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Administrator: Marie-Louise Luther

To Board of EFA

## About creation of a new Technical Committee (CEN/TC 452) – Assistance Dog & Guide Dog Teams Standards and Instructors Competences

The Swedish Asthma and Allergy Association has got an invitation to participate in a Swedish workinggroup to influence the work creating a new European standard about Assistance and Guide dogs (see attached document). We have decided not to participate in the workinggroup, but want to give our aspects later on in a proposal in a statement of opinion. Do you know anything about this European standard and do EFA have plans to participate in this work?

It is important to make the new standard and instructors competences respect people with allergy in accordance with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). It is also very important to define the difference between Assistance dogs (for personal aid – follows the person) and facility dogs or care dogs (visit people in need). All dogs cannot be called assistance dogs – otherwise availability for allergic people in society get very limited.

In Sweden we have an agreement about how to handle conflict about guide dogs between The Swedish Asthma and Allergy Association and The National Association of the Visually impaired (SRF). This says no one - visually impaired with guide dog or person allergic to furred animals - can claim their interest on the other person's expense in accordance with CPRD. The society must then find solutions working for both partners.

In Sweden we also have a national standard "Care dog teams within home care for elderly, dementia care and rehabilitation for adults after acquired brain injury - Requirements for training. The Swedish Asthma and Allergy Association participated some years in this work and now care dog teams must have some certified competence about allergy when making risk assessments before introducing care dogs to show respect to allergic people (this is specified in ethics, value systems etc in education för care dog teams).

Hope to hear from you and hope you are interested to participate in the work with the new European standard and instructors competences,

Maritha Sedvallson  
President of The Swedish Asthma and Allergy Association