



Trainers Reports Oct-Dec 2010

Training Coordinator's Report

This period the focus has been on updating Public Access Tests and Partnership Evaluations. Assessments have been successfully completed for Sheree Hurley with Jade, John Newton with Ruby and Allan Quirk with Rayner.

During testing it was found that none of the recipients had a canine first-aid-kit on the premises, although many of the items on our suggested list were kept in the home. All recipients tested have now been asked to assemble and maintain a canine first-aid-kit based on the suggested contents list from the Pittwater Animal Hospital web site, as found in the Recipient's Manual.

I have had a couple of phone conversations with Guy Swain regarding Sara, and he reports that all is going well. With the warmer weather Sara has been given frequent opportunities to swim in the dam which she enjoys. No problems have been noted and Sara continues to fit into life with Guy and his family: Guy is very happy with her performance.

Ann Barnacoat has been attending dog training courses for the last few weeks with both Barnaby and Darcy. Barnaby appears to be progressing well with his training, and Darcy has learned much in the short time she has been with Ann.

Pauline Dickerson, ASDOG Training Coordinator

Barnaby's Training Report

Barnaby is progressing well with his tasks and also with distance work and the wheelchair. He has been to the cinema and also back to



the Art Gallery including a trip into the city on the train. Recently he has been to two school presentation mornings, and has been accompanying me to an exercise class where he has to stay on his mat

Barnaby at Sculpture By The Sea



whilst 12-14 people are moving around and the instructor is continually on the move for an hour. Once a week he has been into Willoughby leisure centre waiting for my granddaughter to start her swimming lesson and behaved extremely well watching the kids jumping in and splashing as he loves to do at home. He has been to two lessons at Pauline's and will go again this week. My Guide Dog pup, Newman, went back into Guide Dogs last week and since then Barnaby has taken an interest in Darcy; he is very gentle and plays with her - until Newman went he had totally ignored her !!

Ann Barnacoat, ASDOG Trainer

Puppy-Raising Report for Darcy

Darcy arrived on Sunday 14th November, turning 8 weeks old on the 15th. She has settled in very well, and is thriving. She loves the pool, and has also been into the leisure centre (carried) to watch the swimming lessons. We also

went to the school in her first weeks here - when she was lighter to carry in! Now she is 10kg and going to the vet for her 12 week injection. She has been to the dog park with Barnaby several times and is very laid back with other dogs. She is learning to walk on the lead and to sit and drop, and she has been to Pauline's for a couple of lessons.

Ann Barnacoat, Puppy Raiser

Barnaby, Newman and new recruit, Darcy



Newsletter

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The Quarterly Newsletter of Australian Support Dogs, Inc.

President's Report

2010 has proven to be a busy year for ASDOG, essentially focussed on gaining accreditation from Assistance Dogs International. I would like to thank the Committee for their hard work over the past 12 months in ensuring our house is in order. Particularly, I would like to thank Sheree Hurley for her contribution and tireless co-ordination.

We have over the past year placed Sara, our black Labrador, with Guy Swain. Sara is a fabulous animal and has integrated into the Swain household with ease. I would like to thank our trainer, Pauline Dickerson, for her work with Sara.

Our other young recruit, Barnaby, has now moved into formal training with Ann Barnacoat, and looks like being an extraordinary Assistance Dog. I would like to thank Ann for raising Barnaby and look forward to seeing him progress over the coming weeks.

On an exciting note, I am looking forward to reporting on the arrival and progress of our two new puppies over the coming months.

(STOP PRESS: Our first new puppy, Darcy, has arrived! See more photos and first report on her progress later in this newsletter.)

I would like to thank ASDOG's Secretary, Robyn Colleran, and the other members of the management committee, Sue and Hannah Elstub and Joan Minns, for their tireless efforts this year in ensuring our organisation is effective and efficient. Finally, I would like to acknowledge the work done by our parting Committee Member, Marilyn Roberts. Marilyn has been a guiding light for the organisation over many years and it was both a pleasure and a privilege to have worked with her for the past 12 months.

Thank You...



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

• SACE Board of SA • Sandra J. Cordony • Mrs Shirley Bellamy

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

And thanks, too, to the Belrose Bowling Club, Jackie and all the staff there, for generously allowing us to use one of their rooms for our monthly meetings



I would like to acknowledge the people who continue to support ASDOG through donation of both money and time. Without them, our organisation would be unable to function. We look forward to embracing the challenges of 2011 and continuing to provide an essential service to our participants.

For those of you who celebrate Christmas, we wish you a very Merry Christmas. And for all, we wish you a happy, safe and prosperous New Year.

