






HEADS UP

Donation £1

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

-  Discussion of a New Standard for Assistance Dogs
-  STRAD members gain their Kennel Club Good Citizen Bronze Award
-  Double team: RAD partners up with the National Citizen Service

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The Historic Day Of The Assistance Dogs Workshop At The Minister For Disabled People's Office

On the 16th August 2017, Liz Maitland, Founding Member of RECOVERY Assistance Dogs, and Rebecca Dennis, acting Secretary of the Trustees, attended a groundbreaking event in London. The Assistance Dogs Workshop and Working Group was held at Caxton House in St. James Park and was organised by the Department for Work and Pensions.

This event was held to create a nationwide Standard and Assessment Protocol for Assistance Dogs that will:

- Improve standards for dogs & disabled people that won't put the public at risk.
- Avoid inappropriate behaviour of untrained dogs.

This will ensure:

- An increase in owner trained Assistance Dogs being welcomed.
- Dogs are trained in obedience, to reach a specific standard.
- A stop to people being denied access when it's a genuine Assistance Dog.
- Checks will make it difficult for rogue organisations, trainers, or individuals.
- Benefits for the whole sector.

The Assistance Dogs Working Group has made progress & produced a standard, and agreed it is not about bringing in legislation in the short or long term. The standard needs to be independent without interference from the Government. The discussions focused less on detail and more on understanding the issues and helping more people to get an Assistance Dog.

Rebecca Dennis:
"This Standard will improve the experience for both service users and providers, as well as achieving wider respect and public awareness for Assistance Dogs of all types"

Some clients don't need help to train their dog & could be owner trainers. They may be able to apply to be assessed by an independent body like ABTC (Animal Behaviour Training Council) so that their dog can be issued with a standardised ID approved by the Department of Work and Pensions. This could involve being put on a special register linked to the dog's microchip for easy identification.

Everyone agreed that the lack of definition of 'What is an Assistance Dog?' has made it difficult to protect the core of Assistance Dogs. Passion about this subject was evident in the meeting. We all want unification linked to the message that people who have had their lives changed by their dog should have recognised and valid public access.



The PAT (Public Access Test) Test has been updated and rewritten. Many people felt that it should be renamed the PAW (Public Access Wellbeing) Test since this is so much about protecting the wellbeing of the dogs and their disabled owners.

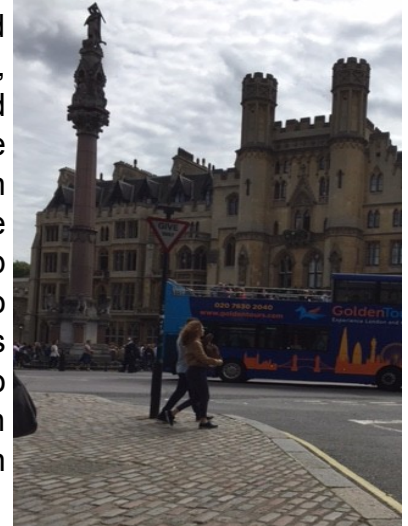
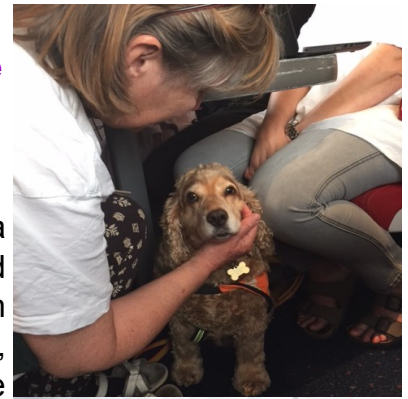
The Big Question Is Who Should Be The Assessors?

This is not the Instructors but the Examiners. It must be a robust, fair, valid, transparent & professional organisation. It must be a free assessment for the client and the funding for the assessment should come from the Government and/or a charitable body. The Assessors should be able to visit the disabled client and their prospective Assistance Dog in their own hometown.

Liz Maitland:

"This is all about protecting the sector - letting the good people stand out. This is a really historic day."

The workshop was attended by a wide range of charities and organisations, including Autism K9, Mobility Dogs 4 Youth, Sherlock Hounds Assistance Dogs, Canine Generated Independence, Support Dogs, Dogs for Good, Dog Aid and many more. Overall, this is the first time any standard has been considered regarding Assistance Dogs and is a massive step forward in our campaign to spread awareness and help as many people as possible to recover from Mental Health problems with the help of an Assistance Dog.



Waitrose: Community Matters

After applying for the Waitrose Community Matters scheme we were delighted to hear that RECOVERY Assistance Dogs had been selected to participate for July/August 2017, at the Oadby store. This is a fantastic scheme in which shoppers are given tokens to put into one of three charity boxes - see ours on the right. After a month the tokens are counted up and one thousand pounds is split between the three charities according to how many tokens they have received. Thanks to the huge interest from the Waitrose customers RECOVERY Assistance Dogs received over 400 pounds, which will be put towards helping even more survivors improve their wellbeing. Everyone here at RECOVERY Assistance Dogs would like to say a huge thank you to Waitrose and their customers for their generosity and help in raising awareness for our charity.

