

Paw Print

Autumn 2015



The Quarterly Newsletter of Australian Support Dogs, Inc. (ASDOG)

Paw Print shares recent and proud highlights of our new puppies, advanced training progress, recipient teams and community events.

All made possible by our volunteers, supporters and donors. Thank you all.



DID YOU KNOW?

ASDOG recipients ask their assistance dogs to 'fetch' dropped items more than any other task. Trainee assistance dog, Heidi, above, is learning how to 'fetch' so that she can help her future recipient by picking up *anything, anywhere*.

COME AND MEET HEIDI

Heidi will be with her Advanced Skills Trainer, Ann, to meet and greet the public at:

**Chatswood Street Fair
Saturday, 5th September 2015**

Please come and say hello. Heidi will be delighted to show you her training progress... and she would love a pat too!

CELEBRATING FREYA'S JOURNEY

Brimming with love and enthusiasm, a facility dog role was the perfect choice!

Freya has officially started her dream job: she goes to work at Weemala at Royal Rehab in Ryde every day to socialise with all the residents! After graduating from her 2-year puppy raising and advanced skills training program, Freya's exuberant and affectionate personality assured her this very important role. Even as a young puppy Freya loved company. Ann, Freya's volunteer puppy raiser, says, "Freya has a lovely nature and she is very much a 'people' dog. She was also quick to learn and was very enthusiastic about everything!"



Freya enjoyed her 12-month advanced training program with Gayl, ASDOG Training Coordinator, easily learning a repertoire of obedience cues and assistance dog tasks. Gayl is confident that Freya is perfectly suited to facility dog work, as she claims "there is not enough love in the world for Freya!"

Now partnered with Barbara, Weemala's Manager, they attend their workplace together each weekday and return home for the evenings and weekends. The transition period was long and structured to ensure that Freya, Barbara, Weemala's residents and staff were all very familiar and comfortable with each other and their new routines.

Barbara and Freya have quickly developed a close bond and are working beautifully together.

On Freya's progress so far, Barbara is pleased to report, "Freya's purpose in life is to be loved and to love. She is fulfilling her purpose! The residents get so much joy from her, whether that be from just hanging around or playing fetch during a therapy session. I am sure over time we will see Freya shine even more as individual residents involve her in their goals and activities."



Top: Freya at 8 weeks.

Above right: Freya is thrilled to be with Barbara, her new handler

Below right: Meeting residents at Weemala with trainer, Gayl.



ASDOG AUSTRALIAN SUPPORT DOGS, INC. P.O. Box 5492, West Chatswood, NSW 1515

Tel: 1300 788 721 Email: information@asdog.org.au Web: www.asdog.org.au



PUPPY PROGRESS & TRAINING UPDATES

A NEW PUPPY FOR ASDOG

Our new puppy raiser is excitedly awaiting the arrival of one of the gorgeous Labrador Retriever puppies pictured right. Gayl, ASDOG's Training Coordinator, is looking forward to working with the new recruits.

ASDOG will guide the litter of puppies through a series of selection tests prior to purchase to maximize our chances of selecting a suitable assistance dog. So what characteristics does ASDOG look for in all of its new puppies? Assistance Dogs International recommends the following guideline: *A good service dog is not protective, is people orientated, is not overly active, and is confident but not dominant or submissive.*



OUT AND ABOUT WITH KARA

Kara, above, is now nine months old and making great gains in her puppy raising program. She has been very busy working on 'fetch', 'nose', 'paw' and 'side'. She is becoming familiar with a range of public areas including shopping centres, grocery shops, buses and parks.

Puppy raiser, Andrea, is very happy with Kara's progress, particularly when practising public access work. "I am lucky to have guardianship of this calm, loving and wonderfully polite dog. It is a pleasure to take her out."



Above left: Kara taking a well-earned rest during her public access training.

Above right: Kara regularly attends training sessions in public places with her ASDOG puppy counterparts. Lucy at the back, Heidi in the centre, and Kara getting used to the sights and sounds of a large shopping centre.

