



Dogs For Life

*Training Service Dogs
For Veterans*

Scrapbook

2013



DECEMBER

Dogmus

Dogmus 2013



Dear Santa Claws,
On the first day of Dogmus
Will my true donor give to me ...

- 1 A Vest To Meet My Service Dog Needs
 - 2 Tons of Training Treats
 - 3 Vet Bills Paid
 - 4 Calling Plans
 - 5 Golden Retrievers
 - 6 Service Dog Sponsors
 - 7 Pails of Postage Stamps
 - 8 Volunteers Helping
 - 9 Shopping Carts Overflowing
 - 10 Staff a Supporting
 - 11 Trainers Training
 - 12 Months of Giving
- And your donation to pay for all of these.



Promise I've been good,
Service Dog Sid



Happy Holidays!
From
Dogs For Life, Inc.

MISSION STATEMENT

"A non-profit organization devoted to improving the quality of life for people and dogs through training assistance dogs, yet assisted therapy dogs and creating & operating an off-leash dog park."

Website: www.dogsforlifefeb.org • E-Mail: dogsforlife@bellsouth.net • (772) 567-8969



All I Want
For
Christmas...

Dear Jude & Hammer,
Thank you, thank you, thank you
for all your time, talents and love you
share with us. "Happy woof woof Holidays!"
Thank you for all Bertha!

Thank you so much
Allet Beutell

We loved
Hammer
Bea

Jean Coffey - I just love songs!!

Thank you for all the gifts
Martha Omdorff

your puppy
is very pretty

Thanks so much, Jude!! we
look forward to
Tuesday - 11 AM.
Best Hammer & Jude.

Ethel

THANK YOU!

quint

Jackie

Rosalee Jackson

THANK YOU FOR SHARING
YOUR TIME FOR US
HERE AT THE
CENTER.

Dear Jude & Hammer....

Thank you so very much
for all the joy you bring us....
Merry Christmas to you both! ♥ Heather

Virginia





Season's Greetings

Thank you for supporting Page 2 Design in 2013. We look forward to working with you in 2014.
May your holidays be special and you savor every moment.

page
design *2*

Dogpark News



December 2013

Dogs For Life Off-Leash Dog Park Nose for News Member Newsletter

A monthly newsletter to keep you informed.

December's meeting is this Sunday, the 8th, at 4:00 PM!

Breaking News: The Ground Breaking Ceremony for the Dogs For Life Training & Administrative Center is scheduled for January 11, 2014 at 11:00 AM. We hope you can all attend this joyous occasion, which will coincide with DFL's Annual Awards Ceremony!

Agenda:

- Update on Construction and Changes in Fence Line
- Hedge recommendations for east side of property and palm tree trimming
- Reminders about chairs, water bowls and poop pick-up
- Big dog water station problem
- Plants around bald cypress trees available for members if they want to remove
- Question and Answers
- Suggestions and/or comments
- Upcoming Annual Meeting and Awards
- A volunteer is needed to take minutes at the meeting. If you would like to help, please contact Eleanor Bengyak at (772) 567-4257.



LET'S WELCOME 2014
**HAPPY
NEW
YEAR**

VERO BEACH Hometown News

Vol. 11, No. 17 Your Local News and Information Source • www.HometownNewsDL.com Friday, Dec. 27, 2013

Assistance-dog training facility coming next year

By Jessica Creagan
jcreagan@hometownnewsdl.com

VERO BEACH — The Dogs For Life assistance dog training program will have a place to call home next year, thanks to a \$350,000 fundraising capital goal that was reached this winter after several years of campaigning.

The nonprofit organization dedicated to improving quality of life for people and dogs through training mobility and hearing assistance dogs and service dogs for veterans will celebrate their fundraising feat with a ground breaking ceremony on the property at 11 a.m. on Jan. 11.

The nonprofit owns about 4 acres of land at the corner of 16th Avenue and 12th Street, and the facility will be constructed on that site, which also has a membership-only off-leash dog park.

"We're a very small organization compared to the area we live in and

See TRAINING, A8



File photo

Vero Beach resident Harry Taylor watches as Dixie, his 10-month-old Dalmatian hound mix, tries to climb a tree to get to a squirrel in the Dogs For Life Off-leash Park in March.

Training

From page A1

we just couldn't pull it off by ourselves, but we had an anonymous \$100,000 matching grant that really helped us," said Shelly Ferger, CEO and founder of Dogs For Life.

Since 2002, nearly 100 dogs have received training as mobility or hearing assistance dogs through the Dogs for Life training program, Ms. Ferger said.

Hearing dogs are trained to alert their companion of a door knock, a ringing tele-

phone or even smoke alarms.

Mobility assistance dogs are taught to help their companions by retrieving fallen objects, acting as a guide, or help with anything that could be daunting to a person with physical challenges.

Since there hasn't been a building on the property, the dog training has been taking place outdoors, when the weather permits, or in the dog's home, Ms. Ferger said.

"With the building, we will be able to train year round, and we will be able to train dogs before they go into homes," she said.

Kathi Schumann donated a substantial gift to help Dogs For Life with operations and start-up costs of the assistance dog training and administrative Center, a press release said.

Mrs. Schumann has also

joined the nonprofit's board of directors to offer critical help in expanding the veteran dog training program, the release said.

One of the newest Dogs For Life training programs is equipping dogs for veterans with both physical challenges and post-traumatic stress disorder.

"It's estimated that 80,000 veterans will retire to Florida in the next two years. These are young men and women and they aren't wanting medication, wheelchairs and crutches, they want dogs," Ms. Ferger said.

Dogs trained to assist veterans perform tasks such as creating a barrier between their companion and other people if the veteran becomes nervous, looking both ways before entering a room and protecting their

companion from behind, according to the Dogs For Life website.

"I receive calls from all over the country wanting to know if we have pre-trained dogs, and with this facility, we can hopefully expand our dog training program so we have dogs ready to go when they are needed," Ms. Ferger said.

The nonprofit is fully accredited by Assistance Dogs International, a coalition of not-for-profit organizations that train and place assistance dogs.

The Dogs For Life off-leash dog park is located at 1230 16th Ave., Vero Beach.

For more information about training programs by Dogs For Life or to make a donation, call Ms. Ferger at (772) 567-8569 or visit www.dogsforlifefvb.org.



NOVEMBER

Brennity

Dog Show & Parade



Calling all Dogs For Life, Inc. Volunteers, Assistance Dog Teams,
Pet-Assisted Therapy Teams and Dog Park Members
to Join us at the ...



Tuesday
November 12, 2013
From 10am to
12pm



The Brennity
7955 16th Manor
Vero Beach 32966

Brennity at Point West Dog Show & Parade

Vendor Fees to benefit the local Humane Society

In lieu of admission, please bring a dog toy, treat or food for
Meals on Wheels to be delivered to seniors with pets. Enjoy
hot dogs with gourmet toppings, chips, drinks and awards!

[RSVP Now](#)



WILL YOUR DOG BE BEST IN SHOW?

Bring your dogs to The Brennnity for our Dog Show and Parade! The local humane society, low-cost vaccinations, free pet I.D. tags, as well as many other pet vendors will be on-site. Enjoy hot dogs with gourmet toppings, chips, drinks and awards!

In lieu of admission, please bring a dog toy, treat or food for Meals on Wheels to be delivered to seniors with pets.

Tuesday, November 12 at 10 a.m.

RSVP to (772) 299-7900 by November 9



THE BRENNITY
- AT VERO BEACH -

COTTAGES | INDEPENDENT LIVING

ASSISTED LIVING | MEMORY CARE

8: 66/27u IN bops/W/spIC/bd -GM43: 77!

)883*13: : .8: 11!Csf oojuZ/W/spC/bd /dpr



<http://www.brennnity.com>



Muster & Music Festival



NATIONAL NAVY UDT-SEAL MUSEUM - 2013 EVENT SCHEDULE 28TH ANNUAL MUSTER & MUSIC FESTIVAL

THURSDAY, 7 NOVEMBER

2:00 P.M.ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING - MEMBERSHIP DINNER TENT-MUSEUM GROUNDS
 3:00 P.M.BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING - CONFERENCE ROOM-MUSEUM

FRIDAY, 8 NOVEMBER

9:00 A.M.MUSEUM OPENS
 11:00 A.M.DEMONSTRATION REHEARSAL
 5:00 P.M.PRE-DEDICATION CEREMONY FOR MEDAL OF HONOR STATUE FOR MUSEUM MEMBERS
 5:30 P.M.ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DINNER - CELEBRATING 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF WWII-56R.
 NCDU & UDT SPONSORED BY COOKS FROM THE VALLEY AND USMI
 MUSEUM MEMBERS AND THEIR GUESTS ONLY \$30.00 PER PERSON
 6:00 P.M.LIVE MUSIC FEATURING THE BIG BAND SOUNDS OF F.D.O. 18 PIECE BIG BAND

SATURDAY, 9 NOVEMBER

7:00 A.M.ANNUAL BEACH RUN/WALK
 11:00 A.M.SEAL DEMONSTRATIONS, INCLUDING:



