



Veronica Morris, PhD

Elaine Malkin

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Linden Gue

Heather Walker

Bradley W. Morris, MA, CPhil

1651 Sandpiper Drive
Rock Hill, SC 29732
USA

(805) 876-4256
info@psych.dog
www.psych.dog

Board of Directors *Meeting Minutes*

July 23, 2021

Attendees: Veronica, Brad, Elaine, Linden, Heather, and Christi

This regular meeting was called by verbal agreement during the prior meeting, or by intermediate written reasonable notification made in good faith and agreed to by a majority of board members through email or phone, and was held through videoconferencing.

Agenda

- Next regular meeting
- Site additions
- Housing page
- Article: Service dogs in first responder situations
- Texas House Bill 801
- Virtual meetups
- ISO/ANSI—now Canadian/SCC—Assistance Dog standard
- Meme contest
- Mask design contest
- Reporting award
- Convention
- Treasury
- Annual business calendar

• Next regular meeting

Friday, September 17th at 11:30 PT/2:30 ET.

• Site additions

Brad updated our homepage. It now has direct answers to some of the most commonly asked questions we receive, plus a gallery of pictures for people to enjoy. This update better suits how people use our site.

We are continuing to develop more ideas for expanding our site's new training section with useful articles.

• Housing page

We are considering putting the accommodation procedure tool at the top of the housing page, since it is what interests most people. This would be introduced by a statement such as: “Caution: Just below, the Fair Housing Act accommodation procedure tool is the most popular of our housing resources. It is at the top of this page only for convenience. We highly encourage you to become familiar with the context for using it first—especially using our exemption checker tool down below. This will help you figure out whether the accommodation procedure even applies to your housing situation.”

<https://www.psychdogpartners.org/housing>

- **Article: Service dogs in first responder situations**

Brad is contemplating fleshing out an article based on his recent response to an inquiry. He was consulted about what a municipality’s service dog policies should be when the service dog can’t accompany their disabled user in a first responder situation (either emergent or non-emergent). This article would be in the “For professionals” section of our site, likely under a “first responders” heading, but would also be helpful for service dog users.

- **Texas House Bill 801**

We plan to write to Texas legislators to oppose Texas House Bill 801. It is unnecessary in the context of federal law and onerously burdensome to disabled people.

This bill would set up bureaucratic and financial hurdles for those with assistance animals other than service dogs (including service miniature horses and ESAs, and by extension, service dogs in training). This seems to have been written without the benefit of a disabled or disability rights perspective, or a non-rich-person perspective.

The certification requirement contains an obedience class requirement that may end up stopping disabled people from being able to get an animal as an ESA or SDIT. It also seems to ignore that ESAs can be non-canine species. It’s hard to imagine a goldfish, snake, or cat in an approved obedience class. But for a housing-based disability accommodation, an obedience class requirement seems excessive from the start, since not everyone can afford classes or the time, energy, and transportation needed to attend them.

In addition to paying for an obedience class and veterinary checkup, each year those subject to the law would have to obtain and pay for the Texas certificate. They would also have to be part of a publicly available registry.

- **Virtual meetups**

A list member organized a virtual (Zoom) meetup for Peer Guidance Group members. Everyone who participated really enjoyed it!

- **ISO/ANSI—now Canadian/SCC—Assistance Dog standard**

We defeated the IGDF attempt to impose an exclusionary/discriminatory international service dog standard on the world through ISO. Now the SCC (Standards Council of Canada) is trying to do the same thing, just like we stopped there a few years ago!

At that time, our alerting of Canadians to the issue (and our opposition) helped form a coalition there. Unfortunately, this coalition has become elitist, endorsing a

hierarchy of disability by asking not that the standard-forming process cease, but only that guide dog users be exempt from any standard SCC creates!

We are appalled and incensed by this ableist behavior from our would-be coalition partners. In no uncertain terms, we told the Canadian guide dog coalition this, but they issued no response to defend their embarrassing position.

We have been working in opposition to this alongside our community members, and we will continue to do so.

- **Meme contest**

We issued prize sets to four meme contest winners. It seems we recently received the winners' pictures, so we plan to post pictures of them (or their dogs) with their prizes. Better late than never!

<https://www.psychdogpartners.org/board-of-directors/board-activities/advocacy/service-dog-memes/2020-submissions>

- **Mask design contest**

We ran a mask design contest in December. Due to supply/cost logistics, the winning design will be featured on a t-shirt, mug, and travel mug instead of on a mask. Pup'parel will sell the design.

Pup'parel is selling a textless PSDP logo mask.

https://pupparel.com/contents/en-us/p867_PSDP-Face-Masks.html

The water bottle and travel mug are now available.

<https://pupparel.com/contents/en-us/p868.html>

<https://pupparel.com/contents/en-us/p869.html>

- **Reporting award**

PSDP offers an award for the best reporting in English that is related to service dogs and in traditional media. The publish deadline for this "Award for Excellence in Service Dog Reporting" is May 31st and the submission deadline is June 5th.

There was no submission for 2021, so we need to do more outreach to get submissions next year—with the assistance of our community.

<https://www.psychdogpartners.org/press-releases/award-for-service-dog-reporting>

- **Convention**

We discussed logistics regarding further 2022 convention options, including the date and location.

- **Treasury**

We have an accurate and complete treasury record for fiscal year 2020-21 and have filed our federal and state tax documentation. We will be producing a financial report and budget.

- **Annual business calendar**

The board reviewed and revised its internal calendar of reminders.