

Take care of guide dog : Knowledge and practices of visually impaired people

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Plan

- Introduction
- Presentation of the object
- problematic
- Methodology and Population
- Results
- Conclusion



From professional experience to academic questions

- Professional experiences in guide dogs
- Previous research (2010) : Social representation of assistance dog // Social representation of dog (pet)

Assistance dog : qualities associated with worker and disability, devotion ...

Family dog : companionship, shared activities, friendship, interpersonal skills, negative qualifications (feces, dog hair) ...



Assistance dogs lose their animal characteristics, qualities and skills are assigned to them by people with no assistance dogs (= Social representation)



Visually impaired people and guide dogs

Social knowledge and social memory : guide dog and visual disability

Knowledge, practices and identity dynamics of visually impaired people

Guide Dogs (experiences, guiding, needs related to the canine species, health, social status, legislation)

Object : The guide dog

The blind and his dog - Jacques Callot - gravura,



Dog social status

Loi n°2005-102 du 11 février 2005

Animal helper Usefulness for people

Gaunet & Milliet (2010)
Sanders (1999, 2000)
Meeschaert (2007)
Wiggett-Barnard, Steel
(2007)

**"Speed, comfort and
safety"**

Social integration team (Social Identity)

Gaunet & Milliet (2010)
Sanders (1999, 2000)
Wiggett-Barnard, Steel
(2007)

"Social catalyst", pride

Shared experiences care

Sanders (1999, 2000)
Wiggett-Barnard, Steel
(2007)
Nicholson & al. (1995)

« Friendship »

Problematic

If people indicate a loss of animality, attribute qualities related to work, to the devotion, usefulness for people with disabilities,

What is the knowledge developed by visually impaired people on guide dogs ?

And what are the care required by dogs according to the people with visual disabilities ?



Methodology and Population

- Semi-structured interviews with an interview guide
- Open to the themes of the participants
- Corpus investigated from a qualitative analysis

**How do one lives with a visual impairment?
Could you tell me about your life with your guide dog?**

Distribution of participants according to the gender variable and visual impairment type

Type of visual impairment	Men with guide dog	Women with guide dog
Of birth (stable)		1
Acquired Disability (early childhood) and stable		3
Progressive disability (childhood, adolescence or adult), slowly toward blindness	1	4
Acquired disability in adulthood (accident or other)	3	2
Total		14

Results

Walk and move

With the cane: learning the use of the cane, more than a help (handicap marker stigma Freedom)

With human help: depend on the goodwill of relatives, accept help even when it is unnecessary or disturbing

With a guide dog: freedom, disappearance of headaches, fear, comfort, safety, speed and sense of autonomy

The guide dog and cane

«Greater safety, speed, oh yeah ! That's clear. With my dog, it's never happened an accident. [...] It happened to me (with cane) to say "Sorry Sir" to a pole because I had hit and I did not see it was a pole. At the level security ... it's still ... even if it remains an animal and he's not a robot, it's still not perfect but at moving it has nothing to do with the cane.»

(105-109. P.)

Résultats

Living with a guide dog: Subject and social agent

Description of temperament

Associated with the guiding work : quality of anticipation, attentive, fast, hardworking, powerful, reliable, intelligent, with a fantastic memory, shows initiative, very fine, obedient, strong,

As Subject : she smiles, healthy mind, sensitive, super fragile, cool, easy, discreet, wise, cute, nice, a hippie, a plush, quiet, affectionate, great, stubborn, posed, independent, beautiful, shy, fond of children, sensational, brave, wonderful, sweet, close, player, malignant, cuddly ...

"Litchi was someone !" 565 P.

Results: reciprocity in care

▪ Off leash walks :

"It's going to swim, he does what he wants. He relaxes completely. It will smell odors he rolls in the grass, it goes into the bushes. I do not know what he will do it (laughs). "(497-499 M)



Results: reciprocity in care

▪ Brushing: pleasure, obligation or constraint

"Every morning, I brush, I comb, I check the ears, I check the pads every day, every day ! Now it is a pleasure. And dogs ask us, it's good for them too. [...] These are little moments ... I was going to say ...intimacy "(487-493 P)

"It's constraints, we must take care of the dog, you still have to take care, to be brushed on. If the dog has to go to the vet ... gotta go"(434-435 MM)

Results: reciprocity in care

Aging: reduce the length of the walks, reduce the times of guiding, to adapt to the dog walking pace, use the cane

"With Jazzy, I did a lot of miles of trails. Ulko it's the same now we stopped walking. He's too old, I take care." (168-170 M.)

Death: guilt about suffering or absence, will to be present, deciding when to euthanize, avoid suffering

"It is especially to be there in the end, it's very important for me because I feel that I can not let her go alone, no ! She gave me so much." (541-544 BC)

Discussion

Benefits : Increased mobility and independence, social life (people and activities), dog-human relationship

According to the visually impaired people to take care of his guide dog, it is important that :

He relaxes : running, be off leash, be brushed

However, for some it goes further :

It must **have cuddles**

the referent should **be attentive to his dog's needs** (rest, work, cuddling, playing, relationship, health)

It shares the important moments of human life,

Aging and retirement periods: adapt working conditions (walking pace, duration). Retirement little mention except when the human referent wants to keep his dog

Conclusion



Need to care (relaxation, brushing and adaptation to aging) of his dog

School speech impact of the educator?

➔ Impact of school discourse, of the guide dog trainer ?

What about a veterinarian accompaniment (osteopathy, physiotherapy, medication)? What about shared play ? Encounters with other dogs off leash ? Places to run for urbandogs ?

Delicacy, sensitivity and empathy in certain speeches on reciprocity of care, on daily life, on canines individualities

Reflecting "intimacy" (Levinger, 1988; Lestel, 1996, 2004) and social sharing of emotions (Rime, 2009) beyond the relationship based on the need

How different from the family dog owners?

Merci de votre attention !