SEAL PARACHUTE TEAM



SLC K-9 CAPABILITIES



SEAL SNIPER DEMO



SEAL TACTICAL-
ENEMY APPREHENSION

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



ADMIRAL
WILLIAM H. MCRAVEN
COMMANDER USSOCOM

SPECIAL GUEST



LT. COL. PATRICK C. MURPHY
101 FL - 18TH DISTRICT

MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS



H. ROSS PEROT



MICHAEL E. THORNTON
LT. U.S. NAVY SEAL (RET)



THOMAS R. MORRIS
LT. U.S. NAVY SEAL (RET)

12:45 P.M.OFFICIAL DEDICATION CEREMONY FOR MEDAL OF HONOR STATUE
 COME PARTY WITH THE NAVY SEALS AT THE CHIEF'S AFTER MUSTER BASH FEATURING:
 11:00 P.M.LIVE MUSIC FROM UPROOT HOOTENANNY
 5:00 P.M.CONCERT FEATURING THE KILLBILLIES
 7:00 P.M.CONCERT FEATURING THE AMERICAN ROGUES
 GATES OPEN AT 4:30 PM-FREE FOR MEMBERS/\$3 PER PERSON NON-MUSEUM MEMBERS
 CASH ONLY-BYO CHAIRS/BLANKETS-ATM AVAILABLE (SEE REVERSE FOR MORE INFO)

SUNDAY, 10 NOVEMBER

7:00 A.M.SUNRISE SERVICE - BEACH
 8:00 A.M.MEMORIAL CEREMONY AT
 THE MUSEUM MEMORIAL WALL



CHECK FOR UPDATES AND MORE INFORMATION AT: WWW.NAVYSEALMUSEUM.COM - OR CALL: 772-595-5845
 NATIONAL NAVY UDT - SEAL MUSEUM - 3300 N. HIGHWAY A1A, NORTH HUTCHINSON ISLAND, FT. PIERCE

From: Dogs For Life
Date: 11/10/2013 8:24:51 AM
To: undisclosed-recipients
Subject: DFL & Navy SEALs Muster Day

Attached are a couple of pictures of DFL's Booth at the Navy SEALs Muster Day (yesterday) what a turn out. Rick you must be proud... And was that really you who parachuted onto the That's what the Military Moms thought...

Thank you Rick for the GREAT location, things got off to a slow start, but AFTER the demon: belive everyone who attended, walked right by our booth.

Many stopped because of our **Dog Representative Daryl**, pic attached. And, right at \$50 v deposited in our donation jar!! We were able to hand out a lot of DFL's brochures and talk about our future training center a able to train more assistance dogs for Veterans.

I must share in conversation with one of my new friends.. A Military Mom, Lynn, while at their during the Air Show a few weeks back, she told me her son was coming home "that day" on ask her how was his homecoming. She said it was wonderful, but then went right into how d was to "send him off again". My heart ached for her, her son, and her family, as she told me gets easier, no matter how many times we see him off." But how they tried to be brave, until boarded the plane and then they cried for an hour.

We are inspired more than ever to be proud to step up and do the very best job we can to he who have and are serving our country.

Happy Veterans day and we hope to see you on Memorial Island Monday.

Sincerely,

Shelly


Shelly Ferger, Founder
President and CEO
Dogs For Life, Inc.
P.O. Box 650023
Vero Beach, FL 32965
(772) 567-8969
dogsforlifeyb@bellsouth.net
www.dogsforlifeyb.org



"Kindness is the language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see." ~Mark Twain.
Please consider including Dogs For Life, Inc. in your will, trust or other estate plans.



Member International Association of Assistance Dog Partners

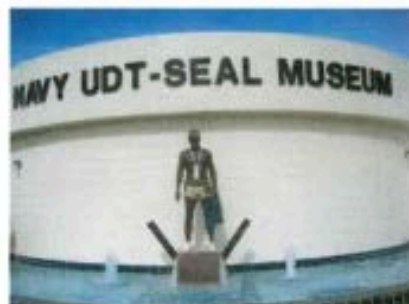
Notice of Confidential Information: The information contained in this email message, including any attachments, is confidential and may also be privileged, intended only for its apparent purpose, and only for the individual, or entity named above. If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any use, review, dissemination, distribution or copying of this document is strictly prohibited. If you have received this document in error, please notify the sender and destroy the original message. Thank you.

Attachments Preview:

navy seal.jpg

[Upload all photos to Facebook](#)

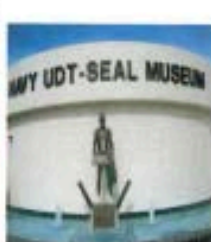
[Email this photo](#) | [Upload photo to Facebook](#)



Be on the look-out for details about our **DFL Bridge Tournament at the Vero Beach Country Club** on February 18, 2014!



Treasure Hunt Car Rally on April 26, 2014 sponsored by Kathi Schumann! Participants will start at the DFL Off-Leash Dog Park and everyone can enjoy the Finish Line party at the Heritage Center. Partnering Sponsors are the Vero Beach Auto Elite Club & Einstein Brothers Bagels. First Prize will be \$5,000!



Please come help us at the **Navy UDT-Seal Museum's 28th Annual Muster & Music Festival** in Ft. Pierce this Saturday, November 9th! Enjoy demonstrations, keynote speakers, live music and more. Volunteers are needed from 9am to 1pm to help at the DFL Tent. Please contact Shelly at dogsforlifeyb@bellsouth.net or 772-567-8969.



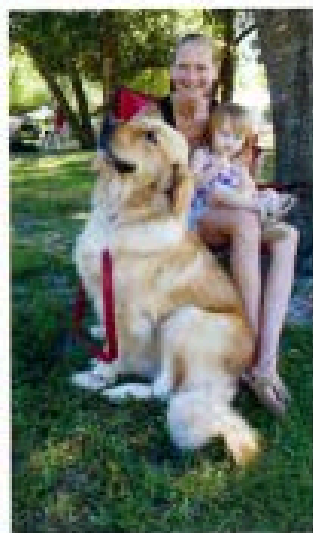
The background of the image is a repeating pattern of purple paw prints of varying sizes, scattered across a light lavender background.

OCTOBER

Howl-O-Ween







Rock with Heather Buchko and Danica



Dogs For Life volunteer Ed Boatwright leads the parade with Sassy and Terley

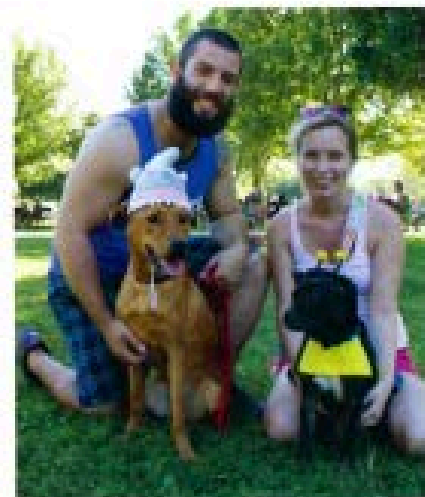


PHOTOGRAPH BY STEPHANIE BROSCH-RENNER

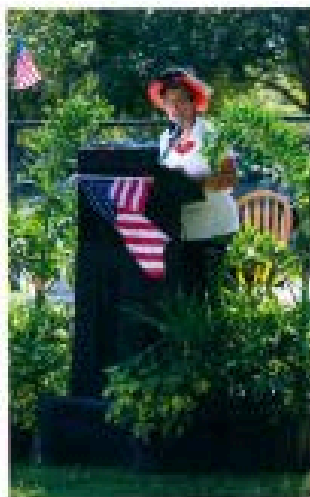
Pawrade Raises \$19,000

Sponsored by Prinz Schumann; CenterState Bank; Donadio & Associates Architects; Coast to Coast Landscaping; Vero Insurance; Atlantic Coastal Land Title Company; Frances Graves; Norman Hensick

OCTOBER 19: Over 55 dogs big and small were in costume for the 12th annual *Howl-O-Ween Dog Costume Pawrade and Pet Expo* at the Dogs For Life Off-Leash Dog Park. The event includes a costume parade, prizes and vendors, and raised \$19,000 for Dogs For Life.



Rugger with Chris Fagi and Cricket with Melissa Barry



Dogs For Life Executive Director Shelly Fager



Dogs For Life volunteers Beth Stryker with Tigger, her hearing and 911 working dog, Patti Schell and Toni Tereul



Maggie with Mickey Kelley and Dixie with Mary Kelley



Jayden and Alena holding her dog Reese



Debbie Henderson with Phoenix and Jaime Henderson with criminal Lynx and sheriff Bentley

VERO BEACH
MAGAZINE
DECEMBER
2013

180

PREVIEWS

VERO BEACH
MAGAZINE
DECEMBER
2013

Howl-O-Ween Costume Pawrade

OCTOBER 19: Dress your dogs up in their cutest costumes for the 12th annual Dogs For Life *Howl-O-Ween Costume Pawrade and Pet Expo* at the off-leash dog park.

The expo is from 2 to 5 p.m. and the parade begins at 4 p.m. The event draws over 100 dogs in costume and is free to the public. Activities include prizes for all dogs in costume, vendors, raffles and food.

Call (772) 567-8969 for more information or visit www.dogsforlifefvb.org.



