



SDT Training News



**SERVICE DOG
TRAINING**

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Mixture of News & Updates

Deanna available to help with technical training needs:

Hi, my name is Deanna, you probably know me as Cookie's mum. I've offered to help SDT trainers as a Technical Consultant. I'm wheelchair bound so I know how hard it can be to train a dog. I'm here to help answer any questions. Some of the things I've taught Cookie are:



- Open main door
- Open screen door to get out
- Open screen door to get in
- Shut main door
- Pull off socks
- Pull off trousers
- Pull off jacket sleeves
- Jump up and pull shirt over my head
- Once unclasped, jump up to remove bra
- Pull trousers up over knees
- Open wardrobe to retrieve ugg boots
- Shut wardrobe
- Open drawer to get socks; close drawer
- Get towel off towel rack
- Pick up floor towel
- Carry small articles of clothing to clothes basket
- Pull lap rug over my lap
- Put her toys away in basket

- Open/shut kitchen cupboards
- Open and shut fridge
- Shut kitchen drawers
- Turn on touch lamp
- Pay the money at the shops
- Pull off hand socks (gloves)
- Pick up dropped washing/pegs at clothes line
- Put rubbish in the bin
- Pass washing to put in machine
- Get family members for me
- Pick up anything I drop
- Get the phone
- Pick up outside dog blankets
- Put socks away in drawer

NB: The Management Committee welcomes Deanna's generous gesture and as we are all learning, this will help trainers be more efficient, capable and consistent! Thanks Deanna & Cookie - keep up the impressive list!! *You can contact Deanna through our office.*

Puppy vs. Adult dog

We seem to be getting more and more enquiries - which is great, however we need to stress again that taking on the training of a service / assistance dog is a huge task and responsibility. The household may already be challenged and taking on a puppy is an even greater burden. A young dog, great, but it should be a dog where the real character is already formed and visible. Apart from the cost raising a puppy, there are the training issues like toileting, nipping,

chewing, jumping etc - and the time required is not always available in these households. This is why - as indicated in our last newsletter we are so keen to about a strong association with CUSP in Tasmania - where young dogs will be trained to levels of proficiency that meet specific client demands. We are still establishing the various levels, with the aim to cater to as many as possible. This could be those wanting the extra bonding of a young dog with a child, or someone with a fragile health needing a dog to be trained to do things for them in the assistance field. In the mean time, *please* do not get just any dog. Select on both suitable structure and health and especially on personality. We presently have a few contacts where the available dog may suit your needs. Remember you just cannot change a dog because you do not like the model!! Dogs are a crucial link pin in making life easier for many people with needs, so treating them with respect is vital.

There is the right dog for you - we just need to find it - and that takes time and the right one avoids disappointments.

Accreditation Update:

There is a visit of the Queensland accreditation specialists early September. We will keep you posted!

UPDATE VARIOUS



Sparky (tall dog at the back), Pippin (Border Collie) and Molly (front), would like to remind all Service Dogs in Training owners of the importance of regular physical exercise. They all enjoy finding an open space without other dogs to worry about and having a good run off lead. They especially enjoy chasing each other and checking out all the new smells. It helps them relax and concentrate.

NB: Remember, a dog is in working mode with the SDT coat on, and will learn quickly that they can be a dog when the coat comes off! Be consistent, when training your dog for service tasks, use a coat -and when 'free' give them time to relax.

CUSP: Positive discussions are continuing and more info will follow soon about opportunities for the right dogs to be matched with the right clients.....

COOKIE'S TIP:

All dogs like to play 'Tuggies', so mum used this to teach me how



to get her socks off, this is how I learnt the word 'Pull'. My mum has trouble reaching her feet so we started with putting her socks on her hand until I got the hang of it. Now I can help her get her socks off and I don't even bite her toes.