

Assistance Dogs Europe

Board Report 2006

Board Membership

The following people have served on the Board during 2005/6:

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)

Andy Cook – Canine Partners (UK)

Janet Van Keulen – Hulphond (Netherlands)

Danny Vancoppennolle – DYADIS (Belgium)

Maša Dolenc – Croatian Guide Dog and Mobility Association (Croatia) – co-opted

Monique Van De Velde – HACHIKO (Belgium) – co-opted

Secretariat – Elma Burg

General Membership and Subscriptions

During the year, the Board have worked hard to encourage new members and 6 new members have joined.

Assistance Dogs International (ADI Issues)

In line with the request of the members at last years conference, the Board of ADEu have continued to work with the Board of ADI to seek the best way for ADI and ADEu to come together to form one truly international organisation representing the interests of the worldwide assistance dog movement. Members of the ADEu Board have also participated in the AAT Working Group set up at the request of the members of ADEu. A full paper on this issue was circulated to all members prior to conference.

Accreditation

Following comments from members, the accreditation manual has been updated and improved. In addition, a group of assessors has been established to start the accreditation process. All the assessors are highly experienced training staff from European programmes that have been accredited by ADI in the past.

Website

We continue to update and improve the website.

Conference 2006

The Board have undertaken many duties in preparing for the 2006 Conference in Malmö. Particular thanks go to Anki Celandar and her team in Malmö.

Conference 2005 Report

A report on the 2005 Conference has been produced and circulated to all members.

Access Issues

The Access Survey presented to the members in Salzburg has been updated. We have been actively engaged with the newly formed European Guide Dog Forum, which has been set up by the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association in the UK. The Forum is well resourced and your Board recognises that they will set the agenda for much of the European access work that takes place. The Forum have invited ADEu to take an active part in the Forum and this will be very helpful for ADEu. The Board was pleased to note that the value of assistance dogs was recognised in the new Disability Action Plan approved by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe in April 2006.

Conference 2007

Initial work has been carried out to prepare for our 2007 Conference, which will be held in Frankfurt, Germany. Our thanks go to Claudia Shaper for agreeing to host our 2007 Conference.

Newsletter

The first edition of the ADEu Newsletter was circulated to members in the Summer.

Trainers Workshops

At the Conference, the Board will be announcing details of the first trainers' workshop to be organised by ADEu. This will enable assistance dog trainers to get together and spend high quality time together to develop new skills and share good practice. It is planned that further workshops will be organised. The events will be known as the 'Spirit' workshops.

Application Process

The process for applying for membership of ADEu has been improved with the introduction of a reference form that will ensure referees are acting responsibly when recommending programmes for membership.

Census

The Annual Census has been circulated and returned by members. This is an important document as it gives ADEu some idea of the number of assistance dog partnerships that are working in Europe.

Finance

A finance report for 2005 is attached.

Peter Gorbing

On behalf of the ADEu Board