Nan Pensurtya holding Nikke and Tonia O'Neill holding Nikko



STEPHANIE BROSCH-RENNER

Allison with her pup Micky

Arts MATTER

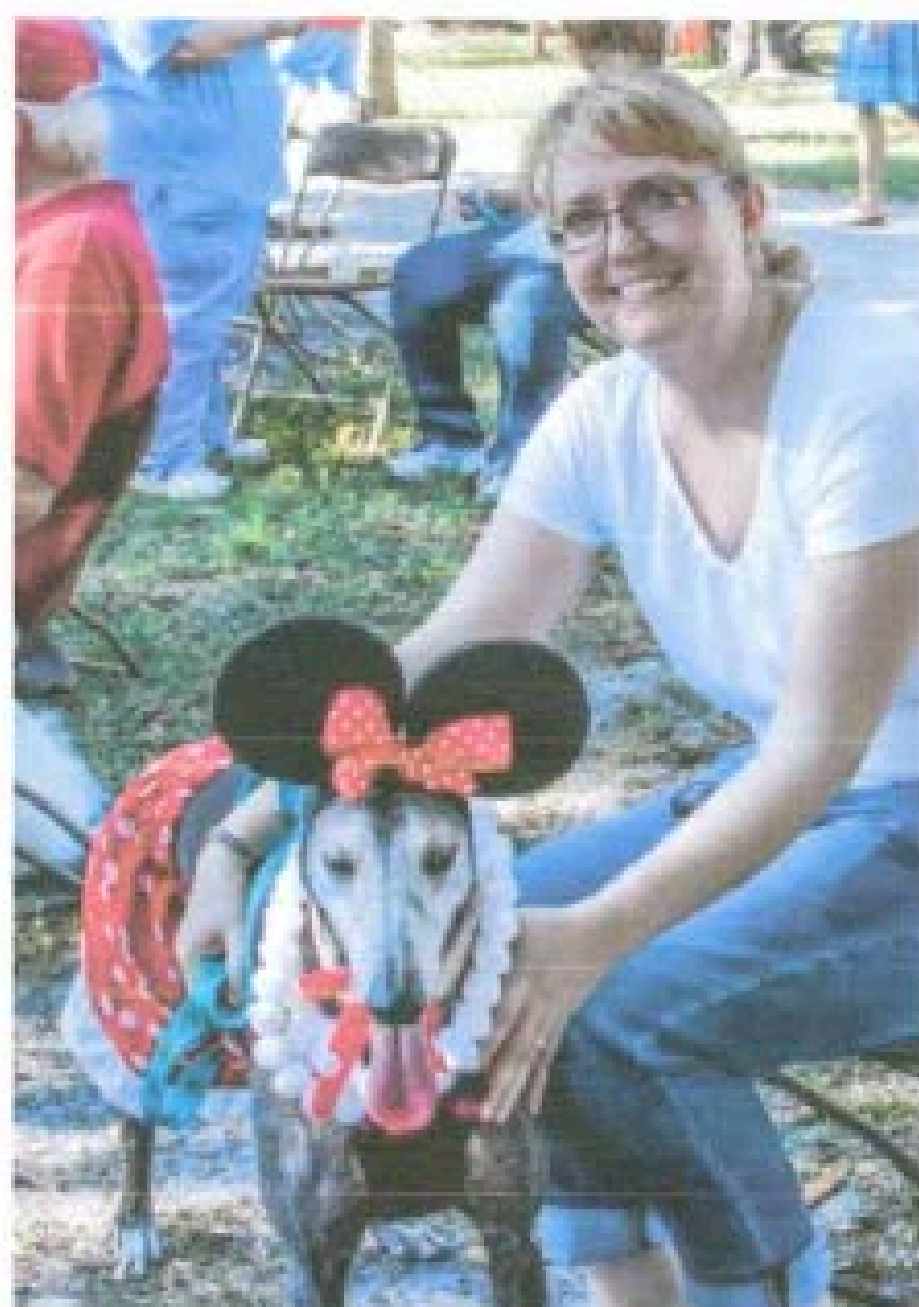
Cultural Council
CONNECTION

www.Cultural-Council.org 772.770.4857

HALLOWEEN FUN & FRIGHT NIGHT WEEKENDS

■ **Dogs for Life** presents its 12th Annual Howl-O-Ween Parade on Saturday, October 19th from 2 to 5 p.m. with the Parade beginning at 4 p.m. This canine and family friendly event will be held at the Dogs For Life Off-Leash Dog Park, 1230 16th Avenue in Vero Beach. Admission is FREE to the Public. Vendors and exhibitors wanting to participate may call 772-567-8969.





Vero Beach - Indian River County Newsweekly

WEDNESDAY • OCTOBER 28, 2013 • VOL. 3, ISSUE 31

CELEBRATING WHAT'S SPECIAL ABOUT INDIAN RIVER COUNTY

INSIDE

VERO BEACH - INDIAN RIVER COUNTY NEWSWEEKLY • CONTENTS PREPARED BY SCRIPPS TREASURE COAST NACHS DEPARTMENT • OCTOBER 28, 2013

Pets are put on parade to support Dogs For Life

BY STEPHANIE LABAFF
THE NEWSWEEKLY

Pumpkins, sharks, hippos and super-heroes invaded the Dogs For Life Off Leash Dog Park at the 12th annual Fall-O-Wear Dog Costume Parade and Pet Expo.

More than 50 pooches pranced around the park in costume and numerous others attended with their humans for the community day.

Many attendees dropped by to observe, leaving their own pets at home. About 350 people and an additional 50 dogs without costumes enjoyed the show from under the oak trees.

The mission of Dogs For Life is to "improve the quality of life for people and dogs." It's hard not to smile as you see a beagle dressed as a beach bum or a Great Dane/Doberman mix bounding by in a bee costume.

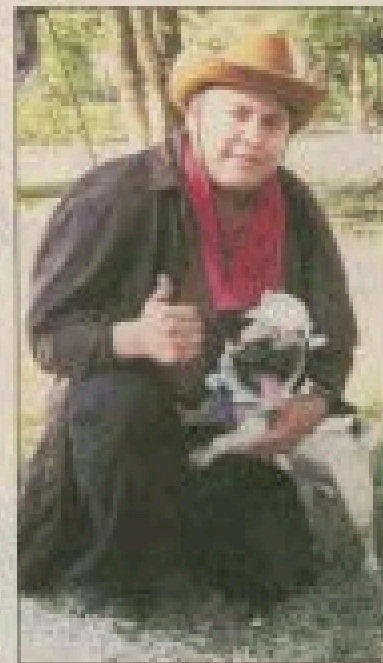
Before the parade, there was plenty of opportunity for the dogs to make new friends, play with old ones and stroll around checking out the pet vendors on hand and their wares.



Tuxedo, with owner Larry Brachfeld, is a 7-year-old standard poodle disguised as a skeleton.



Cowgirl Heidi is a 4-year-old Tibetan spaniel rescued by Corina Turner.



Jonathan Cortez brought Charlie, a 3-year-old pug, to his first parade.

More than \$5,000 worth of pet-related items was raffled off after the parade.

The annual event was established to increase "awareness that DFL is an assistance (hearing and service) dog training organization and not just a dog park," explained Shelly Fenger, founder, president and executive director of the organization.

"We wanted to allow people to 'come out and see' the park in an effort to encourage membership and of course have some fun, fun, fun!"

No animal-related event would be complete without a little chaos. One curious canine got loose and a chase ensued.

"Everyone in attendance did everything possible in an attempt to catch this dog, which was determined to run back to its owner's vehicle," recounted Fenger.

The dog made its way safely back to the car presenting a reminder of the importance of a secure collar and a reliable "come" command.

The Dogs For Life program is a



What do a hippo, a jellfish and a sheriff have in common? In this case they all love bones. Debbie & Jaime Henderson with Phoenix, a four-year old rottweiler, Lyra, a three-year-old chihuahua/terrier mix, and Bentley, a five-year old dachshund/Jack Russell.

symbolic relationship. Through the programs and training offered, dogs are rescued and trained as service dogs that in turn support people in need of assistance.

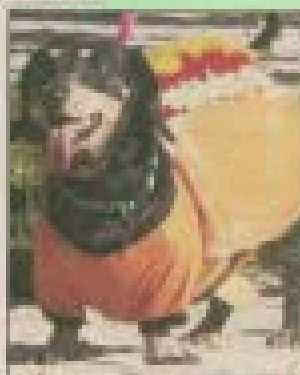
"We are so grateful to the community for supporting the building of our Assistance Dog Training Center at the 12th Street Off-Leash Dog Park," said Fenger.

"Dogs For Life is here to help people in Indian River County train their own dogs for hearing, physical and emotional support. DFL operates a safe, clean and conveniently located off-leash dog park to any dog that is inoculated, neutered and social."

Annual membership fees are \$385, with \$65 being fully tax-deductible and going directly to the training of assistance dogs. The remainder helps maintain the dog park.

For more information, visit www.dogsforlifefl.org.

MORE PHOTOS ON 7



I love a parade
Poodles and their proud owners parade in costume at a fundraiser for Dogs For Life in Vero Beach • Page 8.



Only the clown is a part of the pet assisted therapy program.



Beck, a two-year-old golden retriever, does not appear interested in wearing his sorcerer's hat.



