



Servisa suņu biedrība TEODORS

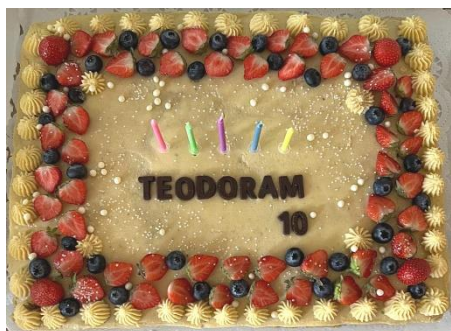
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Rīga, December 2023

Service Dog Association TEODORS, Latvia 2023 Annual Report

This year Service Dog Association TEODORS celebrated its 10th anniversary. Much has been accomplished during these years – the Association’s cynologist Zaiga Kļaviņa has trained 28 service dogs and 2 assistant dogs, of which 26 are working in Latvia, but 4 in Finland, England, and Lithuania.



At least 15 people obtained service dogs. This means safety in daily routines, accessibility and a dependable friend. This year, same as previously, we are raising puppies who are placed in foster families until they become 1 year old, when they can begin the difficult and complicated service dog training.

The President of Latvia, Edgars Rinkēvičs, officially congratulated TEODORS on its 10th anniversary. We are pleased that our work is appreciated, but at the same time hope for federal assistance in the future for the service dog movement.

Service Dog Association TEODORS is very grateful to its largest donor, *Cabot Latvia*. With this funding, the Association trained service dog Eddy, who on the Association’s anniversary day successfully completed the exam and became a full-fledged service dog. We are proud of our foster families, who with great care and patience raise the new generation of service dogs. Likewise our day would not be imagineable without our supporters and volunteers, cooperative partners and Finnish colleagues – especially *Juha Herttuainen*.

Great thanks go to *Puse Plus* company for its cooperation and generous donation from the sales of Christmas cards with our logo! Together we can ensure appropriate conditions for the service dogs so that they can successfully complete their daily duties in helping people with vision and mobility impairments gain greater independence and enjoy life.



Although we can no longer seek funding via *Ziedot.lv*, that doesn’t mean that care of service dogs and cooperation with their owners has been interrupted. We continue to be delighted and anticipate donations! Riga City Neighborhood Residents Centre has been of tremendous support by accepting our project, thus allowing us to rent space. We have received support for 6 months rent. This space is

available for the board, members, volunteers, service dogs and their owners, and foster families to meet, as well as the opportunity to host informative events and workshops. Thank you, Riga City Council!

On May 10, an emotional and warm concert dedicated to Service Dog Association TEODORS was organized by students at Riga Purvciems High School.

From August 15 to November 2 a photo exhibit “Service dogs – at work and at play” was held at the shopping centre *Origo* in Riga. The exhibit provided insight to the Association TEODORS service dogs at leisure and work, showing society the true meaning of work for these trained dogs, helping people with disability to successfully integrate into society and participate in various situations.



We are proud of our members’ athletic achievements – Mārtiņš Vizulis obtained a black belt in Spain during a karate seminar with Japanese masters, but at the world championship in Hungary, was just a few points shy of an award. And always by Mārtiņš’ side is Romeo, who, in Mārtiņš’ words, not only one time has saved him from dangerous situations.

Deniss Ovsjaņņikovs is merely 23 years young, graduated from high school this year and is continuing studies to become a SPA specialist. Deniss is already the world champion of Showdown, this year winning *Golden Bat 2023* championship, and second year in a row became

the champion in the international Showdown tournament in Vilnius, Lithuania. Deniss is accompanied daily by his guide-dog Hugo.

Our friends – therapy dogs – are great assistants! They, along with their master Ričards and other managers, have participated in nearly all Association events. These attractive white Samoyeds immediately attract attention and looks. And the main thing – they can be petted! This is forbidden with service dogs. In such a way we help and fulfill one another.



Unfortunately there are also unpleasant surprises, as there is a part of society that still cannot accept fellow human beings with disabilities. On June 18, *airBaltic* airline’s partner *Carpatair* staff declined travel for Baiba Baikovska along with her assistant dog Elfa. This resulted in a lot of negative emotions, and Baiba was forced to fly without her assistant to a very important meeting. There was outrage in social media platforms, and as a result *airBaltic* corrected this huge error - Baiba’s mother and Elfa were flown, albeit late, to be with Baiba. - Likewise on October 15 our members Lienīte with her dog Sebastian were barred from the restaurant *Gan Bei* at *Origo* - guide-dogs were not allowed in the restaurant. Unfortunately blind people, traveling with their guide-dogs, are still being discriminated against, and because of a lack of information, the rights of people with disabilities are violated. *Gan Bei* management has apologized to Lienīte and the public, and made a substantial donation to the Association, for which we are thankful.

Service Dog Association TEODORS thanks all donors and supporters! With your help the Association can operate and help more people with disabilities. Thanks to donations our dogs receive quality food and veterinary services. The Association has 10 guide-dogs and 1 assistant-dog. As far as possible, we also help other guide-dogs in Latvia with food and medical help.

As every year, a special thanks to our long-time friends in Finland! And our greatest benefactors, **Zaiga Kļaviņa** and **Juha Herttuainen**, without whom the Association wouldn't exist! They donate dogs, their work, time, and love, as well as help out with transportation.

To read more about our goals and our dogs visit our home page: www.teodors.org.

We also regularly write about our activities in social media, for example *Facebook* page @servisasunubiedriba, Instagram, www.draugiem.lv/servisasunubiedriba.lv/

Donated funds are used solely for the Association's goals, which are listed in the organization's statutes. To learn more about donation use, please visit: <http://www.teodors.org/ziedojami/>.

There are several ways to donate, please visit: <https://www.teodors.org/jaunumi/>

The Association's account for donations:

Recipient: **SERVISA SUŅU BIEDRĪBA TEODORS**
Reg.No.: **40008208343**
Bank: **SWEDBANK**
Acc.No.: **LV04HABA0551036537614**
BIC/SWIFT: **HABALV22**

With sincere thanks and best wishes,

Service Dog Association TEODORS

