



SDT Training News



**SERVICE DOG
TRAINING**

Volume 2, Issue 1

January 2010

Our Story - Deanna and Cookie

I've had MS for 10 years and at the age of 38 I found myself in a wheelchair; everyday tasks were getting increasingly harder. I thought it was about time I got some assistance. I've always loved dogs so I thought I would apply for an assistance dog only to find there is a four year plus waiting list. I did some research on the internet and found an organization that helped disabled people train their own dogs. So I went looking for a suitable candidate.

I acquired a 2 month old female Labradoodle pup. It wasn't very long and I had taught her basic obedience commands using treats. At six months old I enrolled us in the SDT course. With SDT located in Melbourne and me in another state

it is a lot of E-mails, phone calls and Video conferences (Skype). Hans is always available to give me advice.

Cookie is now 9 months old and her repertoire of tricks is growing all the time. She will 'open the door' for me, turn on my touch lamp, pick up any dropped items, from the phone,



the remote, sunnies, dropped articles of clothing at the clothes line, my hat when it blows off in the wind, pens, to name a few. I'm in the process of teaching her to help me get undressed. You would not believe the difference she is making to my life already.

Editors Comments:

Deanna has been an inspiration to work with, keen to try new challenges, and above all has a commitment to carry it all through. Cookie, whilst young, is very smart and a keen worker! Keep it up Deanna! I think this is a great team, and Cookie looks very professional with her SDT saddle coat (put on every time when training starts— so she is in working mode— which helps her focus)

ONGOING LEARNING

I would like to thank Jon Sabin, a specialist trainer of seizure - alert dogs in the USA for taking my very long call to the US and sharing his knowledge with me, allowing me to help others. My search for assistance with this very complex subject has been affected by the holiday season, but I hope to get more replies in 2010.

For those with kids with ASD there was a great article in the AGE 7/1/2010, page 5-on how Thomas is being used to teach ASD children emotions, through the 'Transporters' - 15 animated stories putting human faces on a cartoon train. Please visit www.thetransporters.com for more information.

If you have information that you think may benefit others, please let us know and we will make space for it! Thanks.

Accreditation Update:

No news unfortunately—more departments involved and the waiting continues! I will keep you posted.

Australia Day:

More fireworks are expected this Australia Day (especially in Melbourne) than last year, due to the weather debacle on New Years' eve—so please make sure your dogs are safe



Above: Az showing off his New SDT Working Coat/Saddle

PetCareVet offers support to SDT and their Clientele

PetCareVet (234 Power Road, Endeavour Hills VIC 3802) is very keen to support the efforts of SDT. PetCareVet identifies with the philosophy of SDT, and is therefore a keen supporter of SDT and their clientele. SDT provides a channel for PetCareVet to put something back into the community. Dr Govender has had a long standing involvement in community activities, in a variety of roles.

Dr Govender is experienced with working dogs, and understands that the requirements of working dogs vary quite significantly from the family pet dog. He also understands that the requirement of each clientele varies and therefore the requirement of each Service Dog varies and therefore has to be treated differently. PetCareVet will be offering enlisted SDT handlers help in keeping their

dog's husbandry costs down, by way of significantly reduced costs of:

- annual booster injections
- desexing
- medical treatment
- premium worming
- premium pet food
- flea control
- heartworm prevention, etc

The philosophy at PetCareVet is that your end results are only as good as the ingredients you start with, for which reason at PetCareVet we stock only premium quality products that we know and trust. To further help save SDT client's costs, PetCareVet will facilitate the client's requests by shipping products directly to clients on prepayment of the item required as well as shipping costs. PetCareVet cannot supply any prescription medication with-

out the pet being assessed at PetCareVet. The staff at PetCareVet are very friendly. For more information on how PetCareVet can help you, please contact us on 1300 838 738 (1300-VETPET). We ask that you please identify yourself as a registered SDT handler. If you do intend visiting us we are located at 234 Power Road, Endeavour Hills, Vic 3802. We are just off the Monash Freeway, Heatherton Road exit, and very easily accessible.

Editors Comments:

Whilst this great offer may not suit all SDT handlers, for those that can take advantage—do. We thank PetCareVet to have offered this service, I know it will help people!



www.servicedogtraining.com.au

To remove your name from our mailing list, please [click here](#) and put Remove in comment box. Questions or comments? Email info@servicedogtraining.com.au or call 03 9889 8555 / 8444. Address details: K9Coach Pty Ltd, t/a Service DogTraining, 21 Sixth Avenue, Burwood VIC 3125

ABN 57 324817560