Eagerly waiting in the wings, these good friends are ready for the parade to begin.



Tyler, 11, & Brooke Gomez, 7, with friend Chase Lathrop, 11, and Darth Vader a three-year-old boxer friend.



Minnie Mouse parades past the crowd in a fashionable ensemble.



Topsy waits his turn strutting like a true royal dressed as Prince Charming.

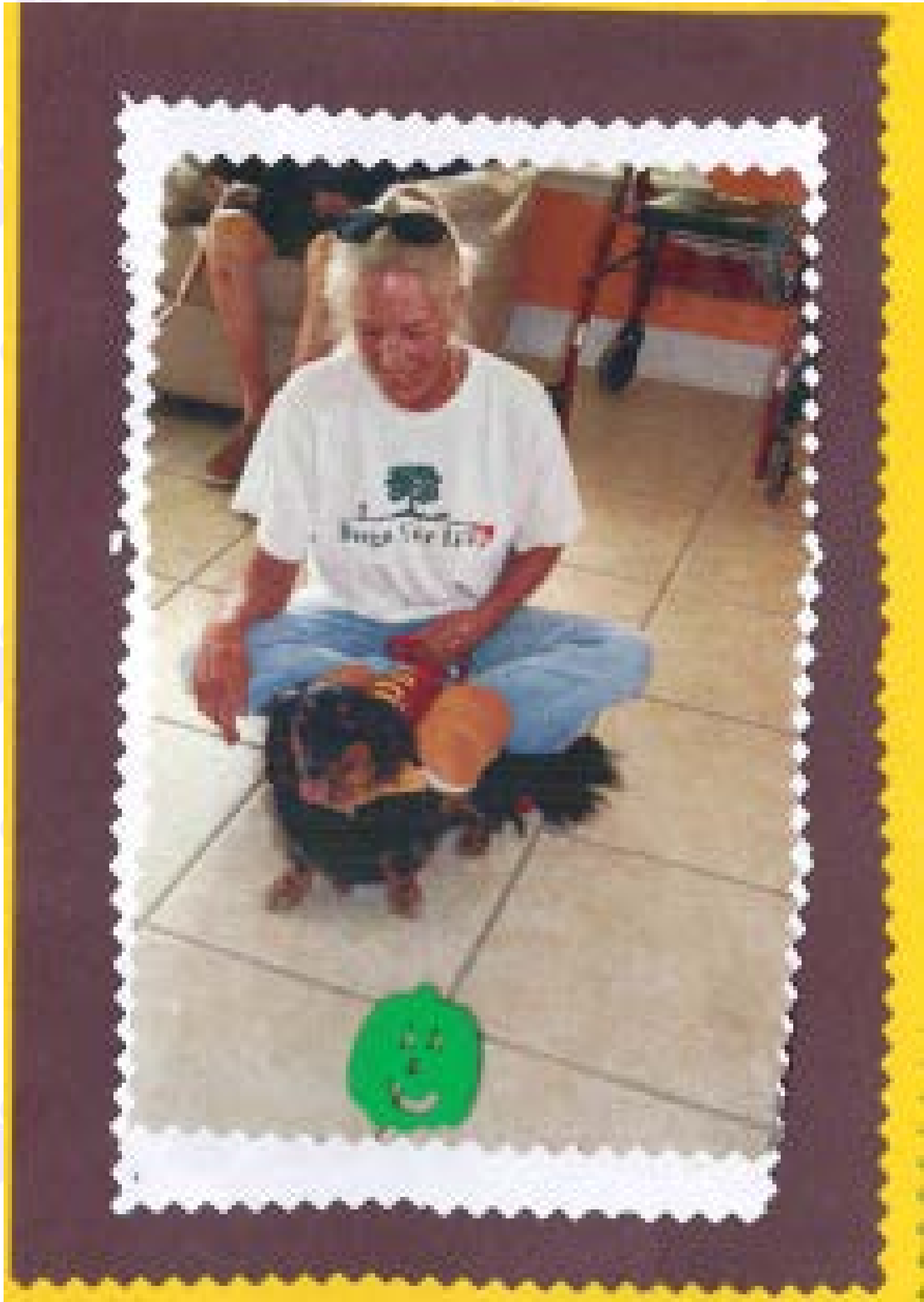
TREASURE COAST



HOME FILES/SPECIAL TO TREASURE COAST NEWSPAPERS

Get along, little doggles

Corina Turner of Vero Beach holds her Tibetan terrier, Heidi, as both dressed as cowgirls for the 12th annual Howl-O-Ween Pawrade and Pet Expo at the Dogs for Life Off Leash Dog Park in Vero Beach on Saturday. "I think it's fun for us to get all the animals together to play and hang out," said Turner, smiling. "Heidi loves to dress up."





(772) 567-8969

12th Street & 16th Avenue • Vero Beach, FL 32965



Service Dogs For Veterans

A Message From Kathi Schumann

Dogs For Life, Inc. is one of only four Assistance Dog Training organizations in the state of Florida recognized by the Veteran's Administration to certify Service Dogs for Veterans.

As stated in the Federal Register, "Service Dogs Must Be Certified by ADI or International Guide Dog Federation for Veterans with Visual, Hearing, or Substantial Mobility Impairments to Receive Benefits."

DFL's prestigious ADI accreditation enables our Service Dogs to enter VA and military facilities, and our dogs' owners are eligible to receive Benefits. Dogs trained by other organizations **do not** have these privileges.

Our dogs have been turning lives around since 2001 because they enrich people's lives – providing ears that hear smoke alarms, paws that tap 911 buttons for emergency, and legs that provide access to an unseen world.

The fastest growing need for Service Dogs is

WHY SHOULD YOU CARE?

The sobering fact is that suicide is rampant⁵:

Almost once an hour – every 65 minutes – a military Veteran commits suicide

Almost once a day an *active duty soldier* commits suicide; 349 in 2012 – a *record high*

There are now more suicides among active duty soldiers than combat deaths

Veterans make up 7% of the American population, but they account for 20% of its suicides

Our Veterans deserve our help!



Kathi Schumann gives Veteran Jim Taylor and his Hearing/Service Dog Pia Pia a special treat at the Schumann Racetrack.

in Florida, and it is for the brave military men and women who served **our** country!

231,000⁶ Veterans of Afghanistan and Iraq already claim Florida as their home of record¹.

80,000⁷ Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans will retire to Florida in the next two years².

Extrapolating national VA numbers, the news is grim for our new residents:

- 3 in 10 will have a service-related disability
- 30% will suffer from the effects of PTSD
- 50% of those with PTSD will not seek treatment
- 19% will report PTSD symptoms classified as "serious functional impairment"
- 1/3 of Florida's adult homeless are Veterans, and 45% of them will suffer from mental illness¹
- Florida is home to the highest number of amputees from the Gulf War-Era wars¹

DFL is committed to capitalizing on our 12 years of experience to train Service Dogs for these Florida Veterans in need.



Our Veterans Are Returning Home ... Without Homes



A brief look at the national numbers also gives us an idea of what awaits us here in Florida:

- 2.6⁺ million Veterans have served our country since September 2001⁴
- 307,000⁺⁺ members of our armed forces are likely to leave the military in each of the next four years⁵

Current homelessness statistics do not bode well for these brave young men and women.

PTSD, Physical Disabilities & Homelessness:

What does PTSD have to do with homelessness? The sad fact is:

- *2/3 of homeless Iraq and Afghanistan veterans have PTSD⁶*

PTSD is even far more common than physical wounds among troops who have served in Iraq and Afghanistan:

- 336,000⁺ have been diagnosed with PTSD (some studies indicate that up to 70% of Veterans suffer from PTSD)⁷
- 50,409 have been wounded⁸

While unemployment, poverty, lack of support networks and substandard housing are major reasons that many Veterans become homeless, a closer look reveals that *disabilities, both mental and physical, precede and contribute to these conditions⁹*:

- 51% of individual homeless Veterans have *disabilities*
- 50% have *serious mental illness*
- 70% have *substance abuse problems*

What's even worse:

- 1,400,000 veterans are considered "at risk" of homelessness⁶

Moreover, the VA says the numbers could be higher because they include only the homeless the department is aware of⁸.

Compounding the problem is the fact that our Iraq and Afghanistan vets are different from other Veterans. *"They're younger, much more savvy and they don't necessarily like to ask for help."*

No one who has served our country should ever go without a safe, stable place to call home.

Those who keep us safe deserve our help now!

Dogs For Life Programs and Services

Assistance Dogs are specially trained to perform tasks to assist a person with a special need 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, to provide a life of self reliance and independence for their companions. Dogs For Life specializes in hearing, mobility and psychiatric support training at no charge to our Clients. Dogs can be cross-trained depending on the needs of their companions.

Service Dogs for Veterans Training Program "task trains" dogs to assist our Veterans with hearing and mobility challenges, as well as the effects of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. This innovative program is certain to give back to our Veterans who have given so much to assure our freedom.

Pet-Assisted Therapy Dogs provide warmth and comfort to individuals in need of support and unconditional love. Certified volunteer dog teams provide pet-assisted therapy for children and seniors. Since 2002, Dogs For Life volunteer teams have visited 33 facilities in Indian River County.

