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## Informational packet for the 2nd annual PSDP Convention

The annual Psychiatric Service Dog Partners Convention is an event where people with mental health disabilities can learn more about working with their service dogs, have public access training and testing, and celebrate the freedom of going out and having fun with other service dog teams.

### PSDP CONVENTION 2014 SCHEDULE

All activities on this schedule (unless otherwise indicated) take place in the Atterdag meeting room at the Royal Copenhagen Inn in Solvang, CA on June 7th and 8th. We also have a social room available from Friday afternoon through Monday morning. The room number for the social room will be announced on Friday at the latest.

#### Saturday June 7th

- |             |   |
|-------------|---|
| 8:00–10:00  | Breakfast at Ellen's in Buellton (informal)         |
| 10:00       | <i>Planning Committee Meeting (closed meeting)</i>  |
| 11:00–11:30 | Registration and Meet & Greet (& merchandise sales) |
| 11:30–noon  | Welcome Meeting                                     |
| noon–1:30   | Lunch on your own                                   |
| 1:30–3:00   | Mitigating your disability circle                   |
| 3:00–3:30   | Break   |
| 3:30–5:00   | Solving service dog challenges                      |
| 5:00–7:00   | Dinner on your own                                  |
| 5:30–7:00   | Gear Swap   |
| 7:00–8:00   | Games (e.g., musical chairs and square dancing)     |

#### Sunday June 8th

- |             |   |
|-------------|---|
| 8:30–9:30   | Public access test ( <i>mandatory breakfast at 9:30, not in PAT fee</i> ) |
| 9:30–11:00  | Breakfast in Solvang ( <i>informal, at same location as PAT takers</i> )  |
| 11:00–12:30 | Dog body language   |
| 12:30–1:00  | <i>Planning Committee Meeting (closed meeting)</i>                        |

12:30–2:00	Lunch on your own
2:00–3:30	Laws Talk ( <i>Veronica and Pam Cohen, attorney from Disability Rights California</i> )
3:30–4:00	Break
4:00–5:00	Intro to Clicker-Training (Sue Penn)
5:00–7:00	Dinner on your own
7:00–8:00	Decompression and closing thoughts

## ACTIVITIES

### Circles

Circle discussions are guided discussions of service dog related topics. Questions, stories, advice, and support are key parts of our circle discussions. The convention will have two circles.

**Solving service dog challenges circle** Brainstorm with others on common service dog lifestyle challenges like separation anxiety, keeping other dogs away, etc.

**Mitigating your disability circle** How does your dog help you with your disability? Can others help you brainstorm new service dog work or tasks?

### Registration and welcome

Check in, socialize with other teams, and listen to a welcome speech by board president Dr. Veronica Morris.

### Musical chairs and square dancing

Board co-vice president Elaine Malkin leads us with fiddle tunes as we play musical chairs with our dogs, and Elaine will teach and call easy, made-for-service dogs and handlers square dance.

### Public access test

Board trainer Morgance Ellis gives public access tests to teams interested in taking one. The test costs \$25.

### Dog body language

Morgance Ellis leads us in a discussion of dog body language, and the importance of understanding it in our service dogs.

**Morgance Ellis, IACP-CDT** is a native Southern Californian whose professional focus is training service dogs, and who also trained a rescue dog, Ellie, as her own service dog in 2010. Morgance has many years of experience and various certifications related to being a dog trainer & horse trainer; Pet Tech First Aid & CPR instructor, veterinary technician assistant, animal emergency

response team member, Reiki Master/ Animal Reiki, and TCM (Traditional Chinese Medicine) animal acupuncture practitioner. In 2004, Morgance established “Lead With Your Heart, LLC”, her own professional dog training business that also offers holistic options for animals. Morgance rehabilitates dogs and educates humans, specializes in behavior modification, trains special needs deaf and blind dogs, teaches and certifies AKC STAR Puppy and Canine Good Citizen (CGC) group classes, gives presentations on topics such as “Understanding Dog Body Language” and “Service Dog Laws and Your Business”, alongside training service dogs for handlers with invisible disabilities. Morgance enjoys providing community support and helping others with training their own service dogs in a way that honors the individuality both of the dog and the human.

## **Your rights to service or support animals**

Learn the basics of a PSD lifestyle, and get in-depth explanations of how all those laws work!

