



The Dog Guardian

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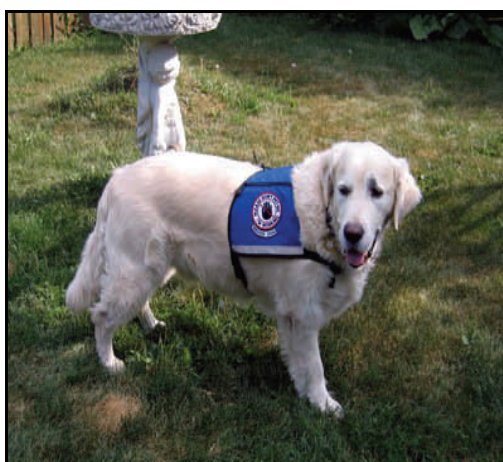
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ACCESSIBILITY OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES WITH SERVICE ANIMALS IN CANADA



By Peter Platt

Anyone with a service animal other than a Guide Dog for the Blind may be surprised to learn how little accessibility protection there is for them in Canadian provincial and federal law. Laws vary from province to province and most provinces don't have service animal laws. A few years back it became apparent that I needed help in everyday life situations when going out into public places.

With the help of Canines with a Cause my beloved Golden Retriever Choya was certified as a service dog and the rest is history. I am now able to live my life relatively fully and have gained independence while out in public.

Choya was trained by Peter and certified by Canines with a Cause, see www.canineswithacause.org. Choya is due to retire this year.

Photo courtesy of Peter Platt

In the early years with Choya, I never realized how big a deal certification from a recognized training school would become for Canadians who need a service animal by their side. There are few, if any, recognized training schools in Canada that will certify owner-trained dogs (Canines with a Cause no longer certifies owner-trained dogs). I am at the forefront of fighting for accessibility rights of persons with service animals and, with the encouragement and assistance of my American counterpart, I started an

Accessibility of Persons with Disabilities with Service Animals in Canada

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internet network for Canadians with service animals. The goal of this ListServ is to gather information about existing laws in Canada pertaining to accessibility of persons with disabilities and their service animals and to share information on existing and upcoming legislation across Canada. The ListServ address is info@serviceanimals.ca and is open to persons with a service animal, are considering obtaining one, or are involved in the training of service animals. The website is www.serviceanimals.ca

Currently there is no legislated protection for accessibility of persons with disabilities with service animals. The Ontario Human Rights Commission did provide me with a letter stating that under the Human Rights Code of Ontario "Individuals and organizations are prohibited from discriminating against persons with disabilities by refusing entry or access to a building, premise, or good or service because a person requires the accompaniment of a guide/ service dog due to a disability."

A new Ontario regulation under the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act 2005 came into force on January 1, 2008 and will provide Accessibility Standards for Customer Service. This regulation recognizes persons with disabilities using service animals but the implementation date is only 2010/2012. As stated in a letter I received on December 4, 2007 from the Accessibility Directorate "The Accessibility Standards for Customer Service regulation does not stipulate certification requirements for service animals."

On the federal government level, the Canadian Transport Act allows for service animals on airplanes and trains only when it can be proven that the service animal is certified by a "professional service animal institution". The catch here is that there is no record of recognized training schools listed under the Act. The stories of persons with disabilities accompanied by a non-certified service animal being denied transportation access in Canada are deplorable but the fight continues to educate and promote change.



CAPPDT CONFERENCE 2008

Pet owners in the national capital area will have a wonderful opportunity to hear experts speak on dogs and dog training when the Canadian Association of Professional Pet Dog Trainers (CAPPDT) presents "A Capital Idea ...Exploring The Relationship With Pets" at

the 12th Annual Educational Conference and Market Place, April 18, 19 and 20, 2008.

CAPPDT Conference 2008

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The CAPPDT Conference is designed for all people who care about pets and has a line-up of dynamic speakers including Bob Bailey, Phil Arkow, Dr. Simon Gadbois, Don Hanson and Dr. Jesús Rosales-Ruis.

A number of workshops have also been scheduled e.g. Dark Field Microscopy with Dr. E. Beltran, DVM, TAGTeach with Joan Orr, Bach Flower Remedies with Don Hanson and Animal Assisted Therapy with Phil Arkow and more.