Community Outreach Programs feature a Dog Behavior Hotline, Dog Placement Referral Program, Dog Behavior Workshops and Obedience Training Classes. The Off-Leash Dog Park Campus has served 492 members since opening in February 2002. Memberships help to fund programs and services.

Service Dogs Can Help Veterans with PTSD

The Department of Veteran Affairs has long recognized the effectiveness of Service Dogs for Veterans*. The Department is currently sponsoring a study to evaluate the effectiveness of Service Dogs as a treatment method for PTSD. While the results of this study will not be available until January 2014:

Other programs indicate¹⁰:

Treatment via medication	50% effective
Talk therapy	50% effective
Service Dogs	84.5% effective

Dogs For Life, Inc. (DFL) Service Dogs already help Veterans with PTSD by task-training hearing, mobility and psychiatric service dogs, as well as dogs that can be cross-trained depending on the Veteran's needs. Specifically, DFL Service Dogs help Veterans with PTSD by:

1. Waking up the owner from nightmare
2. "Creating a Barrier" around the owner to allow distance from people in a crowd
3. "Watching my back" - dog sits/dwells with back to owner's back to alert if anyone approaches
4. Making a perimeter search inside of the home before entry
5. "Popping a corner" - looking both ways before person enters a room or long hallway
6. Barking when given a hand signal if the owner feels the need to leave a stressful situation
7. Providing tactile stimulation to disrupt emotional overload of the owner
8. "Breaking the Spell" and/or combat sedative side effects
9. "Finding the Car" - when owner needs to exit building quickly and get to car
10. Calling suicide hotline on a special K-9 emergency phone
11. Carrying backpack with medical supplies and/or water
12. Providing deep pressure for calming effect
13. Reducing hyper-vigilance through teamwork
14. Serving as the owner's "combat buddy" to provide security and mitigate loneliness

Our dogs also help provide the emotional stability that Veterans suffering from PTSD need to restore peace in their everyday lives. They instill the confidence necessary to be able to leave the house, or to enter a confined space like an elevator. This critical help enables their owners to lead a life of self-reliance and independence.



* On September 5, 2012, the Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) amended its regulations concerning veterans in need of service dogs. Under this final rule, VA will provide to veterans with visual, hearing, or mobility impairments benefits to support the use of a service dog as part of the management of such impairments. The benefits include assistance with veterinary care, travel benefits associated with obtaining and training a dog, and the provision, maintenance, and replacement of hardware required for the dog to perform the tasks necessary to assist such Veterans.

¹Florida Department of Veterans Affairs
²According to local Veterans Groups
³Walter Reed Army Hospital estimate
⁴Current Population Survey (CPS) 2012, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and U.S. Department of Labor's Veterans' Employment and Training Service
⁵Department of Veterans Affairs
⁶January 2012 HUD national "point-in-time count" of the homeless
⁷The Road Study, Department of Veterans Affairs; Department of Defense
⁸VA's specialized homelessness programs
⁹Alice Murphy, VA Substance Abuse program director
¹⁰Operation Wolfhound



James Taylor, SSG U.S. Army (Ret.), Iraq War Veteran and his Hearing/Service Dog Pia Pia.

Jim Taylor, SSG, US Army Ret. & Service Dog Pia Pia

By Dawn Taylor, Jim's Spouse

Pia Pia attended many outings in 2012 with friends, neighbors and families, which included dinner at the Olive Garden and breakfast at Cracker Barrel. We've been to Texas for 10 days, visited the Spaghetti Factory, Steak & Shake and the Burleson Mall where she performed perfectly. She attended Jim's son's wedding reception and stayed right by Jim's side. When we stayed in hotels, she took to the elevators really well and comforted Jim while he was in the elevator by licking his face and holding onto him. There was a time when Jim was unable to go into an elevator and Pia Pia walked up five flights of stairs with him.

Pia Pia goes with us for normal shopping at Target, Air Force Bases, Wal-Mart and Sam's Club. She goes to Jim's Chiropractor and Counseling appointments and she was right on Jim's lap when he had to give blood at his doctor's appointment. She also attended a DFL fundraising event at the Vero Beach Country Club. When Jim needed to get the windows tinted on his car, Pia Pia was with him. The employees were impressed with her behavior and her attendance to Jim. She also attended the DFL Howl-O-Ween event in October at the DFL Off-Leash Dog Park.

Last year, Pia Pia attended a blessing for caregivers at the West Palm Beach Veteran's Hospital Chapel. December was a tough month for Jim. Pia Pia stayed right by his side at all times, in the kitchen, bedroom



and bathroom. When Jim became sick downstairs, Pia Pia came upstairs to get me from my office. She spun in circles until I got up to follow her, then she led me to Jim who was on the floor in the kitchen, too weak to get up by himself.

Many times during our trips, Pia Pia helped Jim to stay calm so that he can be patient enough to hear people talking to him. She will "speak" for him, so that he may excuse himself from a stressful situation and she alerts him when someone is at the door in a hotel, just like she does at home. She is able to pick up on his moods and distracts him with her playful antics.

Jim & Pia Pia attended a fundraising luncheon with DFL to tell his experience of having his dog trained as a service dog through Dogs For Life, Inc. Jim explained that without his dog he would have become a recluse. Pia Pia has given him a quality of life he would not have had without a service dog, and we are grateful for Jim's service to this country and the independence he gave to us all.



Pia Pia taps special K-9 emergency phone.

Spirit Saves The life of Her Owner By Tapping 911 Phone

By Dorothy Davidson

Two eyes are watching me. One is blue and the other is brown but they both belong to my dog, Spirit. She is never far from my side, waiting for something she can do for me and this was never more important than at 2:00 one morning when I found myself flat on a cold, tile bathroom floor tangled up in a walker and a wheelchair, too sick and too weak to get up. That is when I asked Spirit to "go tap help." She went to her 911 phone, activated it and two big, handsome EMS men came and took me to the hospital.

Spirit has been picking things up for me since she was a pup like bringing me my grandson's dirty socks. So when I wanted to get her certified, I turned to my friend, Shelly Ferger, and Dogs for Life in Vero Beach, FL to complete her training, especially the necessary public training that I was physically unable to do myself. They trained Spirit to tap the K-9 911 phone.

I could tell many stories about this dog like how many times she has retrieved my bird feeder or my portable phone that fell off my porch then down the bank into the woods, to how she won the hearts of all the staff and patients at Care Partners in Asheville, NC, the rehab center where we spent two weeks after coming out of the hospital. There are no words to tell you how grateful I am to have Spirit and the many people who have been so good to us along the way.



Dorothy Davidson with "Spirit", trained and certified to tap a 911 Emergency phone by DFL, as featured on ABC, Asheville, TN.

P.O. Box 650023, Vero Beach, FL 32965 • (772) 567-8969

E-mail address: dogsforlifevb@bellsouth.net • Website: www.dogsforlifevb.org



Thank you to the "Dogs for Life" family for your kindness and prayers during Abby's illness and passing.

Your support is deeply appreciated during this stressful time.

Sincerely,
 Marnie Cordy

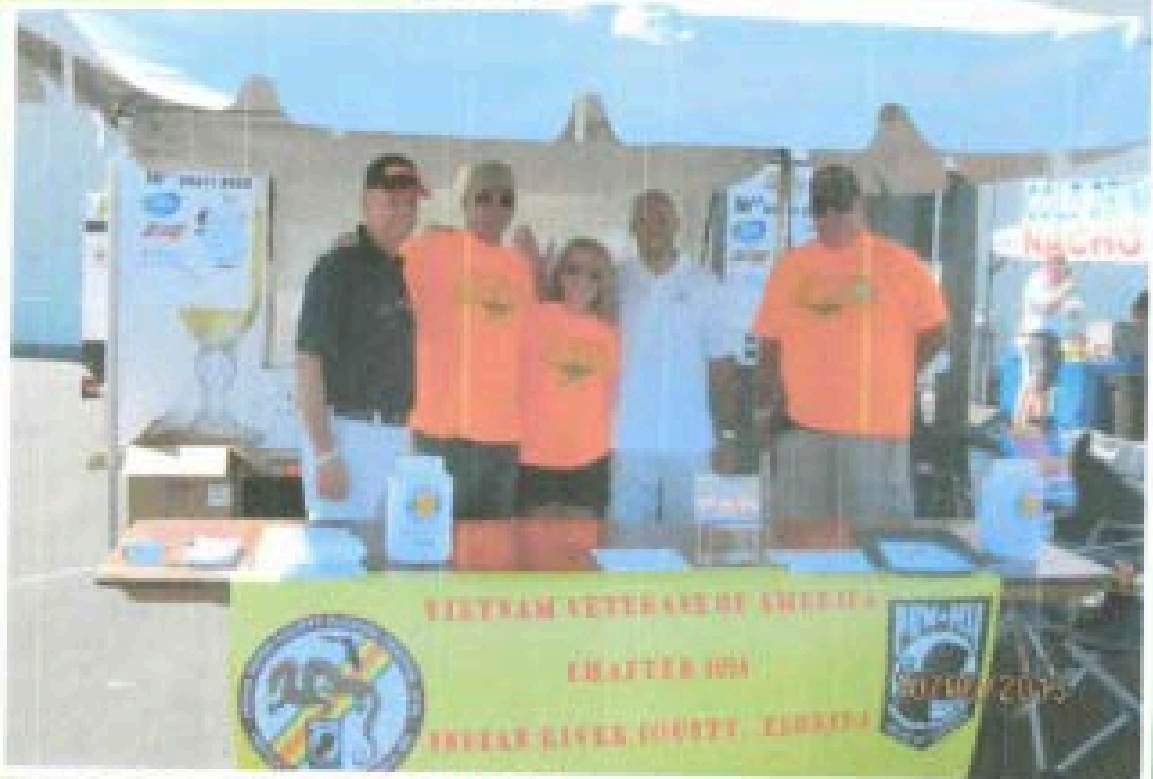


Photo Blog

GIVING
BACK



Hair of the Dog

a blog for pet photographers

[Read Blog](#) [Meet Nicole](#) [Workshop](#) [Resources](#) [Submit](#) [Contact](#) [Subscribe](#)

Greetings!

