

Training Reports

Assistance Dog Barnaby

May 2011: Barnaby is progressing well and improving all the time with his tasks. We visited Barnaby's potential recipient, Daniel Hillyer at Yarrawarra, and spent time introducing Barnaby to him. Their contact and interaction seemed good. I am working with Barnaby to improve his tugging off of clothes and socks, retrieving objects, as well as "holding" for some time, and putting his collar and lead on and off. We also went into Sydney one day and did the 4km Mothers Day walk in the Domain and then out for lunch and he was very well behaved. And on another occasion he sat at the dentist's for over an hour waiting for me with no complaints.

July 2011: Since May Barnaby has had plenty of public access experience to prepare him for his transfer to Daniel and several trips to Yarrawarra. Daniel manages the wheelchair with Barnaby alongside very well, and Barnaby sits comfortably beside him whilst visiting coffee shops! We have also practiced recalls and Daniel used a "chuck-it" to throw a ball for Barnaby who successfully returned it to his lap. Pauline recently accompanied us to the Westfield Miranda to guide us on appropriate behaviour when out, and all went well in the shopping centre and the return taxi trip.

Last week Barnaby had a final vet check and vaccination and went to stay with Daniel. When I visited after 3 days I found a very happy dog - though very cool about greeting me!! Weather was shocking, so we stayed home and discussed training with Daniel, only to discover that Barnaby had already started caring for him. Several times Daniel's phone had appeared in his lap when he had been unaware that he had dropped it. Also at night Barnaby had nudged Daniel's hand back under the covers then returned to his own bed. Daniel was particularly surprised to wake up one morning to find no less than 3 remotes on his bed that Barnaby must have tidied up during the night!

Though a little taken aback at his lack of enthusiasm to see me, I am just delighted at how well Barnaby has taken to Daniel! Even though Daniel has never had a dog before he is proving to be a great dog handler, and is one step ahead of Barnaby in spotting oncoming dogs when out and about and keeping his attention so they can pass by without any interaction on Barnaby's part which is excellent. Daniel is managing to take Barnaby for long walks and also give him playtime with a ball at his local park, so he has a very happy dog.



Bennett pulling the box on wheels

Bronte

During May and June Bronte spent 8 weeks in the care of the Parkinson family whilst I was away overseas. I have extended my gratitude to the family for their generosity and help with Bronte for this period of time. Bronte was lovingly cared for as a member of the family and despite the loss of two French dictionaries, several headless soft toys and some holes in the lawn, the family and their dog, Chase, became very fond of Bronte and they are now missing her greatly!

Bronte has recently begun displaying some fear barking to various triggers in public places. The problem is mild and as it has been picked up early I am hopeful that it can be corrected.

I have implemented a plan for counter conditioning this behaviour and the initial response to this regime has been good. However, if the barking behaviour can not be eradicated over the next 5 months consideration will have to be given as to Bronte's suitability for training as an assistance dog.

Pauline Dickerson, Training Coordinator



Daniel and Barnaby go through their paces



Darcy

In April 2011, the vet determined that Darcy's hips and elbows were not perfect. Fortunately she loves swimming and Ann has continued with some training until her future is decided. She appears to be very accepting of her somewhat restricted lifestyle.

In May Darcy started on Cartrofin injections and Sasha's blend and on the vet's recommendation has only two 20min walks per day and very little free play with Barnaby. She also has plenty of bed rest, and is quite happy in her crate. Her limping has almost gone, she is down to 19.8kg, but seems to be pretty happy in spite of being kept on lead at the dog park.

This regime has continued through June and July, with some play time with Barnaby and visits to a family who may be interested in adopting her, depending on further vet advice. And since the arrival of new puppy Bennett at the end of June, her lifestyle has improved! Her front legs appear to have grown and no limping has been observed recently.

Bennett – our newest recruit

We collected new puppy Bennett from his breeder on 30th June when he was 7½ weeks old. He has settled in very well, and travels well in the car and in the backpack. He has been to Chatswood, to the school playground, the dog park, and enjoys short walks on the lead. He is learning his basic skills such as sit-drop-stay, waiting at doors and of course toilet training. He shows great aptitude for tugging the box on wheels and carrying toys around. He is very well behaved with other dogs, and so far has not been a barker!

Ann Barnacoat, Trainer and Puppy Raising Coordinator



Bronte enjoying her holiday with the Parkinson family and her new best friend, Chase.

Newsletter

No. 35
WINTER
2011



The Quarterly Newsletter of Australian Support Dogs, Inc.