The conference will be held at the Travelodge Hotel in Ottawa, Ontario. Conference registration fee includes the keynote presentations, workshops of your choice on a first come first served basis, continental breakfast, morning snacks, lunches and afternoon snacks. For further information regarding keynote speakers, workshops or registration, please visit the CAPPDT website at www.cappdt.ca or call 613.591.6228.

AMAZING RACE



Ian and Wazey
Photo courtesy of
Peter Platt

No, it's not the "AMAZING RACE" but it is pretty remarkable. As members of Team Diabetes, Ian Martin and Wazey, Ian's guide dog, will be doing a 5km run in the Ottawa Marathon, May 24-25, 2008. And, Ian and Wazey are hoping to meet their minimum goal of \$250 in pledges.

Funds raised will help support leading-edge research to find a cure for Type-1 Diabetes, a disease Ian has lived with for more than 45 years, and will also help fund programs such as Camp Banting, a summer camp for children.

If you would like to help Ian and Wazey meet and hopefully surpass the goal in their own Amazing Race, you can donate online using a credit card by going to www.teamdiabetes.ca, clicking on *Pledge a Participant* and typing in Ian Martin. Or, you can

send a cheque payable to Team Diabetes Canada and send c/o Ian Martin, 1507 Michaelsem Street, Orleans, Ontario, K1C 7C3. Unless requested, income tax receipts are only issued for \$15 or more. Please ensure you include your name and address.

Ian and Wazey would appreciate notes of encouragement. Actually, Wazey would prefer a treat but we are sure that Ian will take care of that. In the meantime, we hope that Ian and Wazey reach their goal and have a great run.

Go Ian and Wazey!

STOOP AND SCOOP

We have received a number of complaints from regular walkers at both Conroy Pit and Bruce Pit that there is an extraordinary amount of faecal matter on the ground. While some buildup is expected over the winter months due to snow cover, etc., the reports indicate that a growing number of dog walkers are negligent in picking up after their pet. Moreover, the ludicrous practice of hanging bags of waste on tree branches seems to be thriving, a habit that drives responsible dog owners crazy.

Notwithstanding the fact that dog owners are required by law to pick up after their pet and dispose of pet waste in an appropriate manner, dog owners have an obligation to stoop, scoop, and properly discard their pet's waste to protect the dogs from all kinds of diseases and parasites like Coccidia, Giardia, Parvovirus, Distemper, Tapeworms, Hookworms, Roundworms and more.



There is no doubt that the majority of regular dog walkers take their responsibility to pick up after their pet seriously. However, there are some who just don't get it and they are going to create problems for everyone. Each one of us needs to play an active role in self-policing. Speak up when you see someone neglecting their responsibility. Remember it is our privileges that will be forfeited. and/or our dogs that will get

sick, if we cannot keep the off leash areas clean.

ANNUAL SPRING CLEAN-UP

The spring clean-up days are scheduled and the Roger's Community Cruiser will be serving coffee and donuts on both days.

Bruce Pit Clean Up is scheduled for Saturday, May 17, 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. and Conroy Pit Clean Up is scheduled for Sunday, May 18, 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. Gloves and bags will be provided.

Hope to see you there!

The 3rd Annual K9 Spring Fling

Bring you and your friendly dog out April 20th and get a professional picture taken of your dog for a \$10 donation by Natalie Heath of Heath Photo!

• coffee • baked goods • raffle prizes • fun doggy items • need we say more?

WHERE? forever friends • unit 6, 17 Grenfell Crescent
website: www.foreverfriendsdogtraining.ca

WHEN? Sunday, April 20th, 10 am to 4 pm.

WHY? To have fun and help out a great cause!

All Friendly Dogs Welcome!



All profits go to Bullies in Need Dog Rescue. You can read up on all of the work they do on their website: www.bulliesinneed.ca

Hopeful Hearts Rescue will be in attendance as well! www.hopefulhearts.ca



Houston is available for adoption
Photo courtesy of HeathPhoto

B.A.R.K.'s WOOFs AND WAGS WALKATHON



The Bytown Association for Rescued Kanines' (B.A.R.K.) 7th Annual Woofs and Wags Walkathon will be held on Sunday, May 4, 2008 at the Arboretum (Central Experimental Farm).