**Pamela Cohen, J.D.** is a staff attorney at Disability Rights California (formerly Protection and Advocacy, Inc.) in Oakland, California, representing individuals with mental and physical disabilities both in facilities and in the community. She previously worked as an independent consultant focusing on legal and policy issues related to community-based care for older adults with mental disabilities, fair housing law, and international mental health law. She has also served as a court-appointed criminal appellate defense attorney specializing in issues of forensic mental health law. She has been a staff attorney at the Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law in Washington, D.C., a project manager at the AARP Foundation, and a member of an International Commission of Jurists mission to study the rights of psychiatric patients in Japan.

From 2002–2013, Pamela was an adjunct professor at New York Law School, teaching internet-based distance-learning courses to domestic and international students in the areas of mental health and disability law. She has been a lecturer at Stanford Law School, a clinical lecturer at the University of Chicago Law School, and a Visiting Scholar at Sophia University in Tokyo. She has published several articles on U.S. and Japanese mental health law, and has been a frequent speaker at professional conferences. She is a 1987 graduate of Columbia University School of Law.

**Veronica Morris, PhD** lives in California and has been using service dogs since 2005. She trained both of her service dogs herself. Her previous service dog, Sabrina, and current service dog, Ollivander, both assisted her while she earned her PhD. Veronica has a BS in Biology and an MS in Genetics and Molecular Biology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and a PhD in Environmental Science, Policy, and Management from the University of California at Berkeley. Veronica is excited to work with and support members of the service dog community through PSDP, and is particularly interested in training facilitation and community support.

## **Intro to clicker training**

Learn how to positively tap into the potential of your dog’s brain, accelerating learning through simple clicker training.

**Sue Penn, ABCDT** describes herself below.

I have studied behavior (human & animal) for over 30 years. I guess you could say I am a behavior

junkie. The book that really influenced my training and thinking is Karen Pryor's *Don't Shoot the Dog*. Karen Pryor also brought to the forefront clicker training...my favorite way to train a dog!

I obtained my certification in Behavior & Training through Animal Behavioral College in Los Angeles and also studied Ethology, Applied Animal Behavior, Behavior Analysis. I specialize in everything dog, using only positive/reward based training methods based in Science & Learning Theory. I also specialize in behavioral issues, be they simple behavior problems, or issues such as aggression etc., I use only proven behavior modification techniques...no pain, fear, or intimidation.

### **Decompression and closing thoughts**

Share what this convention has meant to you, what you've learned, and what you'd like to see next time.

### **LOCATION**

This 2nd annual PSDP Convention will be held at the Royal Copenhagen Inn in Solvang, CA from June 7–8. Convention check-in starts at 11 AM on June 7th, and the convention will run until 8 PM on June 8th. Many people are arriving on June 6th and leaving on June 9th.

To reserve a room at the Royal Copenhagen call (805) 688-5561 and ask for the Psychiatric Service Dog Partners room block. The rates are as follows: 1) king bed- \$143.10 per night plus tax Friday & Saturday, \$89 plus tax Sunday night, 2) two queens- \$152.10 per night plus tax Friday & Saturday, \$89 plus tax Sunday night. As of May 2014, the tax rate is 12%, and there is a \$2/night "Tourism Improvement Fee".

Saturday night reservations require a 2 night stay minimum. If more than two people are staying in your room, there is a \$10 per additional person charge. Breakfast is included in the room rates. You are responsible for your own food otherwise.

### **WEATHER**

In Solvang, the average high in June is 85° F. The average low is 49° F. Check the weather forecast before you go, and bring layers.

### **POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

This is a low-fragrance event. Bring your least-scented personal care products as many are allergic.

This is a nut-free event. Do not bring any human or dog products containing nuts.

No weapons or illegal drugs will be permitted at this event (utility knives are OK, as are any medications for which you have a prescription).

The consumption of alcohol or illegal substances is prohibited in PSDP spaces. Convention-goers are welcome to do what they want to outside of our convention spaces.

Disruptive or inappropriate behavior from any cause may result in being asked to leave PSDP spaces, for a length of time in proportion to the situation.

### **Registration**

Our registration form may be accessed at the following link:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1lvxASAoujPy2wGGYmx1rnonU6sUXvluJHF5EhPkjGHM/v  
iewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1lvxASAoujPy2wGGYmx1rnonU6sUXvluJHF5EhPkjGHM/viewform)

The cost for registration is \$60 (nonrefundable). You can either pay by PayPal (psdpinfo@gmail.com) or by sending a check made out to Chanda Hagen to 4777 E Hwy 246, Lompoc, CA 93436 with "PSDP convention" in the memo line. The money must be received by May 17th. Registration is limited to 30 people.

