



Veronica Morris, PhD

Elaine Malkin

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Chanda Hagen

Bradley W. Morris, MA

Morgance Ellis, IACP CDT

PO BOX 19
LOMPOC CA 93438
USA
(510) 367-4267
veronica.m.psdp@gmail.com
www.psychdogpartners.org

PSDP Convention Notes, June 7th–8th 2014

Saturday June 7th

- 8:00–10:00 Breakfast at Ellen's in Buellton (informal)
- 10:00 Committee Meeting (closed meeting)
- 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)

Registration & Welcome

Budget report approved by members with no dissent!

Mitigating your disability circle

Discussed the increasing bond over the years, how to tame disability-mitigating behavior that goes beyond disability-mitigation, how to get gear that works for you and your dog, in what cases a handler does not need leash contact, having your dog locating a safe person, practical issues with how to have your dog in your workplace, dog safety and accident contingencies, protection vs. prevention (alerting to others) in personal safety, how to be prepared for emergencies, handling jealousy and embarrassment in family members and significant others, how to handle carnival rides.

***Veronica:** Make a PSDP emergency contact card for use on dog seatbelts.

***Big idea:** Have emergency personnel at a convention for training opportunities.

Solving service dog challenges

Discussed how to deal with children who don't respond to English requests not to pet, whether you have to pay extra fees for certain services if you have an SD, how to handle requests when you don't have resources, handling access challenges, using handouts to interact with the public, how to handle the presence of fakers, when to try to mediate access challenges with an outside mediators, writing letters to major corporations after access challenges, how to document your training, how to interact with schools' disability services, handling airport security.

Sunday June 8th

8:30–9:30 Public access test (mandatory breakfast at 9:30, not included in PAT fee)

9:30–11:00 Breakfast in Solvang (informal, at same location as PAT takers)

11:00–12:30 Dog body language

12:30–1:00 Committee Meeting (closed meeting)

12:30–2:00 Lunch on your own

2:00–3:30 Laws Talk (Veronica and Pam, attorney from Disability Rights California)

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

Dog body language

Discussion of the dog's perspective, what “misbehavior” is to the dog, and then a practicum on dog body language.

Laws Talk

Discussed access in higher education, the differences between laws that apply in different types of places, whether colleges are allowed to require things for service dog access, how to deal with an allergic instructor, dogs in chemistry labs, children in school

with diabetic alert dogs, whether service dog tags can be required to be visible, that state police are not exempt from enforcing federal law (e.g., if a dog in CA doesn't have the CA SD tag), CA Penal Code 365.5 (or whole of 365), CA civil code 54.1, that states can offer greater protection if you get a tag or something, but they can't discriminate against those with psychiatric disabilities (this would violate the equal protection clause of the ADA), reimbursement for SD/allowance for those on SSI not being offered to those with psychiatric disabilities, CA Dept. of Social Services Assistance Dog Special Allowance Program possibly discriminating, Section 8 housing allowance for food and medical for SDs, having both an SD and an ESA in housing accommodations under the Fair Housing Act, generally, local laws must be followed about having a dog under control when the dog doesn't have to be off-leash to mitigate a disability, whether or how churches can discriminate.

If a state has laws that offer greater protection, yet those laws require a tag or whatever for that protection, then does that tag or whatever offer have meaning? Yes.

DRC 800-776-5746

Intro to Clicker-Training

Comparative theory and practical demonstration of clicker-training.

Decompression and closing thoughts

Ideas for next year:

- Post a large schedule
- On the list, before the convention, post the info packet section-by-section
- Get ambulance, EMTs, Police, Firefighters for training
- Sign-ups for outings
- Having a park nearby is a big positive
- Locations should always be scouted ahead of time
- Morgance wants to have CGCs scheduled (in addition to PATs), even if no one signs up ahead of time, because there are usually last-minute registrants

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.

Copyright 2014 Psychiatric Service Dog Partners www.psychdogpartners.org