Registration starts at 8:00 a.m. and the walk starts at 9:00 a.m. Coffee and donuts will be available before the walk and, following the walk, there will be a free barbeque.

There are big prizes for the first ten people collecting the most money, and dozens of valuable draw prizes including a \$1000 gas card, two \$500 gas cards, two photo shoots by Suzanne Bird valued at \$500 each and two bicycles.

Pledge forms are available on the B.A.R.K. website at <http://tinyurl.com/yubupn> or by calling 613-738-0119. Anyone who does not wish to collect pledges but would like to participate may do so by paying a \$20 registration fee.

FOAP 10TH ANNUAL WALKATHON



On Saturday morning, June 7, 2008, Chris Day, Friends of Abandoned Pets (FOAP) Honorary Chair will MC the charity's tenth annual walk at the Arboretum, Central Experimental Farm. Walkers are encouraged to participate with their dogs, but people without dogs of their own are welcome to take part to support the organization and enjoy canine companionship.

Registration is at 8 a.m., with the walk, either 2.5 or 5 km, starting at 9 a.m., followed by a barbeque, prizes and activities. As in past years, FOAP is planning for great weather!

More information about FOAP is available on their website at www.foap.on.ca and more details about the walk, including the pledge form, will be posted in the coming weeks.



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The next annual general meeting for the Responsible Dog Owners of Canada (RDOC) is scheduled for Friday, June 20th, 7:00 to 10:00 p.m., at the Ottawa Citizen Conference Centre, 1101 Baxter Road. In accordance with the By-

laws, five Director's positions are available for those wishing to stand for election. All members in good standing are eligible to run for these positions. RDOC will be embarking on some very exciting and interesting work over the next year and all members are encouraged to consider standing for election.

Cheryl Smith, Professional Dog Trainer and Behaviourist, Forever Friends Dog Training and Urika Dog Behaviour Consultants, will be the guest speaker. Light refreshments will be served.

HOPEFUL HEARTS RESCUE

By Roz Phelps



Hopeful Hearts Rescue was created in September 2007 to assist senior and special needs dogs find homes in the Ottawa area. Despite many rescues working hard in the Ottawa area, these dogs are often forgotten as a result of inherent medical costs and the reality that more mature dogs are often passed over in preference of younger dogs. Roz Phelps and Anne Comeau felt it was time to form a rescue that would specifically serve these dogs.

With public education, Hopeful Hearts hopes to undo the stigma that older dogs cannot adjust to new homes and that their time is limited. With special needs dogs, whether the uniqueness is missing a limb, lack of hearing or sight or simply a medical condition, again, lack of understanding is generally the biggest enemy these dogs face.

So far, Hopeful Hearts has had exceptional success! Simba, the oldest dog, found his forever home at 13.5 years old! Three legged Bianca found her family within days of posting as did our blind Miss Molly! To date, Hopeful Hearts has adopted out close to a dozen of these special dogs.

Both Anne and I have been active in the rescue world for many years and our homes are always open to foster dogs. We believe it is important for us to foster dogs in our own homes

A new rescue group recently started that is meeting a special demand for our canine companions. In our special Guest Column, Roz Phelps shares her experiences in how this rescue began.

so we are really part of the fostering team. We have a dedicated team of wonderful and much appreciated foster homes who care for our special angels until they are adopted. We also have an exceptional group of volunteers who are tireless in their efforts, dedication and belief in the work that we do and the difference that we are making.

The team also believes adamantly in strong ethics. Every single penny raised goes directly to the support of our rescues. We have no paid staff and do not spend one penny without conferring with another team member. Our books are completely open and receipts are kept for each and every purchase.

Hopeful Hearts Rescue

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Hopeful Hearts is also very proud of the fact that we help several other rescues with food donations that we receive from a local merchant. We also take in dogs from out-of-town shelters when the dog fits with our mandate, i.e. senior or special needs.

Hopeful Hearts does a thorough screening before placing a dog in a home. We do references and vet checks as well as at least one home visit before the dog moves to his or her new home. We encourage our foster volunteers to come with us to the home visits as we feel that their experience with the dog will help us decide whether this is a good match or not. Our foster volunteers are very important to us and we value their opinions!

