

Business Meeting 27 – 28 October 2001

1. European Key Issues

1.1 European Funding and PR

Inventory from individual experiences with funding and PR.

Advice:

- public education
- set up a sponsor-program around projects
- set up a database of international sponsors

1.2 Quality control – Standards and tests – Criteria for clients – Matching and after-care

Advice: research needs to be done

1.3 Animal welfare

Advice: regulations about

- housing of the dogs
- off duty (the dog must be able to play every day)
- feeding (regular dog food and control of the weight)
- medical (prevention and treatment of parasites, yearly vaccinations)
- care (grooming and obedience)
- training (use of positive reinforcement)
- contract with client

Welfare is related to training-methods, funds etc.

1.4 Creating national co-operation

Inventory: national co-operation is important:

- splitting up in small organisations leads to too much work;
- small organisations cannot guaranty quality in the long run.

Advice:

- work together in every country as much as possible
- establish a national umbrella organisation if possible

1.5 European organisation

Working on and establish

- Contacts and directory
- Membership and voting
- Board development
- Mission and objective

1.6 Training staff

Inventory: there is in-house education for dog trainers only in the UK

- Dogs for the Disabled – 3 year-course
- Hearing Dogs for Deaf People – 2 year-course
- Hulphond Nederland is working on a curriculum

ASSISTANCE DOGS EUROPE

Advice:

- minimum standards for training/education (services, dogs and people)
- develop a common training/education course (European)
- exchange potential
- create a recognised European certificate

1.7 AAA and AAT

Animal Assisted Activities and Animal Assisted Therapy

Inventory of the working style of the workshop members

Advice:

- while making standards and developing education use the standards of Delta Society, USA.
- Organisations working with AAA and AAT should be members from AD-EU as well.

1.8 Breeding

Inventory of the existing problems

- finding good bloodlines
- breeding program per country too difficult
- hunting problems
- we concentrate too much on one or two breeds
- each country has his own physical and/or psychological tests
- clients want to choose their own "type of dog"

Advice:

- Start a research project for breeding assistance dogs
- Look for European advisors
- Find breeders who breed for Assistance Dogs Europe especially

1.9 Training and training tools

Inventory of the training method of the workshop members

Advice: Make an overview of all training-methods of all European Organisations

- puppy test
- foster family – puppy-class
- choice of client for type of dog
- training methods and commands
- matching
- training school
- after-care

2. Steering Groups

A. ORGANISATIONAL

Peter Gorbing, Dogs for the Disabled, UK

Daniel Defago, Le Copain, Switzerland

- Contacts and directory
- Membership and voting
- Board development
- Mission and objective

B. OPERATIONAL AND TECHNICAL

Elisabeth Färbinger, Partner-Hunde, Austria
Ursula Heiner, Hunde für Handicaps, Germany
Nina Bondarenko, Canine Partners for Independence, UK
Daniela Salvi, L' Accademia Int, onlus, Italy

- Dog supply
- Health and welfare
- Training programs (clients and dogs)
- Clients criteria and service provision

C. FUNDING AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

Jan van Summeren, Stichting Hulphond Nederland, The Netherlands
Graham Ford, Tiere Helfen Menschen eV, Germany
Maria Czerwinska, CZE-NE-KA, Poland

- European funding opportunities
- External education and communication
- Database

D. STANDARDS AND ACCESS

Anthony Blunt, Hearing Dogs for the Deaf People, UK
Hildegard Jung, Germany
Debra Buttram, AIUCA, Italy
Helen McCain, Dogs for the Disabled, UK

- Consider and review ADI-, AD-UK-, and Delta standards
- Accreditation and certification
- Quality control
- Legislation and public access

E. 2002 CONFERENCE

Elma Burg, Assistance Dog Europe, The Netherlands
Dominique L.Laillet, ANECAH, France

- Location
- Program
- Accommodation
- Potential sponsor

During the next conference in Paris 26 - 27 October 2002 the final results will be presented by steering groups A, B, C, and D.

3. Assistance Dogs International (ADI)

Peter Gorbng, Dogs for the Disabled, UK

3.1 Mission Statement

- Promote standards of excellence in all areas of assistance dog acquisition, training and partnership
- Facilitate communication and learning among member organisations
- Educate the public as to the benefits of assistance dogs and ADI member programmes

3.2 Membership

- Open to not-for-profit organisations
- An application process
- ± 60 members

ASSISTANCE DOGS EUROPE

3.3 Background

- Established 1987
- Coalition of organisations and individuals involved in training and placing assistance dogs
- Run by Board of Directors elected by members
- Administrative support
- Core types of assistance dogs:
 - Service dogs
 - Guide dogs
 - Hearing dogs

3.4 Examples of Standards and Ethics

Clients

- No discrimination
- Treat with respect
- Personal information help is confidential
- Right to a structured and full training programme

Dogs

- Training using humane methods
- Screened for health and welfare
- Will be provided with a stable living environment
- Responsibility for dog lies with programme in case of client death
- Dogs not trained for guarding or protection duties organisations
- Clear protocols for selection, training, welfare of clients and dogs
- Holds appropriate knowledge and skills to meet expectations

3.5 Key ADI Initiatives

- Developed minimum standards
- Developed accreditation for organisations and trainers
- Seeking Executive Director
- Holds Annual Conference
- Holds Education Networking Conferences
- Provide information by Newsletter
- Website www.assistance-dogs-intl.org

3.6 Issues for European Programmes

- ADI primarily US-based
- European Member on Board – Peter Gorbng
- Commitment from Board to consider a federal structure
 - AD (Europe)
 - AD (North America)
 - AD (Far East)
- International Development Committee to propose structure
- Need to develop and agree common standards
- Common standards will lead to common access laws and opportunities for clients

3.7 Advantages to European Programmes of Being Part of ADI

- Enable European programmes to build on good practice
- Strengthens work on standards and ethics
- Access to ADI resources
- Networking opportunities
- ADI becomes more 'international'