



CANES AND TAILS, SPRING 2009

A Newsletter for Orientation and Mobility Specialists, Rehabilitation Professionals, Teachers and Service Providers in the Field of Blindness and Visual Impairment

Thank you for referring qualified clients to Guide Dogs for the Blind (GDB). We appreciate it!

Visit <http://www.guidedogs.com> where you'll find important information, and where applicants to our training program can apply easily online. Our services are offered free-of-charge to qualified applicants who are blind or visually impaired. To see a glimpse of what it is like to be a student at GDB check out our [Campus Life Video](#).

We invite you to learn about our [K9 Buddy Program](#), matching our dogs as pets with children and young adults who are blind or visually impaired. Our [K9 Buddy video](#) says it all!

And now, you can hear interviews with our experts on a variety of interesting topics. Learn what goes on behind the scenes at by listening to www.guidedogs.com/podcast; also available through iTunes. Be sure to spread the word!

If you're receiving a printed copy of Canes and Tails, you can now receive it via e-mail! Help us save resources by sending your e-mail address to: canesandtails@guidedogs.com. You'll be able to click on the links to be taken to additional resources.

Please share our information with your colleagues, with agencies, and with your clients.

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GDB's New O&M Referral Incentive Program

By: Brian Francis, GDB Admissions and Graduate Services Manager



Guide Dogs for the Blind would like to inform you of some opportunities and services we are offering to O&M specialists who have completed one of our seminars. This is part of our on-going commitment to fostering and maintaining mutually beneficial relationships with mobility specialists and agencies that serve the blind and visually impaired community.

Any time you refer a client to our program; we would like to offer you the option to participate in the home interview process (with the applicant's permission).

These home visits give us the chance to assess an applicant's environment, as well as observe their mobility skills and common travel routes. We also discuss home, work, and social needs and also begin considering what type of dog would be the best match. This is also a great time for the applicant to ask questions, and learn more about the Guide Dog lifestyle, as well as GDB's overall our program. Joining our staff during a home interview would allow you to experience this integral part of the application and assessment process. In turn, it would give us the opportunity to acquire first hand information regarding the applicant's knowledge and skills directly from the professional who knows the individual best.

We would also like to offer you the opportunity to observe a follow up visit with a GDB Graduate (with the graduate's approval). This could be someone you may have worked with in the past. Joining our staff for a follow up visit offers an opportunity for you to acquire additional information and techniques for providing advanced orientation assistance to active Guide Dog alumni. In turn, our staff could benefit from your perspective and professional opinion regarding the team's travel skills or challenges.

Our staff members are always available to make presentations to VI agency staff, potential clients, or groups of clients at your agency or facility. These presentations include 'The Guide Dog Lifestyle', the GDB application/assessment processes, or any other related topics at your request.

If you are interested to participate in any of the above opportunities, please contact Sarah Hopkins in our Graduate services department (800) 295-4050 ext. # 4084. We will then make the necessary arrangements when visiting your area.

Guide Dogs' mission is to *use our power of partnering to improve quality of life*, so people and dogs can realize their fullest potential. We can best achieve this objective by focusing our energy, goals and values towards creating, nurturing and celebrating interdependent relationships, such as the ones we have developed with our O&M seminar alumni. We value these meaningful partnerships and hope to explore new ways in the future to help us achieve our common goal of assisting the blind and visually impaired to achieve freedom and independence.

Camp GDB Takes Off!

By: Aerial Gilbert, GDB Outreach Manager



It was a unique opportunity – one where hands joined paws to demonstrate the amazing animal-human bond. The inaugural Camp GDB was held at the end of July 2008 on the San Rafael campus of Guide Dogs for the Blind in late July / early August 2008. The purpose of this camp was to give teens (ages 13-16), who are blind and visually impaired, a realistic experience and the knowledge to help determine if having a Guide Dog is the right mobility choice for them.

There were a total of six teenage campers who participated in the four-day program. Additionally, two teenage graduates of GDB and their Guide Dogs attended the camp as peer mentors.

The teenagers arrived to campus on a Wednesday afternoon where they embarked on a scavenger hunt as a way to learn the GDB campus and dormitory, as well as get to know one another. The evening wrapped with a barbeque and pool party, where there was lot of swimming and laughing!

The next day began early and the campers learned about the process of applying for a Guide Dog, class training, how a dog thinks, the difference between a long cane and a Guide Dog, and the importance of having good mobility skills. Everyone got an opportunity to first work with the GDB instructors with Juno (the empty harness), and then with a Guide Dog, in downtown San Rafael.

After returning to campus, like a class of students in residence, the teens were each assigned a dog after lunch. They were responsible for the dogs until the next morning. Responsibilities included feeding, grooming, and relieving their dogs. The night ended with a relaxing canine t-touch massage workshop.

The third day was designed to give the campers a unique experience job shadowing various departments on the GDB campus. The day began with a Q&A with Nancy Gardner, president and CEO for Guide Dogs for the Blind.