In summary, to attend this convention you must 1) fill out the registration form, 2) pay via PayPal or check by May 17th, and 3) secure your accommodations in Solvang, CA.

### **Food**

Breakfast of coffee and danish is provided by the hotel for hotel guests. Lunch, dinner, and snacks will be on your own. You can bring food from home if you prefer. There are refrigerators in the rooms, but no microwaves. There is a grill at the hotel that you can use to cook hamburgers or the like.

There are a lot of restaurants in Solvang, including some ritzy ones like Root 246 all the way down to fast food like Subway. Within a block of the hotel there is a Subway and a Domino's. There is a little market nearby, and lots of other places to eat within a few blocks. There are lots of little bakeries around to get danishes. There is a park about a block away that has a few restaurants around it, and you can always get food to go and eat it in the park. If you want to hang out during lunch or dinner, you're encouraged to eat or meet in the meeting room.

### **Dog behavior policy**

This is a convention for handlers with service dogs and service dogs in training. As such, we expect that all dogs in attendance will be friendly with other dogs and people. Dogs displaying aggressive behavior will be asked to leave.

When deciding if this convention is appropriate for you and your dog to attend, look over the basic behavior standards of the Canine Good Citizen test ([http://www.akc.org/events/cgc/training\\_testing.cfm](http://www.akc.org/events/cgc/training_testing.cfm)). If your dog is unable to do one or more things on this test, or has been known to be uncomfortable around other dogs or people, this convention may not be appropriate for your dog.

Before embarking on this trip, it would be wise to ensure that your dog is comfortable in

the following situations: traveling on public transit, walking in a mall or crowded store, visiting restaurants, being in close quarters with other dogs and people, etc. If you have two service dogs, or a service dog and an SDIT, be aware that you will not be allowed to leave any dog tethered or unattended, even in your hotel room. You must be able to handle both dogs safely yourself, or bring a human helper who can handle one of the dogs for you at the event.

When you are around other service dogs, keep your dog within 2 feet of you, and keep at least 2 feet between dogs at all times unless people say it is OK. Be sure to ask first before you or your dog greets another team. This is an on-leash convention, and dogs should never be left unattended at the activities. It is the job of the handler to ensure their dog is not invading another dog's space. There is a park at the hotel where your dog can be off-leash and off-duty.

Please be prepared to clean up after your dog. Bring appropriate bags and products to ensure that we leave the facility in the same condition that we found it.

We are representing PSDP and all other service dogs by our behavior in public at this event, so it is important that we all obey these behavior standards. There will be a professional trainer on site to talk with if you are having any issues upholding these standards.

If you witness a dog grossly misbehaving (e.g. biting or fighting with another dog, repeatedly eliminating inappropriately, etc.), please report it to at least one of the people in charge as soon as possible.

### **Elimination policy**

For sanitation reasons, we ask you to prevent your dog from eliminating on any building, vehicle, or structure. All solid waste must be picked up immediately. Potty pads and litter boxes are not to be used. If a dog has elimination accidents in indoor spaces, it will be asked to leave.

### **Minor policy**

This is not a family vacation type of event. The convention is for handlers of psychiatric service dogs (PSDs) and psychiatric service dogs in training (PSDITs), and the activities will be geared towards these individuals. Children with PSDs or PSDITs are welcome to attend with a guardian, but please keep in mind the convention is a chance for people to speak freely about their mental illnesses and this may include discussions of self-injury, abuse, nightmares, and flashbacks. It is up to each parent to ensure their child is either OK with these discussions, or to remove the child from these discussions. If you have any questions, please contact Veronica Morris at [veronica.m.psdp@gmail.com](mailto:veronica.m.psdp@gmail.com).

### **Emergencies**

If your service dog has a medical emergency, we recommend Solvang Veterinary Hospital at (805) 688-6484.

If you have a mental health emergency, we recommend contacting Laurie Colson-Young in Lompoc, CA. Her phone number is (805) 735-7068.

**PACKING LIST**

This list is only a suggestion of items you may want to bring to the convention. Wear clothes suitable for walking around a city, such as comfortable, low-heeled shoes, a light jacket, a t-shirt, and shorts.

