

SDT Training News



**SERVICE DOG
TRAINING**

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Tennor - an answer to a heartfelt cry

I can't believe how fortunate we have been!!

We live & work on our cattle property east of Emerald in Central Queensland. Like many families our world fell apart when we realised our gorgeous little girl was not developing normally due to her PDD (Pervasive Developmental Disorder) and autism. Elise is now 4 1/2 years old and is very active & happy. At this stage she is nonverbal & although she understands some basic instructions her world is very confused.

Like all families in our situation safety for your child is always paramount in your thinking. As Elise grows, she gets physically stronger & faster... thus the dangers increase. If she has "disappeared" she cannot respond when called... how do you find her???...which way to look first is always the question in my mind. Dangers abound: brown snakes, dams, troughs, the sheer heat of the Queensland summer... the list goes on. For months I have been pon-

dering how I could best protect Elise & increase her companionship. My deepest wish was to find a dog that would befriend & perhaps protect her. BUT HOW.....?

THEN I found the Service Dog Training website...this was a whole new concept and so inspiring!! But how do you find the right dog? A puppy from a pet shop seemed fraught with problems.

I couldn't believe our luck when Hans responded to my emails & said he may know of a suitable dog. Leah & Barry Ryan of Vedamea Rough Collies have made our wishes come true. They have been an endless source of guidance. We still can't believe our good fortune!!

Tennor is a regal Rough Collie. Already he is an integral part of our family.... after just 3 days. Elise was SOoooo excited to meet Tennor. She was hugging & petting him exuberantly right from that first moment.

Tennor's attention to Elise has been faultless. He sits beside her whilst she reads, he has played Barbie's and picnics. He is happy to just be with Elise & she with him. He is playful but calm, curious but teachable. He is so excited to see Elise each morning that he almost "sings" to her.... What a start for her day!!! As Elise passes Tennor she seems to relish running her fingers through his coat. I am amazed by his regal beauty & eternally grateful for



his desire to love our little girl. Yes... it is early days & we have much to learn about caring for this majestic collie. Training via Skype with Hans will be a challenge in itself. BUT we have the foundations of a really positive experience for Elise & Tennor. All because of the commitment & kindness of people like Hans, Leah & Barry.

Words cannot express our gratitude.

Joy Newman

CUSP: The team is now registered and has a brochure with a website in development—worth a visit when looking for the right dog!!

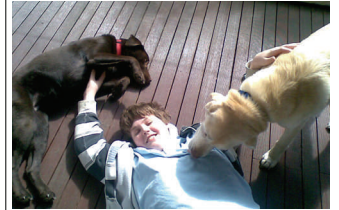


COOKIE'S TIP: When I try and pick up my stainless steel food bowl I used to drop it on the tiles and it would make an awful racket (scary). Mum moved it onto the carpet so I could learn how to pick it up without getting scared.



UPDATE VARIOUS

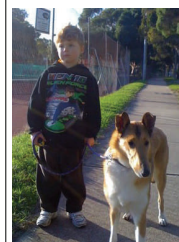
Jonathan with Labs, Odie & Sunny after a hard training session.



A special thank you to *Christina & Pippin* who were role models for the visit of two specialist dog trainers to check SDT out for possible accreditation under the QLD Government. No news on the outcome yet, but whether we succeed or not, the great effort of the team was tremendous. Well done and thanks!



Our newsletters are now online and we have had some interesting reactions! Enjoy them.



We wish Jake and his mum all the best with another operation. Take care mate and I know Sorell

will be waiting for you. Milly, the sister of Molly (Jonathan's service dog) has found a new permanent home and Jessie and Kobe really enjoy her and are taking her to training class. We will try for some pictures next time!

Happy training & stay well!



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