



FALL EDITION NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER, NOVEMBER, AND DECEMBER 2008

SERVICE ANIMALS VS PETS...



-Article contributed by Jamie Kail, Interpreter Coordinator.

In recent months TCSDHH

has received several calls from apartment landlords, deaf people, and people who are Hard of Hearing asking about "Hearing Dog" requirements. In this article we hope to shed some light on service animals, and handler requirements and rights.

"My landlord just found out that I have a pet living in my apartment. They say I have to pay a pet deposit or they are going to kick me out. It is my hearing dog." Let us be clear in the beginning. If you in fact do have a hearing service animal let your apartment complex or rental agents know immediately. They will ask for the animals training documentation and papers and if indeed you do have an appropriate service animal this should be no big deal. The more forth coming you are to your landlords, the more apt they are to know you are not being deceitful. If you do have a hearing dog,

you are not required to pay the pet deposit, however should your dog cause any damage to the property (such as the carpet in the apartment) you are liable for those damages. You are however required to pay a pet deposit if you and your "hearing dog" are not a trained service animal team. Without this training and accreditation, your animal that can hear is still just a pet and you must follow the same rules as all other rental tenants, which includes pet deposits.

There are minimum standards in which training services dogs operates. Hearing dogs are required to have a minimum of 3 months or 60 hours of training that must take place under the supervision of a program's trainer with regular time devoted to city work and socialization. They must master basic obedience skills from voice or hand signals such as: sit, stay, come, down, heel and off leash recall. The dog must show socially appropriate behavior such as no aggression, begging, or sniffing of strangers. The dog's placement handler must also be able to correctly praise and discipline the dog, care for the dog, practice sound work, control

the dog, and enforce obedience skills. The recipient of the dog will receive a laminated ID card with a photo of the dog and partner, and names of both. "The dog must wear a blaze orange collar and leash, approved by ADI, with Hearing Dog printed/stitched on it and a cape with the program's logo whenever in public."

For more information about applying for a hearing dog, the rules and requirements on what constitutes a hearing service animal, or you have questions please contact: Texas Hearing & Service Dogs at www.servicedogs.com, 512-891-9090 or toll free at 877-TEX-DOGS.

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CALLING 9-1-1

-Article contributed by Doug Rollins, Office Manager

Many deaf and hard of hearing individuals are giving up their TTYs and land-line phones. This created a problem; how do you call 9-1-1 when you need the police, EMS or fire department? When VRS (video relay service) was first available, VRS were not able to handle or make 911 calls. For some people who kept their phones,



they were able to dial 911, and the police showed up and assessed the situation and then do what was necessary, call EMS or the fire department. Now many VRS are able to make 911 calls but with a disclaimer and caution. What is the disclaimer? You will need to visit the website and read it. Each VRS have their own disclaimer. If you visit the website of the VRS provider that you use

(Sprint, Sorenson, CSD, HOVRS), you will find instructions, either in print or video, how to use 911 when you call as well as their disclaimer. So please take the time to visit the website and learn the instructions each VRS have posted so that when you do need to call 911, your call may be process faster and smoother. However, let's hope we never have to call 911.

REDUCE STRESS, LEARN HOW AND RIDE THE BUS!

-Article contributed by Tom Turner, Case Worker

Do you wish you knew how to ride the bus? Do you want to save money and reduce stress from driving in the traffic?

Austin has an excellent bus system that is easy to use and will take you almost anywhere you want to go in the Greater Austin area.

Travis County Services for

the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (TCSDHH) can assist you in applying for a Capital Metro Disability Fare card that, if you qualify, allows you to ride the bus for free.

Bus training is also available at TCSDHH Bus training can include learning bus schedules and routes, how to watch for landmarks and route signs, and when and where to get on/off the

bus.

If you want to learn more about riding the bus but aren't sure where to start, call TCSDHH and make a "bus training" appointment with Tom Turner.



PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION 2008

-Article contributed by Jamie Kail, Interpreter Coordinator and Michael McMahon, Temporary Social Services Assistant

Are you registered to vote in Travis County? Not sure? Check <http://www.traviscountytax.org/goVoters.do> and verify that

you've registered to vote.

Travis County Elections also encourages you to vote during the early voting session. Don't wait until the last day of early voting. This will save your time and reduce wait in long lines.

