

Newsletter

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The Quarterly Newsletter of Australian Support Dogs, Inc.

From the Management Committee...

2010 has begun with a flurry of activity for the ASDOG Management Committee.

The first half of 2010 will be dedicated to attaining full accreditation with Assistance Dogs International. This accreditation will allow us to continue to provide the highest quality service to our recipients and their dogs. Activity includes ensuring our policy and procedures manuals are best in class. We are pleased to report that, thanks to a significant amount of work by Sheree Hurley, we are very well placed in that regard.

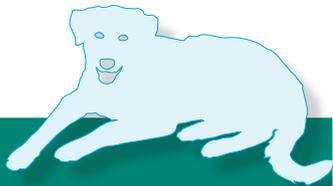
We have also completed a fully operating plan for the next three years which outlines our strategy for building ASDOG's presence in the community and to extend our reach to help more individuals.

Finally, we have begun coordinating an upgrade to our website. We hope that work on the site will be completed in the next quarter.

As always, we welcome any feedback our members have and thank you for your support.

Danielle Press,
President, ASDOG

Thank You...



We have received assistance and donations from the following people and organisations. Thank you all for your generosity.

- John and Yvonne Almgren
- Gary and Judi Blackler
- Tom Cappie-Wood • Joan Donaldson
- Gordon Golf Club Women's Committee
- Jenny Hill • A & H Jamieson
- Ku-Ring-Gai Veterinary Hospital • Moira Lloyd
- Vivian Moller • Romy the Roaming Vet
- Nancy Sommerville
- Janet Tinkler • Vet HQ, Double Bay

And once more our special thanks to Moyna Smeaton, moynzart@optusnet.com.au, who designs and produces our newsletters.

And thanks, too, to The Belrose Bowling Club and its staff, who generously allow us to use one of their rooms for our monthly meetings.



Ann with Mayor, Pat Reilly & Gladys Berejiklian MP. ASDOG Barnaby seems rather unimpressed by it all!

Willoughby City Council Citizen of the Year

The ASDOG Management Committee is thrilled that our own Ann Barnacoat, long time Puppy Raiser and Committee Member and current ASDOG Vice President, has been honoured by Willoughby City Council at their Australia Day celebrations in Chatswood Mall earlier this year. She was one of two recipients of the prestigious Citizen of the Year Award, which recognises citizens who either live, work or give voluntary time and effort within the community.

Ann received her award for her untiring volunteer work for ASDOG as well as Meals on Wheels and Red Cross. "Ann has been a volunteer for Willoughby Meals on Wheels for the past 14 years and has been active in the Chatswood Red Cross as the Trauma Teddy convenor. She has been on the Committee for Australian Support Dogs since 2002 and in her role as puppy raiser has raised many guide dogs and dogs that provide support for frail and disabled people."

Willoughby Mayor, Pat Reilly, said "I would like to congratulate all our awards recipients, and all those nominated for awards. We truly appreciate the tireless efforts of individuals who contribute wholeheartedly to our community and make Willoughby a better place to live, work and enjoy."

Well done, Ann. ASDOG is so proud of you.



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Barnaby's adventures on Australia Day

After his own personal puppy-raiser, Ann Barnacoat, had proudly received her Citizen of the Year Award, Barnaby decided that he would love to take her out and well, celebrate!

Australia Day seemed to be a great day he decided and so after enjoying all of the events on offer in Chatswood, he and Ann finally went back home for lunch. After all, a great laid-back lad who takes everything that comes along in his stride (no worries) – he's still got to eat, hasn't he?



Barnaby smelling the breeze on the Manly Ferry.

After lunch was over, Ann and Mick, plus Barnaby's best mate Newman, all got into the car and drove over to Cremorne. His mate Newman is still a puppy compared to Barnaby and he is hoping to become a Guide Dog one day. (Hey, we can't all become great Assistance Dogs!) Barnaby was pleased that they were going to Cremorne, as he knew that they would all enjoy a good walk once there, followed by a ride on the ferry to Manly.

"We three boys were very good on the Manly ferry, so Ann took some photographs and we liked that. It was very busy and noisy but us guys do like going on the ferries as it means new things to smell, see and do. Or you can sit back and feel the breeze..."

The trip was great fun with so much to see; everywhere people were enjoying the many special events of the day.

Barnaby was pretty tired by the time they all got home after a long and very busy day – they all were - but he decided that celebrating



Barnaby and the boys making their tired but happy way home on the Manly Ferry

Australia Day really was just the greatest Fun!

"All day long our tails never stopped wagging."

Footnote:

Barnaby is progressing really well with his 'learning' to become an Assistance Dog; he is now 10 months old and is quite a big lad. He is happy, laid back and, well, just a lovely dog.

Watch this space, for Barnaby's next adventure.

Joan Minns, Barnaby's Personal Biographer and ASDOG Committee Member

Have fun shopping online and help ASDOG at the same time...

