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**INTERNATIONALLY - RENOWNED ORGANIZATION  
OPENS NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS IN COLUMBUS**

COLUMBUS, OHIO -- Assistance Dogs of America, Inc. (ADAI), an internationally-recognized organization that trains and places highly-skilled dogs with physically-challenged people throughout the country, has opened its new National Headquarters here. The official opening of the 6,000 square foot facility coincided with *National Assistance Dogs Awareness Week, November 24 - 30, 1991*.

According to Jo Kiser, Executive Director of ADAI, the new Columbus headquarters will house administrative offices and will provide additional facilities for training assistance dogs. "Now our numerous trainers in the Columbus area will have better circumstances in which to train dogs more quickly and efficiently."

Previously, ADAI's only training center was located on approximately three acres outside Toledo in Swanton, Ohio. That facility includes a six-bedroom house and a 22-run kennel with grooming area, isolation kennel and a large out-building.

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Unlike many similar programs, dogs are trained and placed by ADAI with mobility-impaired persons around the country at no charge to the recipient. The cost to train a dog from beginning through placement is approximately \$5,000, funded through the support of civic organizations and private individuals. Last year, ADAI trained and placed 30 dogs with qualified applicants in 7 states and the goal is to place 50 dogs this year.

ADAI has received nationwide recognition and international acclaim for its work in assisting the mobility-impaired. Adding to countless news articles, ADAI has been recognized in national publications such as Dog World and Dog Fancy. In addition, ADAI has been featured in telecasts in Tokyo, Paris, Monaco, and England, and has been highlighted in Allers (the "People" Magazine of Norway and Sweden) and Chien (a published French dog magazine).

"This is an exciting time to be involved with ADAI and with the whole assistance dog concept," notes Kiser. "We're thrilled that our new National Headquarters will enable us to provide animals more quickly to those who need them." In addition, ADAI plans to offer dog obedience seminars for the general public at the Columbus facility.

Assistance Dogs of America, Inc. is located at 5236 Bethel Centre Mall, Columbus, Ohio 43220. Phone: (614) 451-2969.

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