From there the campers went to work with canine welfare technicians in the training kennels and met with one of the veterinarians to tour the vet clinic. The morning ended with a tour of the “puppy socialization” yard and learning the art of puppy handling.

In the evening, a group of GDB puppy raisers joined the campers to share stories about their puppy raising experiences. The following day Camp GDB came to its exciting conclusion where campers attended “Fun Day,” an on-campus annual GDB event celebrating the more than 1,400 dedicated puppy raising volunteers.

Camp GDB was filled with a lot of work, but also just as much fun! All in all it was as extremely gratifying for the campers as well as GDB staff. The next Camp GDB is scheduled for July 29 – August 1, 2009. Please e-mail agilbert@guidedogs.com or call 415.499.4030 for additional information.

How a Dog Attack Can End Well

By: Malinda Carlson, GDB GDOMI



This article demonstrates how someone in the field can assist a Guide Dog team that has experienced a dog attack. GDB has worked with police departments and Animal Control and have developed a *Safe Travel* video that is available upon request.

It's that moment when adrenaline surges through your body – Mary Ann was working her Guide Dog, Tempe, east on 18th in Eugene, OR when she heard a dog running and snarling, coming fast and from her right. The next thing she knew Tempe was being attacked.

In a blur, cars stopped, someone (she later found out the owner of the attacking dog) pulled the dog off Tempe and someone called the police. She and Tempe were helped into a service van that had pulled over. When the police arrived shortly after the attack, they transported Mary Ann and Tempe to her vet and called Animal Control. While Tempe's bite wounds were being treated, Animal Control was taking possession of the dog that attacked Tempe. (It seems that this was the second time this dog had jumped out the window of its house and attacked a dog that was passing by.) In retrospect, the people and actions that followed this attack were so ideal that it seems they had been written and directed by NYPD Blue's Stephen Bochco.

Tempe's wounds were on her back and rear leg. It seems that the harness protected her somewhat. The puncture wounds healed up quickly and within a week I was able to work with grad and assess the team's guidework and their reaction towards dogs. Tempe's attitude was excellent; Mary Ann was worried but did her best to pretend all was normal. All the dogs that we encountered were behind fences so we set up a scenario involving my career change dog. She would be around a corner and run towards the team as they passed, chasing her Frisbee while on a Flexi-leash. We verbally reviewed how grad would react if Tempe showed signs of fear or the opposite, distraction. In the end, Tempe was more interested in a game of Frisbee with a passing dog than worried about another attack. Again, the scenario playing out perfectly for grad and dog; accurate guidework and no dog fears!

The next step was to make sure the attacking dog never had the opportunity to do this again. There was an arraignment hearing and a court date was set. The attacking dog remained in boarding with the local Animal Control. On 10/30/08 the hearing was held. In attendance were the reporting police officers, grad, a pro-bono attorney, three other local dog users, the attacking dog's owner, myself, the judge and her team. The judge asked for the report from the officers. They described what happened and gave the court (judge and dog owner) the written recommendation of the Animal Control Officers. The recommendations were:

1. The dog be euthanized by Animal Control or
2. The dog be euthanized by the owner or
3. The dog be neutered and released to Animal Control to re-home.

The judge had no authority to demand any of these recommendations so she asked the owner if he was willing to agree to any of them. He professed his love for his dog and refused any of the recommendations.

At this time we were given an opportunity to speak. First the pro-bono attorney, then Mary Anne, then each of the other dog users and finally myself. We were all passionate, articulate and brought up different points of consideration. Next the owner of the attacking dog spoke. He was

emotional, professed his love for his dog but never took responsibility for his dog's actions or apologized.

Because the judge was limited by the law in what she could demand she again asked if the attacking dog's owner would agree to any of the Animal Control recommendations. He would not. She then imposed:

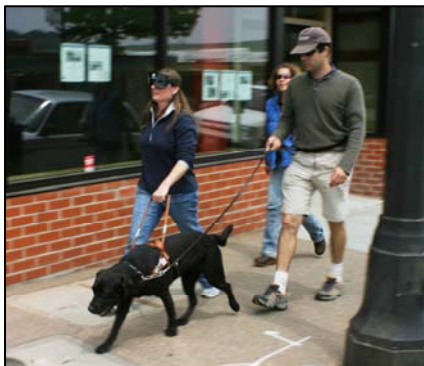
1. Boarding costs to be paid = \$500+
2. Restitution to GDB for vet care = \$180
3. Fine for dog attack = \$1000 (maximum allowed)
4. Cost for Animal Control neutering dog = \$100

Then the judge did something very smart, she offered to wave the boarding costs and the fine if the dog owner would agree to any of the Animal Control recommendations. (The dog owner would not be able to get his dog out of the shelter until he had all the cash for the above fines.) By agreeing to this deal, he would save \$1500! The owner then agreed to allow Animal Control to re-home his dog. (Hopefully they can find a home that is more secure and responsible.)