If you've bought something already, thank you – we are most grateful for your support. If you haven't yet tried it, why not give it a go now? At Self-Fundraising, you can shop online AND give financial support to ASDOG at the same time – and it costs you no extra! At Self-Fundraising, up to 10% of every purchase you make from their website goes to a worthy cause.

Visit: www.self-fundraising.com.au/cause/ASDOG and see for yourself the wide range of products available through Self-Fundraising.

Remember - your purchases are only connected to ASDOG if you purchase online by following this link...

www.self-fundraising.com.au/cause/ASDOG

Thank you, and happy shopping!

ASDOG diary

ASDOG will have a stall at the following events:

29th August – Dogs Big Day Out

Frenchs Forest Showground. Playtime for canines and a fun day for the whole family. Further information on Warringah Council website – www.warringah.nsw.gov.au

26th September – Dog Day by the Bay

Rowland Reserve, Bayview. Dog competitions and activities and a family fun day. Further information on Pittwater Council website – www.pittwater.nsw.gov.au

We'd love to see you if can come to any of these events. Please come up and say hello!

Robyn's Helpful Hints...

Now that Winter is just around the corner, it's not just we humans who need to rug up and keep warm. What can we do to keep our dogs comfortable in wintertime when the weather gets a bit nippy? Here are some hints.

1. Make sure there is plenty of drinking water especially for those dogs that lie in front of the heater and over-heat themselves.
2. Ensure the dog's bed has enough bedding and physical protection from the cold winds to enable them to be comfortable. Although all dogs have fur coats they too can feel the cold and draughts.
3. Going for walks and exercising in the warmer parts of the day is easier on muscles and joints. Dogs that are a bit older may have some joint stiffness in the cooler weather and will be able to move more easily in the warmer parts of the day. If your dog does have arthritis or joint stiffness, talk to your vet.
4. If your dog insists on swimming during the colder weather - and on those days when you just have to give them a bath - remember to dry them well. Towel drying may be good for short-haired dogs but for those with hair a bit longer your hair drier will do the trick. Don't leave a wet dog in a cold wind or draught as they will get cold.
5. Dogs with long hair or wool may benefit from leaving the coat longer in winter. However remember to brush it regularly to ensure it does not get matted. If a dog's coat gets matted the skin gets pulled causing the dog irritation. Dogs will then tend to lick or scratch the irritated area possibly making the matted coat worse and irritating the skin further.

*Robyn Colleran,
Secretary, ASDOG*

Out and About with Barnaby and Sara

Barnaby and Sara often meet up for coffee, taking their personal puppy-raisers and trainers along with them.



Well, here we are?
What are we going to have?

OK, what next?

And then they have to catch the train home...

Ann Barnacoat reports that, as an Assistance Dog-in-Training, Barnaby now has his very own Rail Pass with his photo on and permission to travel!



I'm quite enjoying this train ride. I'm being really good, aren't I?

Trainer's Report on Sara, Assistance-Dog-in-Training



Sara brings the phone

January 2010: Sara seems to be settled in her trainee role as an assistance dog and continues to exhibit relaxed behaviour in public the majority of the time. Her tendency to vocalise in some contexts has made itself evident on a few occasions in this training period. In two instances she gave a single bark, clearly attempting on each occasion to be noticed by a friend who had stopped to talk. On another occasion she gave one muffled woof when a man sat at the table next to ours in David Jones cafe. On all occasions Sara responded to a request to be quiet.

Sara sits near chickens



Last Sunday I took Sara to the introductory day for the Paws 4 Fun agility club at Castle Hill. This is a very small club, which strictly advocates the use of reward training methods and uses clicker training at all levels. I feel this is a desirable environment for working Sara safely around other dogs. Her behaviour was excellent on the day, despite barking twice to gain the attention of another dog in the room. She was well controlled in close proximity to the other dogs, both in the room and on a long lead outdoors.

February 2010:

Permission has been requested from the local school to take Sara into the grounds, with a view to improving her confidence and desensitising her to children running in the environment. Sara appears very happy around children in most contexts. She happily greets the schoolchildren out the front of the school grounds and those passing our house in the afternoons. However, when she encounters them playing or running inside buildings she is hyper-alert and occasionally barks.



Sara and Sylvester have a snooze

Although Sara's barking in order to gain attention has been virtually extinguished, the rate of occurrence of her barking in public has not significantly changed. Sara appears relaxed, confident and performs reliably in familiar situations. But when a novel stimulus is added to the environment, like children running in the aisles of the supermarket, Sara can become hyper-alert and may vocalise.



Sara puts her collar on

Sara lifts toilet seat



March 2010: Sara's skills are being maintained and I am continuing to counter-condition for stimuli that evoke a bark from her.

We have received permission from the school principal and visits to the school will commence next semester following a short introductory presentation at an assembly.

Pauline Dickerson, ASDOG Trainer