

Assistance Dogs Europe

Report of the Board

During the Year November 2003 to October 2004, the Board of Assistance Dogs Europe has carried out the following work:

1. Registering Statutes

Registering the Statutes in Belgium has been more complicated than expected due to some legal changes in Belgium in early 2004. The Statutes are now operational and Assistance Dogs Europe will now operate in accordance with these Statutes.

2. Standards

As agreed at the Conference in Berlin in 2003, the Standards for Assistance Dog Programmes that were agreed at that Conference were circulated and any amendments requested. A few amendments were suggested by members and these were considered by the Board and incorporated where appropriate and the Standards were re-submitted to members.

During the year, the Board has worked on Standards for Assisted Animal Activity, Assisted Animal Therapy and Assisted Animal Education (AAA/AAT/AAE). These have been circulated to the members for comments and will be voted on at the 2004 Conference.

3. Accreditation

Once Standards have been agreed, it is necessary to develop a system of accreditation to ensure that Full Members are meeting these standards. A system for accreditation is being developed by the Board and it is hoped that this will be agreed by the members over the next few months.

4. Membership

Criteria for Full and Provisional membership of Assistance Dogs Europe was agreed at the 2003 Conference. This has been implemented by the Board and 27 organisations have applied for membership.

5. Website

The website is in the process of being updates and will contain a greater level of information.

6. Logo

The logo has been agreed and will be incorporated into documents in the future.

7. Assistance Dogs International (ADI)

At the ADI Conference in Vancouver in April 2004, the members agreed to pursue the idea of changing the structure of ADI to make it more international. This will involve setting up regional Boards (e.g. ADAmericas, ADEurope, ADFarEast). ADI intend to invite ADEurope to join with ADI once the proposed

structure is clearer and we will need to decide whether we wish to do this over the next year or so. During the past year, the ADEu Board have purposely created suggested standards and policies that mirror those of ADI so that if the members of ADEu decide to join with ADI, the transition will be relatively easy.

8. Development Funding for ADEu

At the Board meeting in May, it was agreed that it would be good to identify some sources of funding for ADEu to cover the cost of a Development Officer post and a Development Fund. A proposal was agreed by the Board and there has been some contact with the EU with regards to possible sources of funding. This is likely to be a slow process.

9. Contacts

During the year, contacts have been made with IFAH (International Federation of Animal Health), the Council of Europe and many MEP's.

10. Complaints and Appeals Procedure

A Complaints and Appeals Procedure was written by the Board and circulated to members. It is hoped that this will be agreed at the 2004 Conference.

11. 2004 Conference

The Board is grateful to Hachiko for their working setting up the 2004 Conference. The Board has been responsible for putting together the conference programme.

12. 2005 Conference

The 2005 Conference will be held in Salzburg and be hosted by Partner-Hunde.

13 Future Conferences

The Board produced a detailed specification for any organisation considering hosting a future conference. This has been circulated to all members inviting bids to host future conferences.

14. Information Requests

Our Secretariat and members of the Board receive many requests for information from members of the public and organisations wishing to know more about ADEu.

15. Finance

The Board have continued to monitor the finances of ADEu and have previously circulated the accounts for 2003.

16. Secretariat – Elma Burg

Members of the Board are very grateful to Elma Burg for all her hard work on behalf of ADEu. It would be difficult for ADEu to continue without Elma's input and I am sure that all members will join the Board in thanking Elma for her outstanding contribution.