Clothing, including layers, long pants, shorts, t-shirts, and long-sleeved shirts	Medications, including prescriptions, over-the-counter pain meds, and motion-sickness meds
Extra underwear and socks	Games/cards
Pajamas	Water bottle
Sweatshirt or jacket	Emergency contact information
Hat for warmth	Dog dishes
Sunglasses/hat/ballcap to protect from sun	Dog food
Comfortable shoes to walk or hike in	Dog medication
Soap and shampoo (unscented, please!)	Towel for your dog
Deodorant – unscented	Poop bags
Sunscreen – unscented	Service vest if you use one
Toothbrush and toothpaste	Collar and leash
Brush or comb	Dog treats
Camera & film/storage, charged batteries	Dog brush
Bag for dirty items	Dog toys
Doctor's letter for flying	Portable dog watering bowl

**Psychiatric Service Dogs Partners' purpose is to promote the mental health of people using service dogs for psychiatric disabilities by educating, advocating, providing expertise, facilitating peer support, and promoting responsible service dog training and handling.**

**ACCIDENT WAIVER AND RELEASE OF LIABILITY FORM**

I HEREBY ASSUME ALL OF THE RISKS OF PARTICIPATING IN ANY/ALL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS EVENT, including by way of example and not limitation, any risks that may arise from negligence or carelessness on the part of the persons or entities being released, from dangerous or defective equipment or property owned, maintained, or controlled by them, or because of their possible liability without fault.

I certify that I am sufficiently fit, have sufficiently prepared or trained for participation in this activity if appropriate, and have not been advised to not participate by a qualified medical professional. I certify that there are no health-related reasons or problems which preclude my participation in this activity.

I acknowledge that this Accident Waiver and Release of Liability Form will be used by the event holders, sponsors, and organizers of the activity in which I may participate, and that it will govern my actions and responsibilities at said activity. In consideration of my application and permitting me to participate in this activity, I hereby take action for myself, my executors, administrators, heirs, next of kin, successors, and assigns as follows:

(A) I WAIVE, RELEASE, AND DISCHARGE from any and all liability, including but not limited to, liability arising from the negligence or fault of the entities or persons released, for my death, disability, personal injury, property damage, property theft, or actions of any kind which may hereafter occur to me including my traveling to and from this activity, THE FOLLOWING ENTITIES OR PERSONS: Psychiatric Service Dog Partners (PSDP) and/or their directors, officers, employees, volunteers, representatives, and agents, and the activity holders, sponsors, and volunteers;

(B) INDEMNIFY, HOLD HARMLESS, AND PROMISE NOT TO SUE the entities or persons mentioned in this paragraph from any and all liabilities or claims made as a result of participation in this activity, whether caused by the negligence of release or otherwise.

I acknowledge that PSDP and their directors, officers, volunteers, representatives, and agents are NOT responsible for the errors, omissions, acts, or failures to act of any party or entity conducting a specific activity on their behalf.

I acknowledge that this activity may involve a test of a person's physical or mental limits and carries with it the potential for death, serious injury, and property loss. The risks include, but are not limited to, those caused by terrain, facilities, temperature, weather, condition of participants, equipment, vehicular traffic, lack of hydration, and actions of other people including, but not limited to, participants, volunteers, monitors, and/or producers of the activity.

These risks are not only inherent to participants, but are also present for volunteers.

I hereby consent to receive medical treatment which may be deemed advisable in the event of injury, accident, and/or illness during this activity.

I understand while participating in this activity, I may be photographed. Unless I make it clear otherwise to anyone engaged in the recording of my likeness, I agree to allow my photo, video, or film likeness to be used for any legitimate purpose by the activity holders, producers, sponsors, organizers, and assigns.

The Accident Waiver and Release of Liability Form shall be construed broadly to provide a release and waiver to the maximum extent permissible under applicable law.

I CERTIFY THAT I HAVE READ THIS DOCUMENT AND I FULLY UNDERSTAND ITS CONTENT.

I AM AWARE THAT THIS IS A RELEASE OF LIABILITY AND A CONTRACT AND I SIGN IT OF MY OWN FREE WILL.

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Participant's Signature	Date	Participant's Name (Please print legibly.)	Age
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Parent/Guardian Signature                      Date  
(If under 18 years old, Parent or Guardian must also sign.)