Thank you for joining me here at The Hair of the Dog, a blog for sharing business and marketing tips specific to the pet photography niche. In order to be successful in a pet photography business, or any photography business, it must be treated first and foremost as a business. I have created this resource to share tips and tricks to help you create a sustainable (ie. profitable) photography business, as well as share some inspiration along the way. The pet niche of professional photography has exploded in the past few years and shows no signs of slowing down. While there are many blogs dedicated to growing and marketing your portrait business, there are very few resources dedicated to the professional or aspiring **professional pet photographer**. I am happy to share the resources that I have discovered and I would love to hear from you. If you would like to submit a session to be featured on the Hair of the Dog or if you would like to share a guest post check out the details under the submissions tab.

[Enter the blog here!!](#)



Friday, August 20, 2010

Session Spotlight — Emma Grace Photography

Please welcome **Tampa Area Pet Photographer** Darci from Emma Grace Photography to the Session Spotlight!

I did this session with Pia Pia (pronounced pay-pay). Pia Pia was rescued by her mom and dad from a rescue group in Sebastian, FL when she was just 6 months old. She was nearly blind when they adopted her but thankfully they found a great vet who was able to save her sight. To this day, Pia Pia has no problems seeing at all. In fact, Pia Pia is now a Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) service dog for her dad. She has been one for the last 3 years. If anyone knocks on their door or rings the doorbell, she alerts them. She can even dial 911 too! Her story was featured on Fox News in West Palm Beach, FL as well as Fox News in Orlando and CNN. You can see more of her talents and what she can do for her dad in this video, which was featured on their local news: http://www.wptv.com/app/news/region_indian_river_county/vero_beach/trained-service-dog-laugh-to-dial-9-1-1-for-owner-with-post-traumatic-stress-disorder I had a great time with Pia Pia at our session. She really is a special pug!

Join us!



Hair of the Dog Retreat photography and business workshop, South Florida - Feb. 14. Registration is OPEN!

Email Goodies

Would you like to receive periodic updates from Hair of the Dog straight to your email? Of course you do!! Simply sign up below. I promise to respect your privacy and your email

Session Spotlight — Emma Grace Photography » Photography Marketing and Business Tips for Pet Photographers — Hair of the D

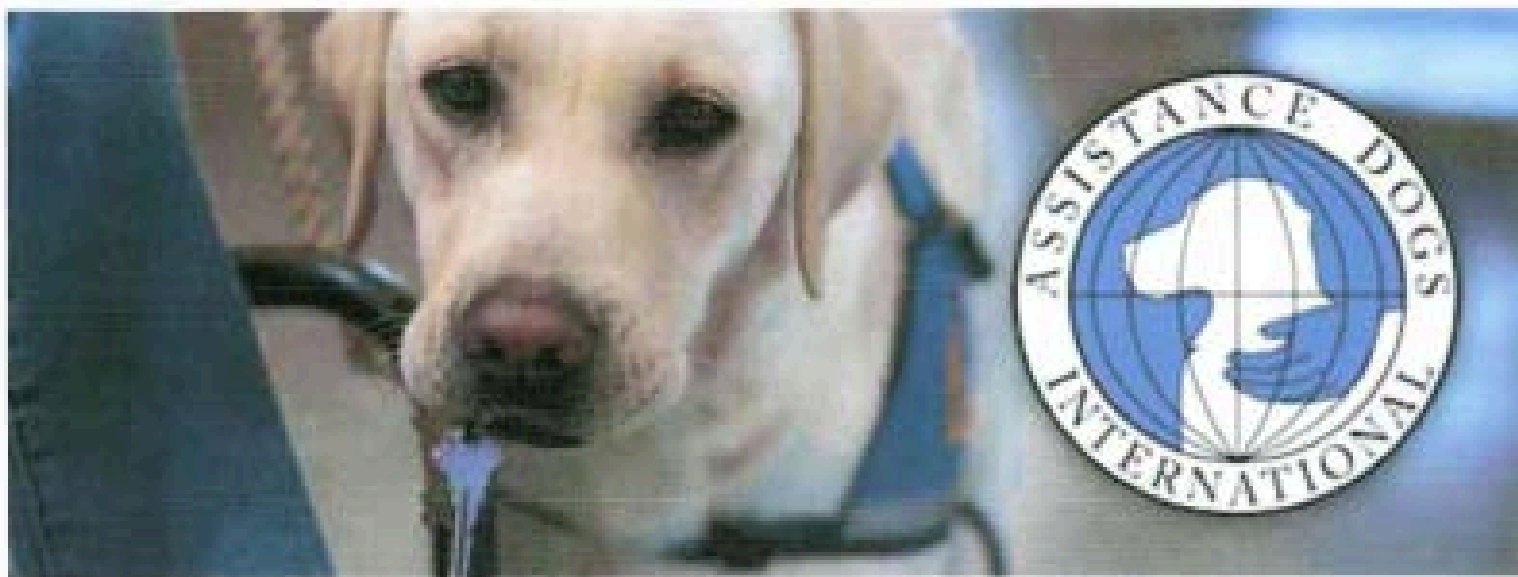
GIVING
BACK



The background of the entire page is a repeating pattern of purple paw prints of varying sizes, scattered across a light lavender background.

AUGUST

International Assistance Dog Week



In This Issue

Amazing dogs, incredible programs and cooperative growth abounds in this Assistance Dogs International member newsletter - enjoy!

- [Mark Your Calendar](#)
- [Happy International Assistance Dog Week](#)
- [Newsletter News](#)
- [2013 Trainers Conference](#)
- [Bogus Assistance Dog Backpacks and ID cards](#)
- [Good Girl Spirit!](#)
- [Task Blueprint](#)
- [US Airways Welcomes Puppies In Flight!](#)
- [Dog Finds Boy](#)
- [Service Dog Hero](#)
- [Prison Puppies](#)
- [Congratulations to newly \(re\)accredited members!](#)
- [Canine Companions for Independence Salutes the First Family](#)
- [Announcing the launch of](#)

Happy International Assistance Dog Week

During International Assistance Dog Week, we recognize and honor the hardworking assistance dogs; raise awareness and educate the public about how these specially trained animals are aiding so many people in our communities; honor the puppy raisers and trainers of assistance dogs; and recognize heroic deeds performed by assistance dogs in our communities.

Support IADW & Save on Kurgo
Kurgo is offering International Assistance Dog Week (IADW) supporters a 30% off coupon code (SX4A9ED)

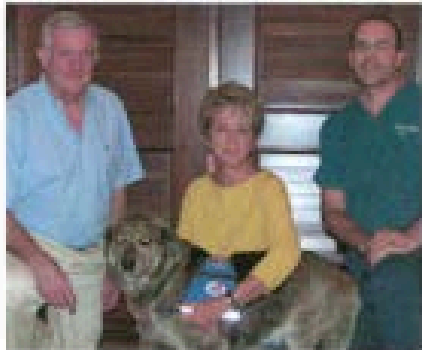
TAKE ACTION:

Tell the Department of Justice the Sale of Fake Service Dog Products Needs to Stop

Time to unite and do something about this issue, time for all ADI organizations to rally together and send their own [individual letter](#) to the Department of Justice (DOJ) to encourage the Feds to do something about this issue and to meet with ADI reps to work on a solution.

Good Girl Spirit!

Dogs for Life



Spirit, a golden retriever mix, was trained by [Dogs For Life](#), Inc. to tap a 911 phone for her owner Dorothy Davidson who now lives in NC, has been credited with saving Dorothy's life.

After a late night fall, Spirit tapped the K-9 911 emergency phone that alerted emergency personnel that her owner Dorothy Davidson needed help. Spirit spent the next two weeks with Dorothy in a rehab center, when WLOS channel 13 in Asheville NC picked up the story.

Spirit is pictured above during her stay in Vero Beach with Al Turner (DFL Vice President), Shelly Ferger (DFL Founder & Executive Director), and Darrell Horn, DVM (DFL Board Member).

Myra Fourwinds

Task training is the definitive work that makes a service dog. Tasks are built from a series of behaviors, or **parts**. The Task Blueprint asks five questions to identify the **parts** a dog needs to be trained to do to **build a task**.