Management Committee Report

Now that the accreditation process is behind us, the ASDOG Management Committee is faced with the challenge of looking forward. We need to consider ways to implement our objective to train and provide assistance dogs to help people with physical disabilities to achieve greater independence. There are many ways you can help us and we are looking for your ideas and support. For example, we are placing donation boxes in local businesses. If you run a local business and would be prepared to have a collection box, we would be glad to hear from you. You can contact us through our e-mail information@asdog.org.au

If you are interested in not-for-profit work and feel you could bring communications, design or sponsorship skills to the organisation, we would be very happy to hear from you. Finally, if you have any suggestions on the content of our newsletter, we would be pleased to receive your feedback.

An important part of the work we do is educating the public on the rights of people with service dogs. We have seen a disturbing trend lately of businesses not allowing our dogs onto premises. People using Accredited Assistance Dogs have a legal right to enter ALL public places including restaurants, supermarkets and hospitals. We are concerned by this trend and are seeking to contact the businesses involved to ensure they understand their obligations.

On a more positive note, we are excited to report that we have a new puppy, Bennett, an adorable Black Labrador, to add to our ASDOG family. Bennett has been named in honour of ASDOG founder, Peter Bennett.

We look forward to sharing Bennett's progress with you as he learns the skills required to be an Assistance Dog.

*Danielle Press,
President, ASDOG*

New puppy for ASDOG!

Bennett, now being puppy-raised by Ann Barnacoat, is, of course, just the cutest and cuddliest little boy ever! And is already displaying many of the characteristics desired in a good assistance dog.



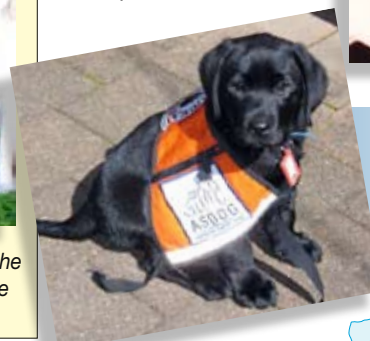
Above: Our soon-to-be new recruit, Bennett, at 4 weeks old
Left and below: At 7 weeks, with Ann Barnacoat



Below: Bennett's Train Pass photo



Three generations of ASDOG dogs were at the park recently: from left to right: Darcy, Cassie (now retired), Bennett and Barnaby.



Look forward to full coverage in our next issue...

We Need Your Help

ASDOG relies solely on the generosity of donors. To progress a dog through puppy-raising, advanced training and recipient training programs costs around \$20,000 per dog. There are so many ways you can help. They include:

- Host a fundraising event for ASDOG with your club, organisation or group (in the Sydney metropolitan area) for which we will provide a speaker and demonstration by one of our working dogs;
- Be an ASDOG volunteer;
- Donate your services;
- Make a financial donation;
- Donate grooming supplies and toys for the dogs;
- Have a donation box at your business;
- Include us in your will;
- Provide us with valuable feedback.

Please contact us by email at: information@asdog.org.au or phone 1300 788 721.

Thank You...



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

- J. Hill • Barbara Chappell • Lola M. Stow • Mandy Grant • V.R. Moller • Ku-Ring-Gai Council Collection at the 2011 Dogs Day Out
- J.N. and Y.M. Almgren • N.L. Jones & AMM Jones • Jan Wiseman • Glebe Junior Girl Guides • James Williams • Val Eastment • Patricia Reid • Danielle Press

As always, our special thanks to Moyna Smeaton, moynzart@skymesh.com.au, who designs and produces our newsletters.

And thanks of course 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.

Welcome to our New Members:

- Marjorie Beck, Gordon, NSW • Susan Watson, Lewisham, NSW



ASDOG Newsletter is published quarterly by AUSTRALIAN SUPPORT DOGS INC. (ASDOG) CFN 15815 Registration No. Y2581122

PO Box 5492, West Chatswood NSW 1515 Enquiries: Phone 1300 788 721

Email: information@asdog.org.au Website: www.asdog.org.au

ASDOG is a full member of Assistance Dogs International

Spreading the ASDOG Mission

A group of ASDOG members were very pleased to be invited to speak and demonstrate to two groups of Japanese students who were recently in Australia to learn about Australian culture.

Sheree, along with Jade, her support dog, began by telling the two groups about all of the processes that are necessary in order to produce a competent working dog. The talk was translated through a Japanese interpreter.

The students learned about the ASDOG mission and were then taken through the many steps which complete the two-year training process. The first step starts with the careful selection of a good puppy and then onto the correct rearing by a volunteer puppy raiser.

The next step is the training, which is done by a competent trainer who can teach the dogs all of the tasks that they may need once they graduate to a working support dog at about two years of age. They also learnt a little about the costs of the work and that ASDOG is run purely by volunteers plus of course, how we raise the necessary funds.

The students were very attentive during the talk and were quite impressed once the dogs were demonstrating their skills and performing their tasks!

