ASDOG)

CFN 15815 Registration No. Y2581122

PO Box 2077, Hornsby Westfield NSW 1635

Enquiries: Phone 1300 788 721

Email: information@asdog.org.au



FULL MEMBER

ASDOG is a full member of Assistance Dogs International

Check out our website:

www.asdog.org.au

