



CANIDEA

THE NATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF HELPING DOGS ORGANIZATIONS

Strong of a companionship which unites it to the human being for more than 12 000 years, the dog drives the attention of the social and medico-social sector for its relational skills and its affective qualities.

Indeed, the dog establishes complicity with the older person that allows the latter to work his memory and motor skills. He sees the disabled person as a living being worthy of interest and not through the lens of disability. He does not judge.

The dog allows a blind person to live a harmonious social life, by accessing places of leisure, restaurants more easily ... It can save lives when it prevents an autistic child to put himself in danger or when he alerts an epileptic person of the occurrence of a crisis.

The dog creates a social bond around the person with reduced mobility by creating daily opportunities for discussions that begin on his subject and end with something else.

These are some examples of the abilities of these unusual animals.

After 16 months of pre-education with a volunteer foster family and depending on the specialization received from a dog trainer for 6 to 10 months, dogs can assist a person on a daily basis at home and while traveling (disability assistance dog, guide dog) or work in assisted activities or therapy with specific publics with a professional in a medico-social or social institution or office (assisted activities or therapy dog).



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Helping dogs specificities

Whatever its specialization (guiding / assistance or assisted activities), when the dog is educated to help and care, its spontaneity breaks the ice and its presence entails exchanges of incredible meaning and creates opportunities of contacts with the outside world.



The disability assistance dog and the guide dog live with a disabled handler and attends him on a daily basis. Its mission is to bring more autonomy and well-being and therefore a form of relief to the relatives of the disabled person. It contributes to the resumption of ordinary activities such as playing sports, studying, shopping,...

The assisted activities or therapy dog works with different publics in institutions under the supervision of a professional. It promotes the social, natural and beneficial links between humans and animals, and stimulates cognitively, emotionally, socially, sensorially, psychomotor ... Its work is a complement of traditional methods and can be considered as a non medicated relief of the patient. It can also carry out similar missions in office or at home, always

accompanied by a professional who directs the intervention. ...

The number of potential beneficiaries is as large as the scope of action of helping dogs is wide.

Today in France, 360,000 people live in a retirement home, with an average age of 84 years.

The number of autistic people is estimated at 440000, considering that not everyone is diagnosed.

Of the 12 million French people with a disability, the national statistics institute INSEE estimates that:

- 13.4% have a motor impairment;
- 11.4% have a sensory impairment;
- 9.8% suffer from an organic deficiency;
- 6.6% have an intellectual or mental disability;
- 2 to 3% of the population use a wheelchair.

8.3 million persons care for a dependent relative, which represents 13% of the salaried population.

Disability assistance dog and guide dog

There is not one type of service dog but specialized assistance dogs depending on the type of disability or illness of the people they assist. Thus, according to the education received, dogs can be at the service of people with hearing impairment, with reduced mobility, with disabling diseases such as epilepsy, diabetes or some categories of the pervasive developmental disorder (autism,...). Guide dogs have similar missions with visually impaired persons.

Assisted activities and therapy dogs

Regular activities or therapy assisted by a dog with people in situations of physical and / or psychological vulnerability tends to reestablish a broken or damaged social link. The results of these interventions are very surprising. For example, the stimulation can be such that the elderly find again a taste for communication, smile and recover energy and mobility. Interventions assisted by animals are beneficial in more ways than one, they do not make the dog a therapist: it does not cure the person. On the other hand, it contributes to the well-being and reinforces the therapy put in place.

The role of CANIDEA

Founded in 2015, CANIDEA is the first organization to unite associations of various activities, including assisted activities, assistance, and alert around the theme of service dogs.

The confederation was born from the will of its members to share good practices and to establish together standards of activities that will serve as a reference.

CANIDEA offers its members support on regulatory issues in a context where the texts are not yet adapted and stabilized because of the novelty of the sector.

The confederation implements a transfer of scientific and technical expertise, thanks to a high-quality scientific and technical council and a capacity to develop activity protocols in the form of recommendations.

