

Annual General Meeting



Canine Helpers for the Disabled Inc will be holding its 2007 Annual General Meeting on **Saturday 19th January 2008 at 11am**, followed by a casual lunch. All members of the association are encouraged to attend, for an opportunity to hear about the association's developments over the past 12 months, and its future directions.



There will also be a social element to the meeting, allowing for people to meet each other and catch up over lunch afterwards. For venue details, and to RSVP and receive the agenda and voting form, please contact the office on 07 3264 8608 (Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays) or email kate@therapydogs.org.au.

Promotion Week

Over the week of the 7th to the 13th January 2008 Westfield Garden City gave Canine Helpers a free site at the shopping centre, in order to promote the organisation to the public, and raise some funds. The week was an excellent success, with both Canine Helpers and the dogs themselves receiving a great deal of interest from the general public. We have had invitations to give talks at other organisations, offers from potential volunteers, and raised almost \$1500.00 in donations! It was also a great deal of fun, interacting with the public and having so many dogs demonstrating their skills.

Very great thanks must go to the volunteers who came to help out, and the dogs that gave pats, cuddles and did tricks to show the public what Assistance Dogs can do. Without the help of these volunteers, the week would not have been so successful. So, thanks to:

- Deanne, Ray and puppy Cody
- Trainer Cyn D and BeeCee
- Chris, Selena and Portia with Bundy
- Chelle and Mia
- Trainer Lisa-Maree and Buddy

Thanks also to Westfield Garden City, for the excellent position we were given, and the great facilities. It was a very enjoyable experience.

We will be organising other promotion weeks at other centres around Brisbane, to educate more members of the public about Canine Helpers and about Assistance Dogs.

We will send out notification of date, venue and times, for anyone who would like to take part.



L-R: Deanne, puppy Cody, Ray and Dexter at the Canine Helpers stand

Welcome to JJ

JJ (the puppy formerly known as "Joe") is now happily ensconced with Karen Johnstone, Stephen Needham and Facility Dog Fudge. JJ will be learning his craft as a Facility Dog from the experts!



We are also still seeking a sponsor to cover JJ's training costs. If you are interested, or know someone who might be able to help, please let us know.

In Training

Lisa Williamson and Moss, and Dulcie O'Neill and Zoe are very close to graduation. Both Lisa and Dulcie have trained their own dogs, and are currently completing a Private Certification Course with trainer Lisa-Maree Price.

Free Registration for BCC residents

Brisbane City Council has waived its registration fees for Assistance Dogs. "The Council has recently reviewed the policy relating to assistance dogs and will waive registration fees for genuine assistance dogs that are not currently covered by the Animal Local Law. Under the new policy, assistance dogs not listed in the Local Law can be registered at no charge, providing the dog owner presents a letter from a GP or specialist who can validate that the dog has been purchased for genuine assistance purposes.

The provision of this letter will only need to be provided for the first year – after that Council's records will show that the dog has assistance status and the registration renewal notices will not include a fee thereafter."

Canine Helpers is currently negotiating with the BCC to allow a Team's accreditation ID be used to register an assistance dog with the Council, rather than a letter from a doctor, but until that has been finalised we will have to provide the medical letter as requested. We will let you know when there are any updates.

Recent Events

Fun Night at Pine Rivers Dog Obedience Club

Pine Rivers Dog Obedience Club hosted a Fun Night in support of Canine Helpers on Friday 16th November 2007. It was very well-attended and supported by all the members of the club, and everyone seemed to have an excellent time with the different games and challenges. The event also raised \$214 to help Canine Helpers with its work. Huge thanks to the Club, its Committee and its members.

Christmas Party

Unfortunately, our Christmas Party had to be cancelled, due to lack of RSVPs. We hope to re-schedule the event for a Christmas in July party (thanks for the suggestion, Carmen!) and we'll send out details nearer the time. Feel free to send me suggestions for a venue.

Membership

Due to the reduction in person-power this year, our membership renewals mailout wasn't completed in April. However, we are very keen to have all our members renew and show their support of Canine Helpers. In return, we are extending the period of membership for any member that renews between now and the next renewals blitz in April 2008, so that your next due date will be 30th April 2009 (the membership year runs from 1st May to 30th April each year). This also applies for people joining the association for the first time.

Annual Membership Rates are:

- Ordinary \$22
- Junior \$11
- Family \$38.50
- Life \$550 (after having been financial for at least two years).

New clients are entitled to free membership for their first year.

Membership is not compulsory, and you do not have to be a member in order to access services from Canine Helpers.