Zeus

Zeus came to Hopeful Hearts on Valentine's Day as an owner surrender. He was shockingly emaciated, dehydrated and lethargic. This picture does not nearly portray the horror of this dog's condition. We rushed him into the vet who confirmed that this dog has not only suffered tremendous neglect but also abuse.



Zeus was emaciated, dehydrated, and lethargic when surrendered by his owner. He now weighs 12.8 pounds and is recovering.

the size of a dime right now and he will eat himself sick if given the opportunity.

Obviously, this little angel will not be well enough to be adopted for a long time and we will be making certain that he will never be abused again.

If you would like to adopt one of our angels, would like to foster or donate or you would like more information on our organization, please visit www.hopefulhearts.ca.

Zeus is now eating two teaspoons of boiled hamburger and rice with chicken broth every hour. Small amounts of water are also being administered regularly. His stomach is about

DISC DOGGIN'

By Pat Nadarajah

Does your dog like to retrieve toys, chase balls, and run? Would you like to get involved in a sport with your pooch but don't want to spend a lot of money on expensive equipment or classes? Maybe the answer for you is the sport of Frisbee Dog also known as Disc Dog.

The sport of Disc Dog originated in California in the 70s. It started with a toy called a frisbee, which was mass manufactured and sold as a children's toy. Over the years the sport took hold in various parts of the United States, Europe, Japan and more recently in Canada.

Several organizations have been created to cater to the sport, which offers different types of divisions that you can try with your four-legged best friend. If you are a beginner and you just want to throw the disc for your dog at a distance then maybe the standard Toss and Fetch is your game. Like the name implies the competition consists of you, the handler, standing behind a throwing line, marked out on the ground for you, and you throw the disc ahead of



you for your dog to catch. The competition field is divided into yards (10, 20, 30, 40 etc) and depending on where your dog catches the disc then points are accumulated for each successful catch. There are line

judges that watch your dog's catch and assign the points in accordance with the number of yards on the catch. This division has appeal for novices, juniors (children) and the more advanced throwers, who have the opportunity to try their hands and paws in the advanced division of Toss and Fetch, where the distance is increased to challenge the thrower and the dog.



Some competitions will also offer the furthest catch division. Fairly self-explanatory, you stand behind the throwing line and throw as far you can. Once your dog successfully catches the throw, it is

marked and measured by the judges. The furthest catch wins the competition.

Do you like to teach your dogs tricks? Rollover, sit pretty, twirl? Why not put those party tricks into a freestyle disc routine? Freestyle is a disc routine that can run anywhere

Disc Doggin'

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from 60 seconds to 2 minutes and it involves you and your dog performing a series of tricks and different throws all choreographed to your choice of music. The idea is to showcase the natural abilities of your dog and the partnership you have developed with your dog all while you are having fun throwing discs to music. Freestyle routines are also judged on a number of elements including your skills as a thrower, originality of the routine, the canine's agility and of course your team partnership.

The sport of Disc Dog is fun and the training should be the same. Taking your dog out for a fun disc run of Toss and Fetch is a great way to exercise your dog and get a little practice in for your throws. As with all sports you should check with your vet first to make sure that your dog is fit to play disc. If you have a puppy don't start with throws. Your puppy should not be leaping or jumping for a disc until its bone plates have closed which

usually occurs by the age of 12 months. Puppies should be encouraged to chase discs that are rolled on the ground and rewarded for chasing the disc. You can teach your puppy to retrieve the disc using food rewards, another toy or disc and a clicker.

Older dogs can learn new tricks too! The same method can be used to teach your dog to retrieve a disc or learn a new trick to incorporate in a routine. If you would like to learn more about the sport of Disc Dog, our disc dog club, local and regional competitions or you would like to book our dogs for a demo, feel free to contact the Airborne Disc Dog Club of Ottawa at <http://www.flyingdiscdogs.com>.

**Photos courtesy of
Heathphoto**
**For more information, see
www.heathphoto.ca**

Rainbow Bridge

We wish to extend our sincere and deepest sympathy to Kit and Cliff Watson in the unexpected loss of their beloved Pioneer and to Lucille and Rob Lasalle in the loss of their cherished companion Cookie.



Contact the RDOC by:
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