Danielle Press,
President, ASDOG



Molly retires

Molly was donated to ASDOG from ASDOG NQ in April 2001 when she was 8 weeks old. She was initially called Donna and was raised by Helen Chapman. She had a bit of a confusing start to life as an assistance dog when her first potential recipient was unable to complete the full training and her second recipient passed away soon after the successful team was formed. Between the first recipient and the second recipient her name was officially changed to Molly. The change in name was recommended by a colleague at Guide Dogs and occurs regularly if a dog has to change recipients. The dog manages the change in name without difficulty.

In November 2004 Molly was accredited to work with Emma Maher. Molly and Emma worked as a successful team completing mainly home based tasks until 2009. In 2010 when Molly was about to turn ten, the Management Committee visited Molly and Emma and deemed it appropriate to retire Molly from work. Molly was very much loved and well looked after, and Emma and her family were very happy to adopt Molly to keep her within their family unit. We wish Molly a long and happy retirement.

Robyn Colleran
Hon. Secretary, ASDOG



Emma and Molly in 2004



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ASDOG is a full member of Assistance Dogs International

Presentations and public activities



Part of the mission of ASDOG is to promote public awareness of assistance dogs and their role in serving people with disability. Over the last few months members of the team have attended several clubs, schools and organisations to give presentations and for training purposes.

The presentation given earlier this year by our president Danielle for the Belrose Probus Club was enthusiastically received. Assistance-dog-in-training Sara, under instruction from Training Coordinator Pauline, performed the broad range of tasks the dogs are taught in preparation for being partnered with a recipient. Young Barnaby, accompanied by his Puppy Raiser Ann, observed the proceedings from the side, demonstrating the calm temperament required to be successful as an assistance dog.

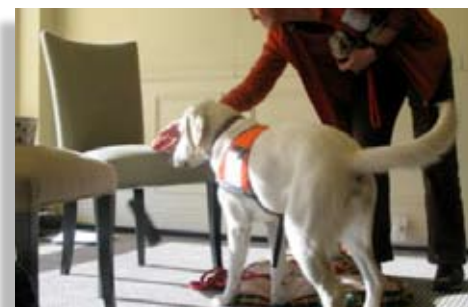
Pauline with Sara and Ann with Barnaby attended a dinner with the Berowra Lions Club, at which Sara again impressed the members with her now practiced performance. The evening began with pre-dinner drinks and mingling among the guests. Then both dogs were required to lie quietly while dinner was served. The evening was thoroughly enjoyed by both dogs and handlers and the club showed its appreciation with a generous donation to ASDOG Inc.

Thanks to the gracious agreement by the staff at the Berowra Christian Community School to allow Sara

Right: Barnaby is a big hit at kindy.

Below: Sheree & Jade demonstrate some tasks.

Below right: Anne & Barnaby's debut performance at Roseville Golf Club



access to the school grounds for training purposes, Sara was a regular visitor at the school during play time and lunch breaks, until her transfer to a recipient prematurely ended these visits. Sara was initially introduced to the children at an assembly, where she demonstrated some of the tasks an assistance dog performs and the children were instructed in how to approach Sara in the playground. The children enthusiastically greeted Sara on her visits to the school and helped in conditioning her to the normal activities of the playground.

Meal times offered a particularly useful opportunity for reinforcing control of Sara's behaviour around food.

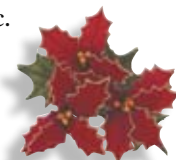
Robyn, Sheree and her working assistance dog Jade, Ann and Barnaby and Joan attended a presentation for the Inner Wheel at Roseville Golf Club. Sheree and Robyn gave a short talk on the organisation and the role of assistance dogs, followed by a practical

demonstration from Sheree and Jade. Ann and Barnaby made their debut with a short demonstration of some of Barnaby's developing skills and Joan photographed proceedings for the newsletter. The session concluded with a barrage of questions from the interested and appreciative audience.

Yet again Pauline with Sara and Ann with Barnaby teamed up to make a presentation at the Waratah Preschool in Berowra. The children were very excited to see the dogs and all went extremely well. The high activity, feverish chatter and clamouring little hands did not seem to bother the dogs and in fact they seemed to enjoy meeting the children. A short demonstration was given by Sara and Barnaby, followed by the children being permitted to handle the dogs.

The benefits from these public activities are multi-faceted. Apart from gaining public awareness and support, the dogs' education is broadened and the handlers gain a great sense of achievement and satisfaction from the interaction with the public. We look forward to many more such opportunities.

*Pauline Dickerson
Training Coordinator*



Forestville View Club Visit October 2010

The Forestville View Club played host to Joan, Ann, assistance dog in training Barnaby, Sheree and assistance dog Jade at the Belrose Bowling Club in October.

An information session on the selection, raising, training and placement of assistance dogs was followed by enthusiastic demonstrations by Barnaby and Jade of a range of tasks they carry out to improve the independence and safety of people with physical disability.

