

Assistance Dogs Europe

Report on Interim Board Activities 2002/3

Statutes

The Statutes have been registered in Belgium. As agreed at the last conference. We have yet to have confirmation that they have been formally accepted.

Logo

A logo has been developed and will be launched at the Berlin conference

Affiliation Fees for 2003

Affiliation fees have been requested from programmes and will mostly be collected at the Berlin Conference.

Finance

A bank account has been set up and is operational. This Euro account was set up in the UK and current signatories are Peter Gorbings and Andy Cook. It is hoped to find a Treasurer at the Berlin conference and once the new Board is elected, the number of signatories should be extended.

An grant application was put together and submitted to the Assistance Dog Institute Fund in the U.S.. This application was successful and a grant of \$2,500 (about 2,500Euros) was received.

Membership Proposals

The Interim Board has worked on a membership proposal to put to the conference for approval. If agreed, these proposals would become operational from January 2004.

Internal Directory

An internal directory of members is being compiled and should be launched at the Berlin Conference.

Standards

The Board have compiled draft standards to be presented for discussion at the Berlin Conference. The standards selected have based on those produced by Assistance Dogs International (ADI), although there has been much work done to ensure that they are relevant to European programmes. The standards cover all assistance dogs and AAA and AAE dogs.

Initial discussions have been held by the Board on the best options on introducing the standards and developing an appropriate accreditation process. This will be the primary task for the next Board.

Access Issues

A major discussion at the Berlin conference will focus on the potential for ADEu to develop an access campaign which will relate to the whole of Europe.

PR Programme

There was no Pet Night in Brussels in 2003.

To date, no specific promotional material has been produced, but this will be developed in line with an access programme. There has been discussion about producing a simple card that outlines what an assistance dog is.

The website has been developed during the year. We carried out an exercise to ask members what they wanted to get from the website but we had a very limited response. Work on this will continue. We have registered a new domain name.

2003 Conference

The Board has supported our German partners in putting together the 2003 Conference in Berlin.

Initial work has been carried out to resolve the likely venues for forthcoming conference. The likely venues are Belgium (2004) and Austria (2005).

Peter Gorbing
On behalf of Interim Board
October 2003