# The CAGDU Barker

June 16, 2019

Contents

[The CAGDU Barker 1](#_Toc11526411)

[From The Editor 1](#_Toc11526412)

[Tips for Working a Guide Dog at a National Convention 1](#_Toc11526413)

[Pet Fusion Orthopedic bed review 4](#_Toc11526414)

[Fit for Fido 4](#_Toc11526415)

## From The Editor

By Allison Depner

Hello California guide dog users! I hope you and your furry guides are staying cool during this summer and convention season. Cupcake and I are chillen on this particular evening. We just spent some time on the deck of our cottage taking in the San Diego sea breeze.

As most of you know, the National Federation of the Blind convention is right around the corner. We’re all excited to reunite with old friends and meet new people in Las Vegas. In preparation for this much anticipated event, CAGDU members are offering suggestions for how to make the week of convention run more smoothly for guides and their handlers. This newsletter begins with these suggestions. I want to make a quick note here to those of you who know me and Cupcake on a first hand basis. My wonderful guide is almost 10 years old, and she is starting to slow down a bit. (Just like her mama.) After some deep consideration, I decided that the combination of a busy crowded convention atmosphere combined with the craziness that can be Las Vegas might be too much for Miss Cupcake these days. So, she is having her own vacation. She will be well tended, and I know she’ll have fun with the friend who will take care of her while I’m staying at the Mandalay with my NFB family. So, when you see me without my guide, please know she is fine.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this newsletter. Without your input, there would be now newsletter. So, keep your articles coming for future issue. Now, let’s get on with it!

## Tips for Working a Guide Dog at a National Convention

By Shannon Dillon

These are tips based on my experience working a dog at national conventions.1. \* Stand back from the elevator before boarding to give people time to get out and avoid your dog being trampled. “As you enter, say something like “coming in” so people hear where you are and so they know you are there and are hopefully less likely to trample your dog.\* When exiting an elevator, say something as you exit like “coming out” so people know you are coming out and they don’t rush in and trample your guide dog.

* Travel during off times. Go a little early or a little late to meetings so you can travel when there are fewer people traveling.
* Use your cane to work your way through crowds and put your dog behind you so that your dog is protected from being trampled. My experience is that working with crowds in a big city is entirely different from working in crowds at the convention and I feel I have to protect my dog a lot more.
* When sitting in a row in the meetings, particularly general session where there are a ton of people, try to squeeze your dog under your chair or protect it with your feet and listen and watch for people coming through the rows who might step on your dog. People cut through the rows to get to a different aisle, or they are trying to find a seat in the row you are sitting in. Let them know you have a dog on the floor in the aisle. Like anywhere, some people are cool; some are jerks. You cannot depend on them to watch out for your dog’s well-being. Sometimes you have to stand up and discourage people from coming through a row and trampling your dog.
* Keep your dog’s shoes in your purse or travel bag. If you go to lunch or dinner outside the hotel, you may not always want to go back to get their shoes, but it is going to be above 90 degrees in Las Vegas, so you almost always need shoes during the day if you go outside.
* When eating in a place where your dog doesn’t fit under the table or chair, particularly in spaces where people eat but there is a lot of foot traffic, be careful to pay close attention to people around you walking near your dog. Don’t count on other people to be considerate of your dog. I’ve had my dog tucked away behind a table next to a wall and a person was intent upon walking back behind the table where someone wouldn’t ordinarily walk. People don’t always understand they are walking where a person doesn’t ordinarily walk. Be vigilant for your dog’s safety. You may have to tell the person they are walking into a corner or somewhere they can’t get out of to protect your dog. I’ve had to stand up and physically blocked people from trampling my dog.
* When getting on or off and escalator, remember to give plenty of space between yourself and the people in front of you. Give the people ahead of you on the escalator a lot of extra time to get off of it. Give plenty of extra time before getting on with your dog so you know they are far enough ahead of you that you will have space to get your dog off the escalator.
* If your dog is one that is tempted by easy access to food, be aware that people leave food and trash under chairs in sessions and meetings at the convention.

## Pet Fusion Orthopedic bed review

By Tina Thomas

Shopping for dog beds can be a little daunting, being that there are so many selections on the market. Some are very basic and inexpensive, and others are more luxurious and on the expensive side. This particular dog bed I am reviewing is made by Pet Fusion and it is on the expensive side. It is an orthopedic bed. It has a water-proof liner, with a cotton blend cover, eight zipper sides, and a memory foam mattress. The bed is rectangular and it has a raised cushion surrounding the top and sides of the bed with an opening at the base for easy entry. My dog is around 70lbs and he fits in the bed very comfortably. The bed is made by Pet Fusion and it is for large dogs and can be purchased from [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) for $120. The bed is well constructed and comfortable for the dog. My dog likes to rest with his favorite toys in the bed with him. Although the bed is on the expensive side, I would recommend it for those looking for a dog bed that will last for a long time and is also good for the dog’s joints. I hope readers find this review of the Pet Fusion Orthopedic bed helpful.

## Fit for Fido

By Jennifer Frazier

Sources:

Family Veterinarian

<https://www.aspcapro.org/resource/saving-lives-shelter-health-poison-control/how-make-pet-first-aid-kit>

As dog handlers, or dog parents, we are always thinking about the care and comfort of our loyal friends. Whether we travel in our local area, or overseas on European tours of ancient sites, we are compelled to ensure the safety and comfort of our pups.

Short trips around the neighborhood justify little need for a first aid kit. A water bottle and a bowl suffice. On hot days booties are required. I stand by the ones sold at Ruff Ware (they can be found at: <https://ruffwear.com/collections/dog-boots>), both my dogs ware them and have never had a problem with burned paws. If you live in places where it snows in the winter these booties can keep those padding paws warm and safe on ice.

When it comes to trips to Europe or a family vacation…or a day of hiking I want a first aid kit with me. My family and I carry one for ourselves and my dogs need one too. After reading various sources on the web and consulting our family vet, I’ve compiled a list based on Dr. PA’s (our vet is remaining anonymous) and ASPCA’s recommendations. Grab a soft sided bag and pack the following:

\*absorbent gauze pads

\*Medical tape

\*Cotton balls

\*“fresh” 3 percent hydrogen peroxide (used for inducing vomiting-consult your vet for instructions on usage)

Oral syringe (turkey basters work as well; can be used to administer peroxide or medications)

\*An ice pack (break to freeze)

\*Disposable gloves

\*lubricant (for various uses, i.e. using a Thermometer)

\*Medical scissors

\*Tweezers

\*Anti-biotic ointment (over the counter; for wounds)

\*Benadryl (for allergic reactions; consult your vet for proper dosage)

\*benzamine (for cleaning wounds)

\*A small Blanket or towel

\*Elizabethan collar (for use when your dog needs to leave an open wound alone)

\*Extra leash

\*Old Newspaper (can be used as a splint if needed)

\*Pet Thermometer

\*Muzzle (for use when a dog is in pain and is trying to bite)

Liquid soap (one of my vets recommended dawn)

\*Flashlight

\*Saline eye solution

Also, compile important phone numbers and medical records. Bring the name, phone number and address of your personal veterinarian. Include a copy of your dog’s immunization records, and information on the local area’s emergency vets. Lastly, include your states poison control number for use in an emergency. I hate to admit it, but I’ve had dogs eat dark chocolate and extra heart worm protection; the number has come in handy with my food rovers.