Waitrose
COMMUNITY MATTERS

Recovery Assistance Dogs

RAD is looking for funding for the training of a RECOVERY Assistance Dogs from puppy to 1 year old when it will pass its level 1 access test and be able to wear a RAD Vis Jacket.

Shalom, Sha-sha for short, is our new RECOVERY Assistance Dog in training. At 10 weeks old she is the youngest member of our team training to help someone recover from Mental Health problems.

It will benefit the people in Leicester with Mental Health problems that need a well trained dog for their wellbeing.

This pilot project overcomes social challenges by enabling Mental Health Survivors, to get out of the house, to feel safe and stable, to be free from force and fear, social inclusion, stop anxiety and panic attacks.

Kennel Club Good Citizen Bronze Award

On August 8th, 2017, four STRAD (Survivors Training RECOVERY Assistance Dogs) members and their dogs undertook the Kennel Club Good Citizen Bronze Award. After several months of weekly training sessions at Evington Park House, led by Elizabeth Maitland, founding member of RECOVERY Assistance Dogs and registered APTD dog trainer, they were assessed externally by a visiting examiner.

The dogs and their handlers were required to complete a number of tasks.



These included controlled lead walking, stay, and recall. The Kennel Club Awards are a useful step towards full STRAD qualifications and all of the dogs passed with flying colours! We would like to congratulate all of our members and dogs, and express our gratitude to Liz for her excellent guidance, and to the assessor, Val Earp, for coming and conducting the test.

If you would like to join in with STRAD or with Puppy Training then please contact Liz with the details on the back of the Magazine.

Above, graduating RECOVERY Assistance Dog Zak. Centre, Rebecca Dennis, and RECOVERY Assistance Dog Molly, receiving their certificate. Below, all graduating members with their certificates and RAD dogs, Rebecca and Molly, Steven and Zak, Helen and River, Clair and Mopsy, Examiner Val Earp, and Founding Member of RECOVERY Assistance Dogs Liz Maitland, with her RAD dog Milli.



A Letter From Shalom

Hi there,

It's Shalom here, your youngest Recovery Assistance Dog in training!

Thank you so much for being one of my new sponsors. I currently live with a RAD trainer and I am being trained specifically for a client who is unable to train me themselves. I get to meet them at Puppy Training Sessions and on weekly visits, and I cannot wait to go and live with them full time when I have passed my Level 1 Assessment!

I feel incredibly special to be the first puppy to be trained by a RAD trainer for a client. I would like to tell you a little bit more about me and my life so you understand what it's like being a RAD puppy. I am a little Cocker Spaniel Puppy, aged 5 months, called Shalom - but you can call me Sha-Sha for short. My trainer chose me as I am such a calm, peaceful, and loving pup, and she knew I would be just right for the job. At home there are two other big Cocker Spaniels for me to play with, and my favourite game is to run up to the adult dogs and growl playfully whilst we chase each other. When we're not running around the garden the other two dogs are great mentors for me, as they are both trained RAD dogs.

My RAD Trainer has already noticed how clever, and cute I am.

The first trick that I learnt was to come when called. I found this easy as every time my Trainer called "Sha-Sha" in a high voice and I came to her side I got a treat. Simple, no brainer!

Of course I learned to sit, lie down and stand in the first week too. We practice this in the bank and at the word 'sit' I now sit to attention like I am in the army, until I get a treat. Then if the Trainer says 'stay' I will remain seated for a little longer for another treat. Wow so young to be learning all this!

I love the training as I just want to please my trainer, be good, and feel included. What's the next thing? Well, we have started Puppy Training. I am doing two classes per week and really look forward to seeing my new playmates! My trainer and I go out into town every day and I love all the sights, sounds and smells of the Market.

I am learning not to pick everything up, or mouth the people I meet. My trainer has taught me to stop this and chew on treats or toys. When I am being good and not mouthing I get a treat, so this is working.

I do hope you are okay and are managing to get out and about in the sunshine recently. I just love walks in the parks in Leicester, especially with all the smells of mown grass and flowers!

I look forward to writing to you again soon so I can tell you all about my progress.

