



Veterinary Education Network Announces ways to Celebrate and Honor International Assistance Dog Week August 4-10, 2013

August 4- 10, 2013 is International Assistance Dog Week (IADW). IADW was created to recognize all the devoted, hardworking assistance dogs helping individuals mitigate their disability related limitations.

The goals of IADW are to:



- Recognize and honor assistance dogs
- Raise awareness and educate the public about assistance dogs
- Honor puppy raisers and trainers
- Recognize heroic deeds performed by assistance dogs in our community

Important Facts about Assistance Dogs:

What do assistance dogs do?

Assistance Dogs transform the lives of their human partners with debilitating physical and mental disabilities by serving as their companion, helper, aide, best friend and close member of their family.

What are the goals of International Assistance Dog week?

The goals are to recognize and honor the hardworking assistance dogs; raise awareness and educate the public about how these specially trained animals are aiding so many people in our communities; honor the puppy raisers and trainers of assistance dogs; and recognize heroic deeds performed by assistance dogs in our communities.

Are all assistance dogs retrievers or are they other breeds as well?

Assistance Dogs can be from a variety of breeds including, but not limited to: Labrador Retrievers, Golden Retrievers, Standard Poodles, as well as shelter dogs.

Where can I get more information about Assistance Dogs?

You can go to the websites for International Assistance Dog Week www.assistedogweek.org and Working Like Dogs www.workinglikedogs.com. You can also check out Assistance Dogs International at www.assistedogsiinternational.org and the International Association of Assistance Dog Partners at www.iaadp.org.

What kind of activities can I take part in during International Assistance Dog Week?

You can take part in an event someone else is organizing in your community or organize your own. It can be small or large. See the list of suggested events that is part of this package or find it posted on the International Assistance Dog Week website, www.assistedogweek.com



Event ideas for veterinarians to honor assistance dogs and educate their clients:

- **Doggie bake sale:** Bake your own or join with a local pet bakery to sell dog treats.
- **Dog wash:** Do this in partnership with your local humane society or dog wash business that has dog wash facilities. Proceeds can benefit your local shelter while promoting your program as well as theirs.
- **Dog walk:** Give prizes for different categories—fastest, slowest, best costume, dog and human partner who look most alike—Make it a fundraiser
- **Police dog press conference:** Get the media involved as you recognize the hard working police K9 officers and dogs at your local law enforcement agency. Let the officers give a demo or a talk as a standalone event or part of a larger event.
- **Run/Walk at a local (dog) park:** Hold a fundraising event at your local links or anywhere.
- **Doggie reading session:** Therapy dogs nationwide are helping kids learn to read. Hold a doggie reading session, where kids take turns reading to a therapy dog, at your local library.
- **Give a talk:** Help educate everyone about assistance dogs. Give a talk, presentation and/or demo of what assistance dogs can do at a local community center, school, library, daycare center, hospital, rehabilitation facility, or place of worship.
- **Dog painting:** Let your canine friends create art masterpieces that people will be happy to buy to support your local canine organization. Your local pet supply store or even a local park might be a great location.

Veterinary Education Network (VEN) delivers high impact continuing education and the tools that help you boost productivity, strengthen employee commitment, and improve bottom-line profits for your veterinary business.

VEN's mission is dedicated to helping DVM's achieve their professional goals while improving the quality of life for people, the planet and pets through quality education and industry. Go to www.VeterinaryEducationNetwork.com for more information.