Barnaby keenly demonstrated a selection of the tasks he has learnt so far in his advanced assistance dog training program including the retrieval of dropped items, taking washing off a clothes airer and placing items on a bench. Jade then showed some additional tasks she carries out as part of her daily routine including the removal of Sheree's jacket, turning on light switches and fetching the telephone.

ASDOG would like to sincerely thank the members of Forestville View Club for their most welcoming hospitality on the day.

Sheree Hurley

Barnaby's News

It's been a busy time at our house as always. I have been learning lots of good things like opening the dishwasher and closing it plus the kitchen cupboards and doors. Of course I'm told often that I am a great little helper.

I am forever going to find the phone as Ann always forgets where she has left it (what she will do without me when I leave home I don't know I'm sure!)

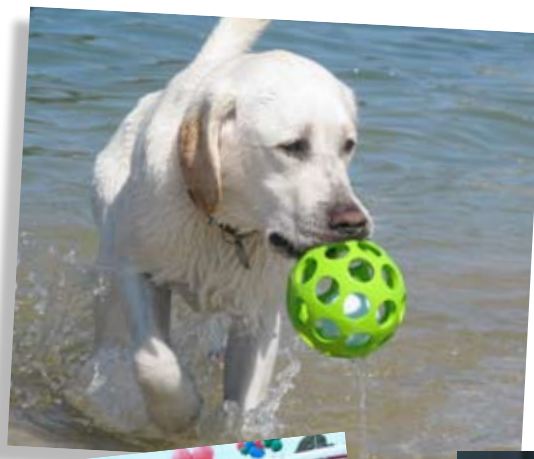
All is good with my training I do hear, so that's good and we have been out and about meeting loads of people at Dogs Days Out. Firstly at French's Forest and more recently at the Dogs Day at the Bay and that day was fantastic as I got to go swimming which I just love to do!

I met some lovely people and it was a really great day. My mate Newman came along as well and we just collapsed in the car on the way home as it had been, well, *a hard dog's day out* - as the photo of us asleep testifies.

That's all for now, because I am keen to learn more skills before I meet these people who have asked us along to their club, (I think I might show them how I take the washing off the line and maybe, how I can lift up the toilet seat!)

My stomach tells me it's time to go to work as then I get my food one thing I am sure of for a job well done, it gets me to the good stuff!

Joan Minns, Barnaby's Official Biographer



Counter-clockwise from left:
Water fun at Bayview,
Allan Quirk and Assistance Dog
Rayner at Frenchs Forest Dogs
Day Out,
Barnaby and Newman, sitting
patiently, then a well-earned
snooze on the way home after
the Dogs Day Out at Bayview.



Out and About in the Community

There has been some discussion in the media recently about dogs in public places including aeroplanes, cafes and restaurants. This may lead you to ask where is the ASDOG assistance dog able to go.

Assistance Dogs: The Companion Animals Act 1998 (section 60) states that a person with a disability, accompanied by an assistance dog, is entitled to enter any area or facility used by the public. This applies despite the provisions of any other Act. ASDOG assistance dogs are therefore entitled to move around the community freely with their recipient. The Disability Discrimination Act also enables people with disabilities with an assistance dog to move around the community while completing their daily activities.

Companion Dogs: The Companions Animal Act 1998 (section 14) also provides guidelines for pet dogs and where pet dogs are prohibited. These areas include:

- Any public place within 10 metres of children's play areas.
- Any public place within 10 metres of preparation areas for food for human consumption.*
- Any public area where the local council has ordered that dogs are prohibited, as the space is to be used for public recreation and organised games.
- Any public area the local council have ordered that dogs are prohibited, as the space is for /or in conjunction to public bathing and recreation eg the beach.
- Any property used for a government or non-government school (under the Education Act 1990) unless the dog owner has permission of the person controlling the school grounds.

- Any property used for a child care service unless the dog owner has permission from the person controlling the child care service.
- Shopping areas including paths of access and parking space where dogs are prohibited by the local council unless the dog is secured to prevent it from escaping, or the owner has permission from the person controlling the centre, or if the dog is being taken to a vet, pet shop or similar facility.
- Any public area defined by the local authority as an area of protection for wildlife.

**However, Section 14 of the Companion Animals Act states that a dog is allowed in an area of food consumption if the place is a public thoroughfare such as a road, footpath or pathway.*

Although ASDOG assistance dogs are able to move through the community with their recipients unheeded, our puppies and dogs in training do fall within the requirements of the Act.

But if we expect assistance dogs to work confidently in any area of the community, the puppies and dogs in training need positive experiences prior to graduation to enable this comfort level to build.

Consequently ASDOG seeks written permission from schools, shopping centres, cafes and any other facility deemed appropriate for training, prior to taking the dogs to that space.

Reference: *Companion Animals Act 1998*

**Robyn Colleran,
Hon Secretary, ASDOG**