Task blueprint

1. Direction | Relative to the handler, which direction is the dog going to go? There are only four possibilities:

- Stationary (no movement)
- Moving together
- Moving to handler
- Moving away from handler

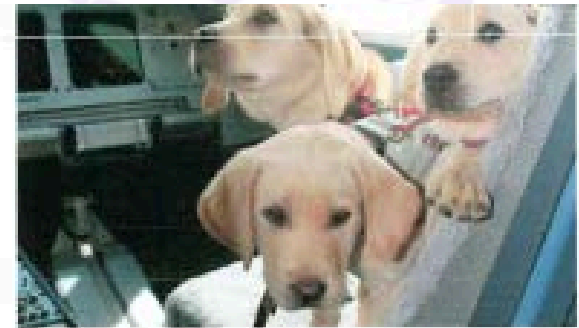
2. Event | What is the sound, cue, or event that will signal the dog to start?

3. Dog part | What part of the dog's body is going to do the action?

4. Action | What action is the dog going to start doing once the initiatory event has occurred? The action taken by the dog comes from the **parts** list of target behaviors: go find, go to, nose nudge, paw tap.

5. Destination | Where does the action end?

Using a Task Blueprint is an easy and systematic way to identify the **parts** of a **task**. All **parts** must be trained separately before putting them together to build a **task**.



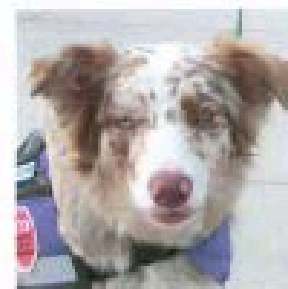
US Airways is now accepting applications year round for the Puppies In Flight program. This program allows US Airways employee volunteers to become trained to work with assistance dogs and take them on transports and test flights (short turnaround trips). US Airways and their employees are dedicated to serving the ADI community.

If your organization would like to participate in the program, please review the program guidelines before submitting an application. If your member organization has previously been accepted into the Puppies In Flight program and wish to continue your participation, we ask that you complete the application again to ensure we have your current contact information.

Please submit your application via email to puppiesinflight@usairways.com.

Dog Finds Boy

Myra Fourwinds



By age four, Harriet and Robert had a diagnosis for their son, Ravi: Autism. An educator herself, Harriet immediately began looking for resources that could help her son.

One day, at the mall, Harriet saw service dogs being trained by Dog Services. She approached the trainer to ask if they could train a service dog for a child with autism. This was the beginning of a relationship that changed both of their lives.

Four years later, the same trainer, Myra Fourwinds, got a call from Harriet. "I am having dinner out with my son." An event to celebrate, this was never possible before they had their service dog, Rosie.

Ravi can walk calmly in public with Rosie at his side. Rosie will now tan Ravi when he has no

Service Dog Hero

Patriot PAWS



Going Above and Beyond Her Training

The mission of [Patriot PAWS](#) is to train and provide service dogs of the highest quality at no cost to disabled American veterans and others with mobile disabilities in order to help restore their physical and emotional independence. Since Patriot PAWS began in 2006, we have been able to place over 50 service dogs which have changed the lives of disabled American veterans for the better.

[Patriot PAWS'](#) service dogs are trained to do many things to assist disabled veterans and are even trained to perform certain potentially life-saving tasks when needed. However, one of our placed dogs recently went above and beyond her training and ended up saving the life of her veteran.

Richard Heath of Rowlett, TX, served in both the Navy and the Army and received his service dog, Wendy, a black Labradoodle, from Patriot PAWS in December 2009. In July 2011, Richard had a stroke while home alone with Wendy. He was sitting at his computer one moment and found himself on the floor and unable to move the next. Richard is not totally clear about what happened over the next few minutes, but Wendy was able to drag Richard to his chair in the next room so he could crawl up onto it and get himself off the floor. Wendy also brought him his phone without being told offering it to his right hand as usual. When Wendy realized that Richard's right hand was not working, she offered it to his left hand instead, something she had not been trained to do. Richard managed to call his wife, Elaine, who was at work, and as soon as Elaine heard Richard's garbled speech, she knew he was in trouble. Richard has since mostly recovered from the effects of his stroke and credits Wendy with saving his life. The fact that Wendy relocated Richard to help him get off the floor, brought him his phone on her own and had the intuition to see if he could dial the phone with his left hand when she saw that he could not with his right is a prime example of how a

Prison Puppies

Freedom Service Dogs



Pets and People Gain Skills and Experience in Colorado's Correction Facilities.

For many souls, both dog and human, winding up behind bars signals the beginning of the end. But Debi Stevens, founder of the Colorado Correctional Industries (CCI) Prison-Trained K-9 Companion Program, sees hope every day on the faces of her training teams and the dogs they are helping: "It's a win-win-win for everybody on both sides of the fence and for the dogs."

Stevens started the entirely self-funded program in 2002 after witnessing positive results from the Prison-Pet Partnership program at the Washington Corrections Center for Women. These days, she is constantly on the move, managing the eight training teams—consisting of 12 to 24 offenders—currently in place in five of the state's prisons.

Offenders must undergo a complex screening process (sex offenders are not eligible, for example) in order to become part of the program. They must be free of any infractions for at least six months, have their GED or a high school diploma, and possess good reading and writing skills. The trainers are given written instructions to supplement the directions they get from Stevens or one of her staff members on a weekly basis. In addition, they must keep a journal of the dog's progress, make reports, and give a final presentation when the dog is ready to graduate.

The dogs themselves fall into two groups. The first are pets belonging to exasperated owners who have reached the limits of their ability to cope with behavioral problems. These four-week boarders are in for training, for socialization, and to address specific issues, such as jumping, barking, or other naughtiness. Stevens says this often represents a dog's last, best chance to stay with his or her family and be a good pet.

The rest—approximately 40 percent of the dogs—come from shelters and other rescue situations. These dogs have been lost or abandoned and are in desperate need of both love and discipline. They are taught basic commands, good manners, and sometimes a trick or two to up their chances of being adopted. In addition, dogs whose size and temperament might make them good service dog candidates, are evaluated by Freedom Service Dogs (FSD) trainers for possible inclusion in its rigorous service dog-training program. Freedom Service Dogs is the only such organization to receive dogs from the CCI program.

Currently, 140 dogs are in training with CCI, and over the past 10 years, more than 7,000 wagging tails have found their way into and out of the prison yard with some very happy results.

Stevens calls dogs "ambassadors", helping the corrections officers and the offenders relate to each other as human beings, for example, giving them something to talk about other than the business of incarceration. And, more importantly, she says, the program builds confidence in offenders who may believe they have hit bottom. "Dogs don't judge," she says. "Dogs accept them for who they are. And these offenders, who sometimes feel or are made to feel like they are no good to anybody, they care for and meet the needs of the dog and learn that they do have something to offer. It's pretty phenomenal."

Many of the dogs rescued and trained by Freedom Service Dogs in Englewood, Colorado, come from the Prison-Trained K-9 Companion Program. Above, the recently graduated team of Lonnie and Gander show off their bond. Lonnie, a veteran, says of his service dog Gander, "Who rescued who?"

Canine Companions for Independence Salutes the First Family



On January 21st, [Canine Companions for Independence](#) had the privilege of marching down Pennsylvania Avenue in the 57th Presidential Inaugural Parade.

"Canine Companions was honored to be chosen to participate in the Presidential Inaugural Parade. We're grateful to have shared in the historic day and to share our mission of serving people with disabilities worldwide," said Corey Hudson, CEO.

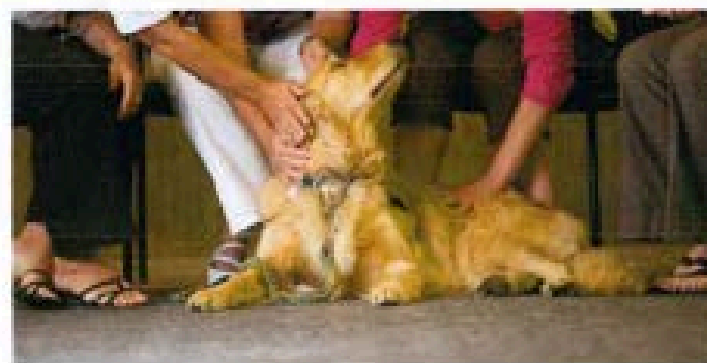
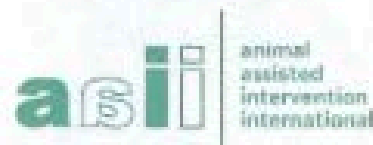
Canine Companions had nationwide participation with 130 marchers from 14 states, along with 56 dogs. Dressed in bright yellow jackets, the marchers included people with disabilities and their assistance dogs, puppy raisers and volunteers.

"I was so proud to be walking with Sajen. He has been my best friend and helper for nine

years and will be retiring soon, but it was so special to walk with him down Pennsylvania Ave.," said Canine Companions graduate Caroline Elgin. "He trotted along and wagged his tail the whole time like he knew this was something special."

One of 60 organizations chosen from over 2,800 applications, this is the second time dogs marched in the parade but a first for an assistance dog organization. Close to one million people attended the inauguration festivities in Washington D.C., which were broadcast worldwide.