Sheree and Jade were able to show the students some of the tasks that Jade completes for her in her daily life and this demonstrated how a recipient, with the help of a support dog, can lead a much more independent life.

Ann, who is both a Puppy Raiser and a Trainer, also demonstrated with her



Anti-clockwise from above: Barnaby and Darcy welcome the Japanese students; First and second groups of students; Barnaby demonstrates opening the bin.



trainee dog Barnaby some of the many tasks that are learned by the dogs whilst in training. Barnaby clearly showed just how much he enjoys his work, as did the other dogs present. They were feeling left out and just like little children, they made it quite clear that they also wanted to do their tasks!

Finally, the students were split into two groups and took turns either interacting with the dogs, or watching a short video that showed them more of the practical ways the dogs help out within the home environment.

The dogs of course had no language barriers and they got along with the students perfectly!

As for us humans, well we were just pleased to have achieved the objectives. You will see from the pictures that the students enjoyed themselves and hopefully they learned about ASDOG and the tremendous job our dogs do.

It is always pleasing to have the opportunity to raise ASDOG's profile and especially when it is rewarded, as in this instance, with a substantial donation.

We are always happy to demonstrate to any group large or small, with the aim of raising awareness about ASDOG, about what dogs can do for people with physical disabilities, as well as fundraising. If you think you may be able to help us in this regard, we'd love to hear from you!

Joan Minns



Clockwise from above: Barnaby and Darcy with the students; The dogs get lots of love and attention from the students; Jade waits eagerly for her turn to demonstrate.



© Pet Logistics is a Registered Trademark of Pet Logistics

Pet Logistics, the Townsville based online pet supplies store, will kindly be donating \$2.00 from every sale to ASDOG. They will deliver nationwide, so have a look at their website, www.petlogistics.com.au and their range of pet foods, treatments, pet grooming, handling and sleeping equipment, toys and training items, as well as Pet Logistics merchandise - and \$2 from every sale will be donated to ASDOG.

Thank you very much, David and Pet Logistics, we are most grateful for your generous assistance.

Rolling out ASDOG's new Charity Boxes

The management committee is proud to present ASDOG's new charity boxes that are currently being placed at strategic venues where the proprietors are happy to support the work of ASDOG.

This project is part of our current drive to not only help with fundraising, but also to increase community awareness of the true value of an assistance dog to a disabled person's quality of life.

The photos show our first two boxes being accepted by Jen at the Blue Fig Cafe near the Enmore Theatre (1/112 Enmore Road, Enmore, Sydney NSW) and Steve at Piato Restaurant in Blues Point Road close to North Sydney station (123 Blues Point Road, McMahons Point, Sydney NSW). If you're in the area of either of these two cafes, why not drop in for coffee?

And if you know of any club or other venue that may like to take one of our charity boxes, do please speak to us to arrange a placement – phone 1300 788 721 or email us at information@asdog.org.au

Joan Minns



Above: Jen at the Blue Fig Café, Enmore.

Left: Joan and Barnaby with Steve at the Piato Restaurant, McMahons Point.

Dogs Days Out

Volunteer Photographer Michael Mannington came along to the **Ku-ring-gai Dogs Day Out** at St Ives Showground on 10th April 2011 and took some photographs of our stall (right) and our dogs (left). Towards the end of the day, Sheree and Jade, Ann and Barnaby gave a demonstration to visitors (below left), and

Ku-ring-gai Council took up a collection on ASDOG's behalf on the day, for which we are most grateful. The day remained fine despite gathering grey clouds and we had a successful day on the stall, with lots of people interested in ASDOG's activities.

We are most grateful to Michael Mannington for attending the event and taking some wonderful photographs of our dogs and volunteers. His fabulous photographs can be viewed at:

<http://gallery.volunteerphotography.org/p756768153>.

Warringah's 2011 annual **Dogs Big Day Out** will be held on **Sunday 28th August** at Frenchs Forest Showground. It will be a fun day for the whole family with activities ranging from animal demonstrations, agility trials, best trick, cutest puppy, to dog and owner look-alike and best rescue dog competitions. Please come along to our stall and meet some of our dogs and volunteers.

Photos © copyright Michael Mannington



21 new supporters at Glebe Junior Girl Guides!

Some of our members recently visited Glebe Junior Girl Guides and were pleased to learn that we are to become their designated charity. The Glebe Junior Girl Guides will be helping us by sponsoring our new puppy, Bennett.

Our demonstration and talk was very well received and it was a pleasure to meet them all, an enthusiastic and delightful group of girls. Look out for more on our 21 new supporters in our next newsletter...

Jade goes through her paces for the Glebe Junior Girl Guides (with a little help from Sheree and Joan)

