



Servisa suņu biedrība TEODORS

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Rīga, December, 2020

Service Dog Association TEODORS, Rīga, Latvia

2020 Annual Report



2019 was one of the most prolific years for Service Dog Association TEODORS, our ideas were realized, devised new ideas and plans, organized many events, showing and telling about our association's work, and donors were generous. Toward the end of the year, shortly before New Year's Eve, we planned new activities for 2020 – how to expand the association's work - attract helpers, increase the number of qualitatively trained guide dogs for the blind, assistants, we thought how to educate society, and obtain new puppies. However, no one could have imagined how the year 2020 would change due to the Covid-19 pandemic, isolation, restrictions. Many of our activities couldn't happen, for instance: social work in schools, summer camps were canceled, we couldn't recognize International Guide Dog Day, International Guide Dog Competitions were canceled, for which we had been preparing for a long time. Unfortunately, our hope to get a new guide dog, Lulu, didn't come about

because Lulu went on to other hunting grounds. However, the other guide dogs continued their responsible duties and the association, in allowable capacity, continued its work, mindful of how to adjust to the new situation.

Unfortunately we had to make a weighty decision regarding our beloved young guide dog Joko. Joko was loved by all. She obtained her guide dog training in England by our trainer Santa, and the beginning was most promising, Joko showed herself to become a thoughtful and smart guide dog. However, as time passed, some traits became apparent, which were incompatible to the work of a guide dog. If Joko saw another dog, cat or squirrel, then her playful instincts were stronger than her work ethic. Unfortunately intensive training didn't help, and since borders were closed due to the pandemic, we found her a loving family in England where she can enjoy the pleasures of a family.

Demands on a guide dog are very high, statistics show that only one in five dogs selected for training become guide dogs. Funds donated to Joko will be diverted to the next guide dog's training.



Stand up - show with Diāna, Līga, Baiba



In the spring we again led an intensive informational campaign about the right of guide dogs accompanying their masters. Unfortunately, our members continue to experience unpleasant and humiliating situations. On occasion they are turned away from stores, restaurants, public transport, etc. because of their guide dog, or assistant dog. According to European Union law, as well as the Republic of Latvia's Minister Cabinet regulation Nr. 959 30.5 paragraph, service dogs may enter cafes, restaurants, stores, sports and cultural centers, travel in a taxi as well as local and international public transportation.

During the summer, when the pandemic situation in Latvia improved, and larger groups of people could again gather, we took the opportunity to advertise our association. Representatives from SANTEN OY visited us in July. They wanted to become acquainted with the work of the association, its people, dogs, and to help us, as well as help with volunteer work by washing all the windows in our association's space! Thank you for the heartfelt afternoon! Several days later 10 children from the centre „Stundu darbnīcas” came to Jugla. The children were very open and with great interest listened to Zaiga's and Alekejs's stories about guide dogs.

In August we participated in the integration project „In The Marketplace” together with The Latvian Library For The Blind, the association „See Me”, Latvian Association of the Deaf, and other representatives of the handicapped at the Agenskalns market. Our „girls” Diāna, Baiba and Līga were very well received with their „Women's Stand-up” show which humourously described their daily experiences.



On September 12 we participate in an event „More fun with a dog” on Lucavsala. Many dogs took part: police dogs, therapy dogs, canicross dogs, bikejoring and other athletic dogs. During the event, donations were collected for our association. Thanks to the organizers - „Dog Sport Carnikava” & SIA „Bertas Nams”!

If last summer we were unsuccessful in getting service dogs included in *the National Development Plan 2021-2027* (NAP2027) as possible aides for handicapped people, then our meeting with representatives from the Ministry of Welfare this past November gave hope for relevant revisions to laws for invalids and service dogs. We hope for successful cooperation in the future!



Eight puppies born in October to guide dog Neira gave additional hope for our future development. From the large number of puppies, 5 – Voodoo, Vectra, Vito, Velvet, Valo - were considered possible future service-dogs. The puppies have gone to foster families where they will spend approximately one year.

We close this year with good news - the society has a new guide dog named Panda! Panda liked the blind Tamara from Rēzekne and both are now training to understand each other and live together.

Giving thought to future plans: let's continue to work as much as possible as we have up to now and more so!

Service Dog Association TEODORS thanks all donors and supporters! With your help the association can work and help more handicapped people. Thanks to donations through *ziedot.lv* our dogs have received quality food and a portion of veterinary services.



Special thanks to our friends in Finland! And, of course, our biggest supporters have been and remain **Zaiga Kļaviņa** and **Juha Herttuainen**, without whom the association wouldn't exist! They donate dogs, their work, time and love.

You can read about our association's major goals and our dogs in our homepage www.teodors.org.

We regularly write about our activities in Facebook @servisasunubiedriba and www.draugiem.lv/servisasunubiedriba.lv/.

The association uses donated funds solely for the association's goals, which are written in the articles of the association.

You can read about donation use in the association's homepage <http://www.teodors.org/ziedojuumi/>.

There are several ways to donate to the association, look to our homepage: <https://www.teodors.org/jaunumi/>.

The association's account for donations:

Recipient: **Servisa suņu biedrība**
 Reg.No.: **40008208343**
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With sincere greetings and best wishes,

Service Dog Association TEODORS