Mary Ann says Tempe continues to show no negative reactions from the dog attack and she is still talking with Kim Samco in the attempt to overcome her fears. She reports that she is a little better each day. Guide Dog users in Eugene are working with the city in an attempt to get stronger laws protecting their Guides. They would like the judge to have the authority to have a dog euthanized if deemed safest to the community. Considering all the factors, this situation ended as well as anyone could have hoped.

NOTE: Guide Dogs sent the responding officer a certificate of appreciation for his work to transport Mary Ann and Tempe to the vet and orchestrating the local Animal Control visit to the home of the attacking dog. For more information for how to receive a copy of *Safe Travel* please contact Sarah Hopkins in the Admissions Department 1-800-295-4050.

Update on GDB O&M Seminars



It's time! We are pleased to notify you that we now have our 2009 O&M Seminar Schedule available. Our seminars, accommodation and meals are all free of charge; the only cost to you is round-trip airfare. You may also accrue Continued Education Credits for attending one of our 30 hour seminars.

You can view the dates and find out more about the seminar content and how to apply by going to our website at www.guidedogs.com, then clicking on 'Resources', then 'For Blindness Professionals and Agencies'. This will take you to a page which contains the objectives, content and application requirements. There is also an online

application form which you can e-mail to us.

Introduction

Guide Dogs for the Blind is committed to fostering relationships with orientation and mobility specialists and agencies for the blind and visually impaired. We offer seminars on our California campus to assist you in your work with the visually impaired. We acknowledge the importance of good cane skills and urge our candidates to obtain orientation and mobility training prior to applying for a Guide Dog.

Orientation and Mobility specialists who attend the O&M Seminar offered by our school will be eligible to receive CE hours for participating. The Academy for Certification of Vision Rehabilitation and Educational Professionals (ACVREP) has approved our seminar for 28.15 hours.

ACVREP programs are designed to offer certificants the means to demonstrate knowledge, skills and professionalism. Guide dogs for the Blind is proud to offer ACVREP members a Guide Dog Seminar that will meet the high standards required to become eligible for acceptance by ACVREP as a continuing education program for O&M specialists.

What are the objectives of the O&M seminars?

Our O&M seminars are designed to educate participants to areas that will allow you to refer suitable candidates to our Guide Dog training program, as well as allow you to participate more fully in our application and assessment process. Participants are housed in our dormitory for the duration of the seminar, allowing you to mix with our students attending class and experience, first hand, the facilities offered by our school. Completion of our O&M seminar will allow you to:

- Educate clients who express an interest in working with a Guide Dog to the Guide Dog lifestyle, and in particular, our class training program.
- Prepare potential Guide Dog students in the transition from cane to dog.
- Assist potential applicants to qualify for our program.
- Assist potential applicants in completing our application process.
- Assess an applicant's travel skills and other requirements for qualification for admission to our program.
- Provide advanced orientation assistance to active Guide Dog alumni in the field.

Who should apply? What are the requirements?

- Applicants to the seminar should be university-trained O&M specialists. A minimum of two years of full-time mobility training is preferred. You should be working primarily with adults.
- O&M specialists who attended a Guide Dogs for the Blind O&M seminar prior to 2003 may reapply as the content of the seminar has changed.

What's the schedule and content of the seminars? Is there a cost?

The seminars are five days in length (Monday through Friday), and are held on our California campus. As stated, there is no fee to attend the seminar but we do request that airfare costs be met by the O&M specialist or their agency. Should this pose a problem, financial assistance may be applied for by contacting Sarah Hopkins at the number listed below. Guide Dogs for the Blind will provide accommodation and all meals at no cost for the duration of your stay.

2009 Seminar Schedule

March 16 - 20

April 20-24

August 3 - 7

October 12 – 16 FULL

November 16 – 20

* In order to ensure placement, please complete the registration form below at least eight weeks prior to your preferred date or call Sarah Hopkins in the Graduate Services Department at 1-800-295-4050 X 4084, or e-mail shopkins@guidedogs.com

Already Taken the GDB Seminar?

We will soon be introducing a new section to Canes and Tails specifically for GDB O&M Seminar alumni. This will include updates on the seminars, seminar schedules, new resource materials, etc.

We now have the following DVDs available to you upon request:

A newly produced set of DVDs entitled "Assisting a Guide Dog Team" and "Juno". These are GDB's latest resource materials which cover techniques for orienting a Guide Dog team to new routes/areas, and preparing clients to make the transition from cane to a Guide through the use of Juno training. These DVDs were produced as a direct result of acquiring invaluable feedback from seminar alumni like yourselves, who voiced a desire to have updated resource materials on these specific topics available to them at home and at work.

Meet GDB Staff at the Following 2009 Conferences and Conventions

CTEVH – Burlingame, CA

Pacific Northwest AER – Portland, OR

CSUN – Northridge, CA

CCB Spring – Sacramento, CA

Junior Blind Olympics (JBA) – Los Angeles, CA

ACB – Orlando, FL

NFB – Detroit, MI

NAPVI – Costa Mesa, CA

We hope to see you there!

CONTACT US

800.295.4050

