

Assistance Dogs Europe

Board Report 2005

Board Membership

The following people have served on the Board in 2005:

Peter Gorbing (President) – Dogs for the Disabled (UK)
Debra Buttram (Vice President) – AUICA (Italy)
Nannerl Wenger (Secretary) – Partner-Hunde (Austria)
Anki Celandar (Treasurer) – SOS (Sweden)
Ken Brydon – Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind (Ireland)
Andy Cook – Hearing Dogs for Deaf People (UK)
Janet van Keulen – Hulphond (Netherlands)
Monique Van de Velde – HACHIKO (Belgium) – Co-opted
Danny Vancoppennolle – DYADIS (Belgium) – Co-opted

Secretariat – Elma Burg

General Membership and Subscriptions

During the year, the Board have worked hard to encourage new members.

Assistance Dogs International (ADI Issues)

Attached is a paper outlining the issues relating to ADEu merging with ADI. At the ADEu Conference in Belgium in 2004, the members overwhelmingly agreed with the proposal to ask the Board to enter into further negotiations with ADI with a view to coming together to create a truly international assistance dog organisation. There has been great progress with this proposal and the Board of ADI have actively pursued the idea and are very keen for ADEu to join with them in moving the idea forward as quickly as possible. There will be a major issue for discussion at the Conference.

Standards

During the year the Board have continued to work on refining the Standards in line with suggestions made by members at last years conference in Belgium.

Accreditation

A major task this year has been to translate the Standards that have been agreed by members and put them into a format suitable for accreditation assessment. A draft document was circulated to members in early September and it is hoped that an accreditation manual and process will be agreed at this years Conference with a view to assessments starting in 2006.

Website

The website has been re-designed and now includes a lot more information both for members and for guests to the site.

Funding Opportunities

The Board have continued to look at possible sources of funding to assist the development of ADEu. Work has focused on seeking funds for two key areas a) to set up a Development Fund that will enable members to seek financial support to help them work toward accreditation and general programme development and b) to fund a worker to support the development of ADEu and take up some of the work currently done by the Board.

Conference 2005

The Board have undertaken many duties in preparing for the 2005 Conference in Salzburg.

Access Issues

During the year, member programmes have been invited to fill in a European Access Questionnaire and the outcome of our initial findings will be presented to the Conference. The Board are very grateful to Wendy Morrell, a client of Dogs for the Disabled in the U.K., for agreeing to help with this special project. The aim of the first part of this project is to identify the current situation in terms of access rights and practice for assistance dogs in as many European countries as possible.

Complaints Procedure

A process for dealing with complaints has been worked on by the Board.

Logo

The logo of Assistance Dogs Europe has been slightly refined during the year and it is now available to Full Members who may wish to display it on literature or websites.

Conference 2004 Report

A comprehensive report on proceedings at the 2004 Conference was produced and circulated to all members. Our thanks go to Elma Burg for her work on this.

Conference 2006

Initial work has been carried out to prepare for our 2006 Conference which will be held in Sweden. Our thanks go to SOS in Sweden for agreeing to host our 2006 Conference.

IAHIO Affiliation

We have worked closely with various sister organisations during the year and are pleased that our application to become an Affiliate member of IAHAIO (International Association of Human Animal Interaction Organisations) was successful. We look forward to working with IAHAIO in the future.

Peter Gorbing

On behalf of the ADEu Board