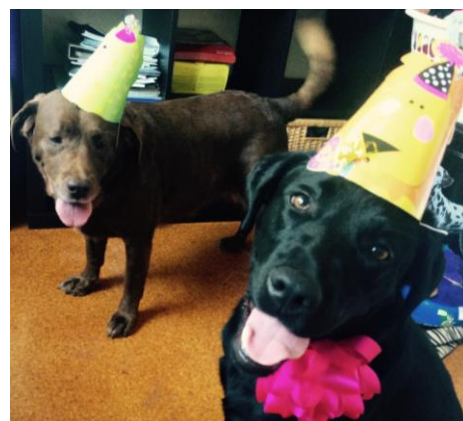
Below: Jenna and housemate, Mali, amid birthday celebrations!

HAPPY 2ND BIRTHDAY, JENNA!

Jenna's hopes of becoming an assistance dog for a person with a disability are about to be realised. With sincere thanks to puppy raiser, Andrea, and Advanced Skills Trainer, Michelle, Jenna has mastered over 50 obedience and task cues, and is familiar with all facets of public access work.

She has been matched with a new recipient and they have had some fun and fabulous play dates together leading up to their team-training program.

Jenna can't wait to start enriching her new recipient's life! See the beginnings of this great new partnership in the next Paw Print newsletter.



IVY TRANSITIONS TO FORMAL TRAINING

At the midway point of her training program, Ivy has recently transitioned from puppy raising to advanced skills training.

Ivy has had a fantastic start to her assistance dog program, thanks to her volunteer puppy raiser, Andrea. She has already acquired an abundance of obedience, socialisation and public access skills. Gayl, Ivy's advanced skills trainer for the next twelve months, sums up her pleasing progress so far:

In January Ivy moved into my house for her formal advanced training period. She settled in very well. Ivy and Lenny, my greyhound, are already the best of mates. They love running together on the old golf course, though try as she may she can't catch him. She is an absolute joy!

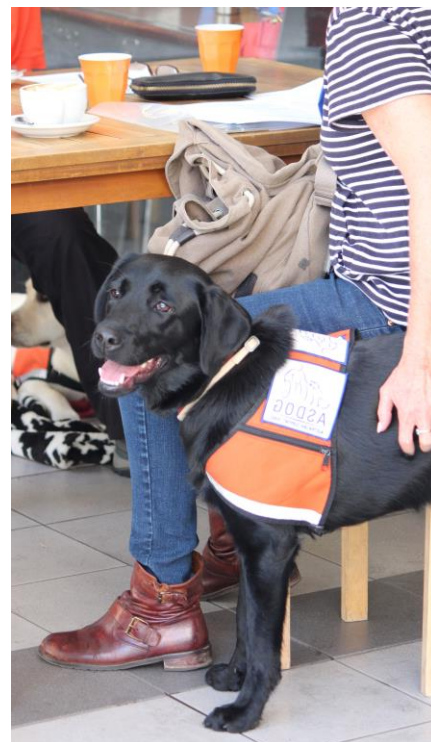
Ivy is learning and enjoying each training session. We've been working on retrieving, holding and placing items in tins and boxes. Ivy is also finding and retrieving keys and mobile phones, and taking socks off.

Ivy and I gave a talk at Selwood House Vet Clinic on dog training and assistance dogs. She attended a wine and cheese event first and was very good - though she did get a little excited when a dog came out of the hospital! During the talk, she demonstrated some of the tasks. Everyone loved her!

She has been going to Canine College with me. She attended last year with her puppy raiser, Andrea, so she is quite comfortable and good at it.

We've done plenty of public access training in a number of large shopping centres, local shops, cafés and veterinary clinics.

Overall, Ivy has a very even temperament. She loves my family and life in the mountains. Her training is going very well: she's a delight!



JOHN & RUBY, INTREPID TRAVELLERS

Congratulations! John and assistance dog, Ruby, have passed their seventh annual Public Access Test and Partnership Evaluation.