Check

<http://www.traviscountytax.org/goVotersEarlyVote.do> for early and mobile voting locations, and election day polling locations.



DEAF AND HOH FEST IS COMING TO TOWN!

-Article contributed by Tammie Parker, Staff Interpreter

Travis County Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing will be hosting our 2nd bi-annual Deaf and HOH Fest at Fiesta Gardens. Fiesta Gardens is located at 2101 Bergman Ave. Signs will be set up to direct you where the event is once you're close. There will be

food, fun, and games for the whole family!

There will be activities for the kids, a homemade pie contest, a variety of exhibition booths for your enjoyment. We have invited deaf artists and also hope for participation from the senior citizens for the story-telling part of the fest.

There also will be door

prizes, entertainment, and much more. Gates open at 10 AM and close at 4 PM. Admission is free! Please come out and join us for a day at the park.

For more information, go to our website at www.austindeafservices.com



DEAF BLIND SERVICE CENTER OF AUSTIN

-Article contributed by Doug Rollins, DBSC Board Member

Deaf Blind Service Center of Austin (DBSC Austin) needs your help. DBSC Austin is trying to raise funds so that we can start providing SSP services to deafblind individuals in Austin and surrounding counties. DBSC of Austin achieved their 501c3 (tax exemption) status with IRS on July 25, 2007. How can you help support DBSC of Austin?

When you shop at Randall's and you give the cashier your Randall's

Remarkable card, tell them you would like the donations to go to DBSC of Austin, code 11844.

DBSC of Austin will have a fundraiser on December 6, at Applebee's (located at IH 35 and William Cannon). It is a Pancake fundraiser. You can buy your tickets for breakfast from any DBSC of Austin board member. Tickets are \$6.00 and breakfast will be served from 8 am to 10 am. So if you are planning

to go shopping for the holidays on Saturday, December 6, why not purchase a ticket for pancakes to get some energy to walk at the mall!

Board members of the Deaf Blind Service Center of Austin are: Kris Cue', Chairperson; Patrick Murray, Vice Chairperson; Shirley Ryan, Secretary; Erik Hammer, Treasurer; Kristin Lund, Interpreter Coordinator and Board Member; Kim Powers-Smith, Board Member and Doug Rollins, Board Member. For more information, feel free to contact Kris Cue' at kcue@sbcglobal.net. You can also visit DBSC Austin's website: <http://www.austindbcs.org/Home.html>






11844

Organization Number

Don't forget to link our Good Neighbor Number to your Remarkable Card and help us raise funds the easy way!

HOW CAN YOU REACH TCSDHH?

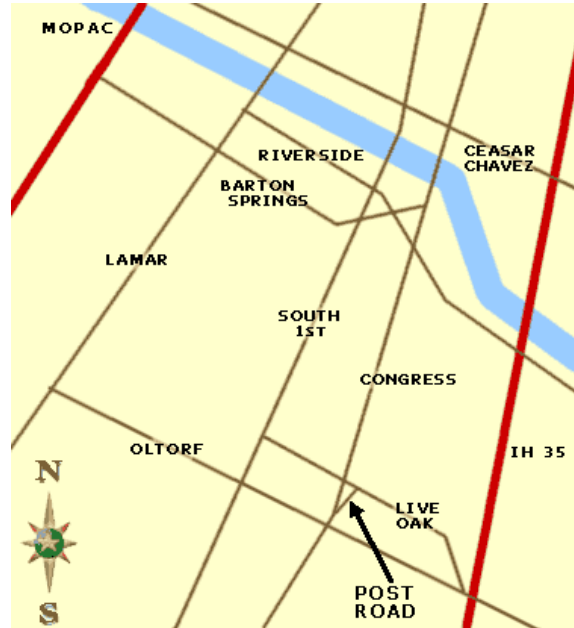
Is there anything deaf-related you want to know more about but not sure where to start? Contact us!

TCSDHH is conveniently located a mile south of Texas School for the Deaf and 2 miles from Down-

town Austin. Our office can be reached by calling 512-854-9205 (Voice), 512-854-9210 (TTY/VP), 512-854-9289 (Fax) and 198.214.211.11 (IP number). We are open Mondays through Fridays 8 AM to 5 PM.

For details on services we pro-

vide and resources we may have for you, please go to our website at: www.austindeafservices.com



Travis County Services for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing

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TEXAS
Health and Human
Services Commission