In addition, CANIDEA supports the experiments of the member associations because in a field where everything is still to be done, innovation can only emerge from renewed attempts.

The members of CANIDEA are independent non-profit organizations governed by the French law of July 1, 1901. By grouping themselves within a confederation, they aim to ensure an external guarantee of the quality of the teams "handler - dog".

The members of the Board of Directors are unpaid volunteers. CANIDEA is currently employing one person as a head of projects. The confederation and its members do not prospect individuals at home (by telephone or by visits).



Goals of the member organizations

- Educate dogs that are best adapted to the specificities of the beneficiaries;
- Look for volunteer puppy raisers, provide them with technical support necessary for the positive evolution of future mediation dogs;
- Bring out the social value of dogs who do not become guide dogs: the qualities required for guidance and for some disability assistance and assisted and therapy activities are not the same; dogs unsuitable for guidance can be excellent assistance dogs or therapy dogs when their qualities are related to another specialty;
- Train future handlers in the practice of assisted activities and therapy dog;
- Give the dog the best living and working conditions;
- Follow the dog throughout its working life: ensure the maintenance of his skills; his health and well-being; his retirement;
- Experiment with new forms of assistance and canine assisted activities;
- Reflect on and ensure the evolution of the training of dog trainers and instructors;
- Inform the public, institutions, potential handlers in their area.

THEY ARE PART OF OF THE SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL

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Jean-Marie SILLOU

Neuropsychologist and Clinical
Psychologist Specialist in Aging

Nathalie MARLOIS

Behaviorist veterinarian,
President of Zoopsy

MEMBERS OF CANIDEA

The **French Federation of Guide Dogs Organizations (F.F.A.C.)**, founded in 1972 and recognized of public utility in 1981, brings together in France 9 regional associations which manage 16 centers of educations of guide dogs for the blind, a national association of the masters of dogs guides of blinds (ANMCGA) and a national breeding network (CESECAH).



The **Foundation Frédéric Gaillanne - Mira Europe** provides Guide Dogs free of charge to blind and visually impaired children between the ages of 12 and 18, activities and therapy dogs to specialized centers for children with disabilities and assistance dogs for children with other types of disabilities.



The organization of **Assisted activities and Service Dogs of the East (CMUE)** provides family carers and specialized institutions with dogs educated to accompany them in the helping relationship and the practice of animal assisted activities in the East.



The organization **Assisted activities and Service Dogs of Côte d'Azur Corse (CMUPCC)** provides family carers and specialized institutions with dogs educated to accompany them in the helping relationship and the practice of animal assisted activities in the South.



The **national breeding center (CESECAH)** is a state-of-the-art maternity unit that collaborates with veterinary authorities for genetic selection and assisted reproduction protocols, in order to participate in the improvement of breeds and tend to the creation of the guide dog with the best possible predispositions.



The **Silence Dogs Association (ACS)** provides hearing dogs to persons with hearing impairments. These dogs alert them to sounds in their daily lives and bring them independence and self-confidence.



AGATEA as an animal assisted activities institute is a space for meeting and exchange, at the pace of each one, in the company of the animals in complete emotional security as well as in the open spaces of the park, leisure on the ground, therapeutic gardens, sensory journey....



Lien K-nin introduces assisted activities and therapy dogs in social and care home institutions, during working sessions (in groups or individually) led by specialists of the association, in order to develop and redeploy potential cognitive, motor, psychomotor social and sensory of the participants.



ACADIA provides educated dogs to assist diabetic children. These dogs have the ability to detect changes in blood glucose levels and the risk of hypoglycemia or hyperglycemia due to hormones secreted by the human body in these situations.



ESCAPE was created in 2017. It projects within two years to educate and provide assistance and alert dogs to persons with epilepsy and scientifically study how these dogs manage to prevent the occurrence of epileptic seizures.



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