Since being partnered with John in 2007 Ruby has been a devoted and helpful assistance dog. And now she'll be utilising her skills across the country! John shares his plans of their trip around Australia:

"Plans for our expedition are progressing well. I estimate the journey will take 2-3 months and cover a distance of 12,000-15,000 km. I will be keeping a log of places and events to be posted on Facebook and/or a web page. At this stage I have researched and planned as far as Uluru. From there it's up to the top end visiting Darwin and Kakadu, then down the west coast."

Right: Travelling in style in their Mercedes sprinter with hand controls, remote control rear opening door and wheelchair lifter.

An update on your beautiful Ruby?!

"Ruby is still extremely focused on her tasks as well as being a loving and loyal companion at all times. The most useful and beneficial daily task is taking off my shoes and socks. And, as always, she continues to rule the roost!"

**Happy travels, John and Ruby.
We wish you an exciting and safe 2015 adventure!**



Above: John and Ruby, after completing the Public Access Test components in a local shopping centre.

COMMUNITY AND CORPORATE SUPPORT

In-kind specialist services and volunteer personnel are instrumental in helping ASDOG to develop and achieve its fundraising, operational and marketing goals. We pay tribute to some invaluable corporate supporters and community fundraisers and sincerely thank them for their generosity and support.



Nina Beilby
corporate | family | sport
www.chatswood.photography

We extend heartfelt thanks to Nina Beilby, professional portrait and commercial photographer (www.ninabeilby.com or www.chatswood.photography), who has volunteered her professional services for a second time to produce high quality photographs for ASDOG.

Trainee assistance dogs Heidi, left, and Ivy, right, are beautifully portrayed demonstrating the 'fetch' cue.



Christina Barnacoat at Elanco Companion Animal Health Ltd has been supplying Panoramis parasite treatment for our puppies and assistance dogs in training.

Thank you Christina and Elanco, this has been a generous and ongoing saving for ASDOG.

VETERINARY SERVICES

We are very grateful to have received complimentary and/or discounted services, treatments and products from the following veterinary practices:

- **Gladesville Veterinary Hospital**
www.gladesvillevet.com.au
- **Pittwater Animal Hospital**
www.pittwateranimalhospital.com.au
- **Vetmed Northbridge**
www.vetmed.com.au

SUPPORTER MERCHANDISE

ASDOG relies on volunteers to raise funds via supporter products sales. Thanks so much **Vault Hair, Shop 18 / 455 Victoria Avenue, Chatswood** for selling a huge stock of plush puppies.



Proceeds from plush toy dog sales help raise funds for our canine programs. Complete with an ASDOG jacket, the supporter dogs are approximately 10cm high and retail for \$5 each. Would you like to assist us with this fundraising venture? Sell 1 or sell 100... ASDOG welcomes your call and support!

RAISING AWARENESS IN OUR COMMUNITY

ASDOG has enjoyed attending the following locations to demonstrate our puppies and assistance dogs.

A sincere thank you for hosting us and assisting with our awareness and fundraising campaigns.

- [Willoughby Community Care](#)
- [Northside Wellness Older Women's Network](#)
- [Selwood House Vet Clinic](#)

WOULD YOU LIKE A VISIT FROM ASDOG?

Puppies, trained dogs and their partners are available to speak to service organisations, businesses and community groups in the Sydney Metropolitan region.

To enquire about a guest speaker and assistance dog demonstration for your members, residents or staff please call 1300 788 721 or email information@asdog.org.au.

View our YouTube channel
www.youtube.com/user/AustralianSupportDog

Like us on Facebook
www.facebook.com/AustralianSupportDogsInc.ASDOG

Follow us on Twitter
https://twitter.com/asdog_inc



ASDOG AUSTRALIAN SUPPORT DOGS, INC. P.O. Box 5492, West Chatswood, NSW 1515

Tel: 1300 788 721 Email: information@asdog.org.au Web: www.asdog.org.au

