

Servisa suņu biedrība TEODORS

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Service Dog Association TEODORS, Rīga, Latvia 2022 Annual Report

Despite continuing pandemic restrictions at the beginning of 2022, Service Dog Association TEODORS continued its active work. Although public events weren't held beginning of the year, daily training of new dogs took place and, if needed, modifications made for existing service dogs and their masters. Cynologist Zaiga developed a puppy school – its goal is to raise more work-capable puppies who,



having reached 10-12 months age, will be able to be trained as service dogs or assistants. The war in Ukraine brought us some economic changes and the Association is now working to help Ukrainian refugees with the use of therapy dogs. TEODORS members are active in a specially developed group in *WhatsApp*, where it's possible to quickly exchange information and answer a variety of questions.

With the start of spring, restrictions were lifted, and Service Dog Association TEODORS could participate in various activities. On International Guide Dog Day, April 27, in Vērmanes Park, Rīga, a guide-dog ability test took place and the cynologists were truly satisfied with our dog performances.





On May 24 Ādaži High School organized athletic games for grades 5-8, but our guide-dogs participated in this event by giving demontrations. Interest was high and our members responded to many questions. This year Service Dog Association TEODORS again participated in "Hospital Street Neighborhood Festival 2022." Festival participants expressed tremendous interest about our association's work and observed guide-dog demonstrations, where anyone interested could ask questions and receive in-depth answers, as well participate in real-life experiences. Our Association is very pleased with the donations received.

On October 20 7th grade students from Tornakalns Private High School, along with their teacher, Evija Selecka, visited our Association in Jugla. It turned out to be a very sincere event – the children showed a lot of interest in service dogs, their training and how great their aid is to their masters, but mainly – they were surprised by the capabilities of service dogs.



The international new guide-dog exam took place beginning of August in Carnikava, with participants from The Latvian Association of the Blind, members of Finland's Association of the Blind and a representative from Service Dog Association TEODORS. The exam was judged by professional judges – Alan Aula from Finland, Zaiga Kļaviņa and Egils Vinogradovs from Latvia. Our guide-dog Hugo and his master Deniss had excellent results. We are grateful to the sponsor of the event, Opaskoiran Joulu and personally to Juha Herttuainen. For three days our guests and supporters were accommodated in an attractive guest house on the scenic shores of Gauja River. Another event of note – beginning of October our member Deniss Ovsjaņņikovs together with guide-dog Hugo returned home as European champions in table tennis for the blind.

Currently the Association has 11 service dogs: 10 guide-dogs and one assistant dog: Serena, Annekene, Vera, Mango, Zuze, Neira, Rīga, Tikka, Hugo, Panda and Elfa. The Association is also taking care of seniors Zane and Ula.

There is also sad news - this year two guide-dogs, Tony and Feja, went into well-earned retirement. Seemed both were placed in good homes surrounded by sincere people, but their disease proved to be stronger.

One of our biggest supporters is CABOT CORPORATION, which with support from CABOT FOUNDATION, has given us a grant to train one service dog. A new golden retriever named Eddy is being trained.



We are proud that our Association's photo exhibit is travelling around Latvia! It started the year in Bauska Municipality: Svitene, Gailīši Parish, Vecsaule. It's now in Ilūkste and will continue through Sēlija (Selonia). Our thanks to Ilze Bērziņa for organizing the exhibit!

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. Thanks to Rīga Council's Charity Department we can afford to rent our space where we can meet, receive, and distribute dog food and store the Association's materials.

Special thanks to our cynologists Zaiga Kļaviņa and Juha Herttuainen, for their great contribution to the Association, as well as thanks to our long-term friends in Finland!

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

We will always appreciate your donations. There are several ways to donate to the Association, look to our homepage: https://www.teodors.org/jaunumi/.

The association's account for donations:

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With sincere greetings and best wishes,

Service Dog Association TEODORS