Please contact the office for a membership form to be sent to you.

Fundraising

Donations

Regular Donors

We are looking to increase the number of people who will donate on a regular basis. Anything from \$10 a month can assist us enormously. Direct debits can be set up via the OurCommunity donation link:

www.ourcommunity.com.au/caninehelpers1

Dollar Fundraiser

We have launched a Dollar Fundraiser campaign, where you can ask friends, family and workmates to donate just one dollar. We have a form that you can use, where your donors sign a line on the page relating to a reason why they are agreeing to give you a dollar. Each form has 20 lines, so raises \$20. It's a fun and easy way of raising a few funds for our excellent cause! Please let me know if you'd like to receive a form to help with our fundraising efforts.

Donation Collection Tins

Premier News and Casket in New Farm have set a new Collection Tin record, gathering donations totalling over \$100.00 in the first three months of hosting! Big, big thanks go to the staff and customers (but please don't stop now)!

Do you know of a company or an organisation that can host one of our collection tins? If so, please let us know! We can organise the rest.

Donated Items

Thank you to Ralph Mann from Mullins Lawyers for the donation of towels for our hydrobathing service.

Sponsorship

Thanks must go to our major sponsors:

Our website is hosted by Radn Technology Solutions, and our webmaster is Steve Needham from RadnTech.



Greencross Vets, for providing assisted veterinary care for our learners and discounts for graduate dogs.



Black Dog Wear for fantastic, high quality training equipment.



Virbac Australia for continuing to provide us with vaccines, microchips and other essential pet products.

Volunteering

We have a couple of new volunteers helping out in the office. Deanne and Ray have already made an impact, by giving Donny an overdue haircut. Ray will be helping out for a few weeks until his new job starts in January, and Deanne plans to volunteer regularly.

They will be helping with walking and grooming the office dogs Donny and Grace, and with our hydrobathing service. Deanne will also be helping Kate with some of the office administration.

Apron Supplied!



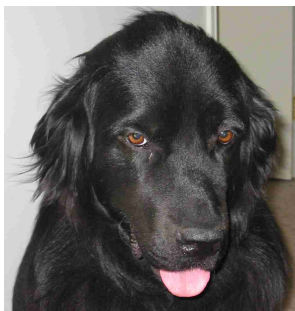
If you love the smell of a clean dog and don't mind getting wet, you might be able to help us out! We are starting up our regular hydrobathing service at the Canine Helpers office on a Thursday morning, and can always do with another pair of hands. Please get in touch with Kate in the office or at kate@therapydogs.org.au if you are interested. No experience of hydrobathing is required.

Haircuts for our Helpers



We would really like to find some professional groomers who could offer a free service to our clients. We make an effort to ensure our Assistance Dogs are well-presented at all times, but when we need to give our helpers a haircut, finding a good groomer can be difficult, particularly if money is tight. Please contact Kate in the office if you can assist.

Saving Grace



Grace, Chris and Nicole's 6-year-old Newfoundland, was recently rushed to hospital with a paralysis tick. Grace was desperately ill, with additional heart problems. After a very tense several days, Grace did start to

recover, thankfully, and was allowed home. Not before she was given a haircut, though! Except for her head and tail, Grace's coat was given a buzz-cut! However, the shock of seeing Grace "naked" was tempered by the fact that she was back home and recovering well from her ordeal. She is now back to her old self, keeping Donny and Dexter in line in the office!

Book Review

Teamwork: A Dog Training Manual for People with Disabilities (I & II) is a pair of books that looks at basic dog obedience training techniques from the perspective of people with a disability, and how to train your dog to be a Service Dog (Assistance Dog). It covers a very wide variety of abilities, including people who are ambulant, who use crutches or sticks and who use a wheelchair, and explores different ways of achieving the same goal, such as how to treat your dog when you can't use your hands. The book gives many different suggestions to overcome physical limitations in order to achieve

the goal of good dog training. There is also a wonderful array of different dogs being trained.

Authors Steward Nordensson and Lydia Kelley

Book 1: Basic Obedience

Price US\$15.99 ISBN: 0-9656216-0-X

Book 2: Service Exercises

Price US\$15.99 ISBN: 0-9656216-1-8

Advertising

Get your message out to a wide readership by advertising in our bi-monthly newsletter:

¼ page: \$33.00 (incl GST)

½ page: \$49.50 (incl GST)

1 page: \$77.00 (incl GST)

Contact Kate Jenian, Fundraising Co-ordinator, for submission requirements.

Contact Details

Our office hours are Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 9am – 5pm.

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