Lotsa loves, licks and hugs,



Shalom





**Volunteer, Mike,
fundraising with
his RAD**



**Liz fundraising in
Ealing, London**



**Volunteer,
Steven,
fundraising in
Melton**



**Liz fundraising at
Hellidon Fete and
Dog Show**

Fundraising Dates



Saturday 26 August - All About Dogs Show, Norfolk
 Sunday 27 August - All About Dogs Show, Norfolk
 Saturday 2 September - Leicester Gay Pride
 Friday 8 September - TESCOS, Guildford
 Saturday 9 September - Asda Shepshed & Loonies Fest, London
 Saturday 16 September - Ashby Parva Fete
 Saturday 23 September - Oakham Market
 Friday 6 October - TESCOS, Skegness
 Saturday 7 October - ASDA, Nuneaton
 Saturday 14 October - Asda, Fosse Park
 Saturday 21 October - Rugby Clock Tower & Discover Dogs, London
 Monday 23 October - Leicester University
 Saturday 28 October - Co-op, Glenfield
 Saturday 4 November - National Pet Show Birmingham
 Saturday 11 November - ASDA, Charnwood

RECOVERY Day-to-Day Activities

Monday	RECOVERY Administration and Organisation of Fundraising
Tuesday	13:30 - 14:30: Puppy Plan Training 15:00 - 16:00: STRAD Training (Evington Park House, Evington)
Wednesday	Client Visits Day
Thursday	RAD Inductions 11:00 - 13:00 (Evington Park House, Evington) 2017 Dates: 8th June, 20th July, 31st August, 12th October, 23rd November 2nd Thursday of the Month Management Meeting 15:30 – 17:30
Friday	RECOVERY Care certificate training 11:00 - 13:00 (RECOVERY Studio)
Saturday	Fundraising Street Collection & Market Stall: 10:00 - 16:00



IT ALL STARTS AT YES

Over the summer RAD representatives have been pitching the charity to groups of 15-17 year olds, on the National Citizen Service programme. This programme includes a two-week Social Action project, in which teams aim to raise as much money and

NCS Social Action for RAD



Some of the young people also spread awareness through the use of an Instagram account. On this they would share pictures of supporters wearing a virtual dog nose and ears, and using #RAD to attract attention to the charity, and direct viewers to our website for more information.



Young people at their bake sale at NatWest, Granby Street

awareness for their chosen charity as possible. Thanks to fantastic pitching by our representatives, and a genuine interest in our work, we had six teams choose us.

Team 12 from Wave 3A raised a grand total of £825.68. This money has been raised by a great range of events. One such event, at MORE restaurant, was attended by 64 people; the owner of the restaurant announced that this broke their record size for a charity dinner and Milli, Liz Maitland's RAD, even used the microphone to bark hello to the guests!

An NCS team with RADs on their sponsored walk

Overall this event alone raised over 390 pounds, and we would like to express our gratitude to MORE Restaurant for donating a third of all ticket sales, and local businesses Megazone, Plan Burrito, and Boneyard for kindly donating raffle prizes.

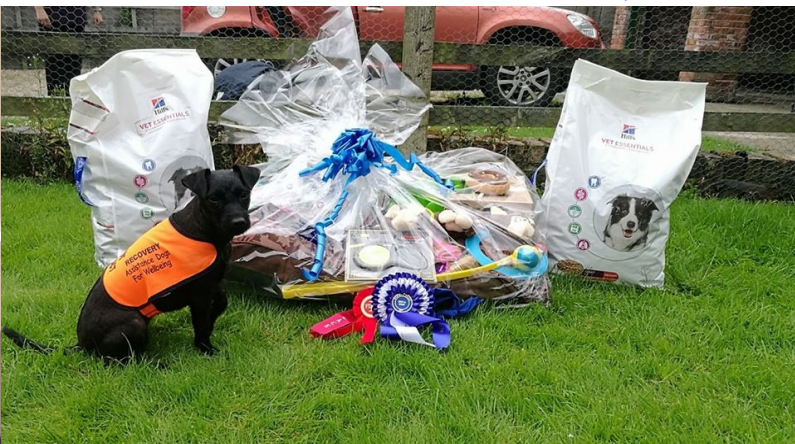
Dozens of miles of sponsored walks have also been completed, with one team walking from Leicester Clock Tower to Bradgate Park, accompanied by some of our own RADs. Weekly parties have been held, with hundreds of young people attending, and dancing the evening away in the name of RAD, and other great causes. In addition, innumerable bake sales have been held at various locations across Leicestershire, along with many profitable bucket collections.



#RAD Awareness Campaign Pictures

The teams have all visited our office and had a chance to meet some of the RECOVERY Assistance Dogs and their survivors, ultimately opening the dialogue on Mental Health, and learning more about the way in which wellbeing can be encouraged without compulsion or fear.

On behalf of RECOVERY Assistance Dogs, we would like to thank the young people and staff at NCS for their second year of dedication to social action for RAD, and we look forward to working with more amazing teams next summer!



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Facebook: RECOVERY Dogs for Wellbeing
Charity Number 1125395

RECOVERY Assistance Dogs is a charity for Wellbeing that spreads the word about how people can recover from Mental Health problems, with the healing of memories through Creative Therapies.

RECOVERY Assistance Dogs for Mental Health assist Survivors and help them to find Wellbeing. We campaign against compulsion and for freedom of choice.