Announcing the launch of Animal Assisted Intervention International - AAI



Key objectives of our Association are to:

Establish and promote standards of excellence in all areas of Animal Assisted Intervention:

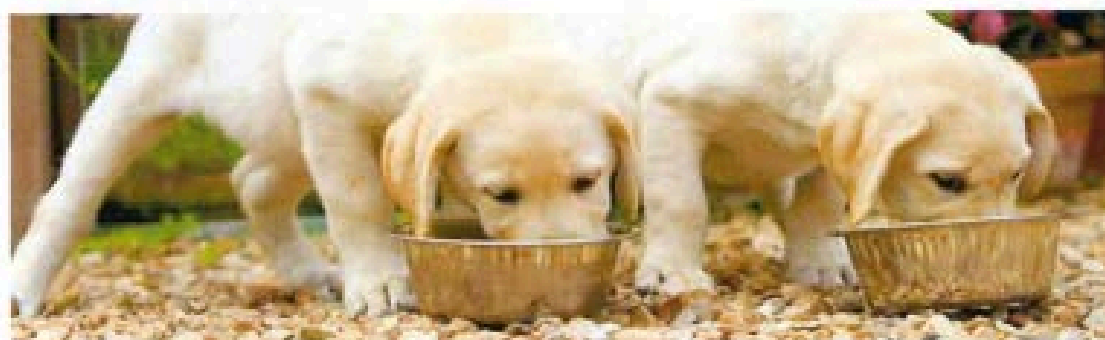
- Selection, training, implementation and work.
- Facilitate communication and exchange between members
- Disseminate information to the public about the benefits of Animal Assisted Intervention

The first AAI Conference will be held on 5-6 November 5 & 6 2013 in Spa, Belgium (back-to-back with the ADEu Conference | 3-5 November 2013), where we will have the opportunity to meet and discuss in person. During the First General Meeting the first AAI Board will be chosen.

To find out more, and to join as a member, please read the Letter of Invitation of Interim President Melissa Winkle, Dogwood Therapy Services, Inc., Albuquerque NM, USA, and visit the website www.animalassistedintervention.org. Membership application is open to both individual practitioners and/or organizations from all countries around the world.

Peter Gorbng, Dogs for the Disabled, UK
Sven G Hultman, Svenska Vardhundskolan, Sweden
Lucija Katalenic, Croatian Guide Dog and Mobility Association, Croatia
Teo Mariscal, Fundacion Bocalan, Spain
Jennifer Rogers, PAALS, USA
Danny Vancoppennolle, Dyadis, Belgium
Melissa Winkle, Dogwood Therapy Services, USA
Elma Burg, Assistance Dogs International / Assistance Dogs Europe

Help Inform Research for Assistance Dogs & Their Partners



Maureen White, a sophomore, in the Engineering program at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI) located in New York State, has always had a strong desire to be of assistance in the world, and she is anxious to start putting her skills to use even before graduation.

To this end, she is designing a Special Project whose goal is to create an easy to use Automatic Feeding System for Assistance Dogs whose humans might have challenges in reaching, cleaning, remembering, or otherwise accessing the way they feed their beloved companions.

An important aspect of this project is researching exactly what Assistance Dog Owners would want in such a device. What do they see as the needs? What details would be most useful to them? What problems have they encountered that they really would like to see solved? Once these are clearly identified, these budding engineers can go to work applying their new skills on the best design possible. But, the concepts have to come from the people, and their dogs, who will use this device.

Please share the short questionnaire her team has developed to help them get feedback from Assistance Dog owners. It would be a great value to this project if you could help distribute this to as many Service Dog owners as possible so the student engineers can get a

Mac the German shepherd: An aspiring therapy dog



Hi Dog Buddies!

Mac, an 18-month-old German shepherd who lives in Castaway Cove with his human mom Toni Teresi, recently emailed me saying: "Bonzo, I love your column BUT ..."

Uh oh. Nothing good ever comes after the word but.

"I read your interview with that puny little Jack Russell terrier named Havana a few weeks ago. I have to be straight with you, Bonz," Mac said. "I



don't know what you were thinking when you chose to interview her."

"Well," I sputtered. I knew the instant Havana uttered the words "ridiculous German shepherd" that it was going to be trouble.

"Bonzo, even though I'm a laid back dude, I would like to meet this Havana nose to nose and see if she wants to call all 100 pounds of me ridiculous. Unlike Havana, I don't chug beer because I'm in the beginning stages of training." Uh oh.

"Now don't get your tail all twisted in a knot, Mac. You don't need to sink down to Havana's level, literally. Why don't you tell me why you're in training?"

"Oh sure, Bonzo," Mac said. "I aspire to be a therapy dog and to wear that super cool vest. Mom thinks I

need to be a bit more 'mature,' though. Whatever that means."

"Fantastic," I said. "But I can understand your mom's thinking, Mac. After all you are just a pupster."

"Yeah, I guess," Mac said. "But don't let my age fool you, Bonz. When I was younger, my life wasn't as wonderful as it is now. My mom found me living under a shed and brought me home with her. That's why I'm really stoked about becoming a therapy dog. I want to pay it forward."

"Good for you bro," I said. "So, since you're in the preliminary stage of training, what do you do with the rest of your time?"

"Well, mom and I hang out together a lot," Mac said. "I like to get her up at 6 a.m. and get her to take me for a long walk on the beach. I like to chase the sea foam. Then breakfast at Cravings on Ocean Drive where I can socialize with everyone."

"Mondays are my favorite day because Barry the pool guy comes to clean the pool," Mac said. "I like to help him because I want to make sure he does a good job. When Barry leaves, I give the pool a final inspection by walking the perimeter of the pool."

"While I'm in inspection mode, I survey the yard to make sure all is well and trot back to the table where Barry has left me a cookie for all of my efforts."

"By now it's lunch time," Mac said, "And mom and I head out to the Arby's drive through where mom buys me a cup of roast beef. Then it's off to the off-leash dog park where I get to run and play with all of my dog buddies. When mom thinks I'm ready, I will continue my training at the dog park to become a certified therapy dog."

"But for now," Mac said, "I'm cool with just hanging out by the pool and enjoying life with my pawsome mom."

"You are living the life, Mac," I said. "But can you do me a little favor and swing by my house the next time your mom takes you to Arby's for roast beef?"



April 30, 2013

**CONTACT: Shelly Ferger, Founder/President, and CEO
772-567-8969**

**Vero Beach Veterinary Hospital
Sponsors Annual Assistance, Hearing and Service Dog Eye Exams**

Kattis Stengard, DVM, CVA owner and operator of the Vero Beach Veterinary Hospital is sponsoring an annual FREE eye exam for all Service Dogs on Saturday May 4.

Dogs For Life, Inc. (DFL) a 501(c) (3) tax deductible, non-profit organization dedicated to improving the quality of life for people with disabilities by training assistance dogs for hearing and mobility dogs, as well as veterans with the effects of PTSD will be the recipient of donations received on the day of the event.

Contact The Vero Beach Veterinary Hospital for an appointment at 772-562-0200, located at 1905 43rd Avenue, Vero Beach, FL.

For additional information on how to make a tax-deductible donate to the trainign of service and hearing dogs or to apply for assistance dog training, please contact Shelly Ferger at (772) 567-8969.

The background of the entire page is a repeating pattern of purple paw prints of various sizes, scattered across a light lavender background.

APRIL

Yacht Club



Vero Beach Yacht Club
Vero Beach, Florida 32963



*Richard Rogers, Shelly Ferger,
Jim Taylor with Pia-Pia, Dawn Taylor
and Ed Burnett*



Card Created by Richard & Annie Rogers April 2013

Dear Shelly,

Thanks so much for the wonderful and enlightening presentation on Dogs for Life on Thursday, April 11. With your enthusiasm and your team's support you have a "go" machine working toward your goals of helping and improving the lives of both man and dog.

I hope the time spent at the Club was as rewarding for you as it was for our members.

Wishing you all the best. We'll be in touch.

Richard & Annie

News Articles

26
SCRIPPS NICHE PUBLICATIONS • LUMINARIES • WEEK OF MAY 27, 2013

Luminaries seen at . . . Donor & Volunteer Appreciation

April 6, 2013

It was a great day at the Dogs for Life Donor & Volunteer Appreciation event held at the off-leash park. Indian River County Commissioner Joseph Flescher was the guest speaker, applauding DFL for running a top-notch dog park and for the commitment to training service dogs. Awards were presented, 4-H Dog Masters presented a demonstration and everyone enjoyed a barbecue lunch.



Jack Saucerman and Shelly Feger



Sydney Liebman and Shelly Feger



Elisabeth Sexton-Stryker with Shelly Feger



Carol Harwig



Indian River County Commissioner Joe Flescher



Fred Jones with Shelly Feger

Press Journal Section B

Indian River COUNTY

Wednesday, April 10, 2013

Quick Read

4-H DOG SHOW COMING SATURDAY

Dogs For Life, Inc. is sponsoring the 4-H Dog Masters Annual Dog Show at the off-leash dog park, 1230 16th Ave., Vero Beach at 11 a.m. Saturday.

The club will be asking for a \$5 donation to help with community service projects.

Members will show their dog obedience and agility training skills. Bring your lawn chairs. A dog park membership will be given to a family with a dog that is inoculated, neutered and social. The club is open to children ages 8 to 18.

Call Shelly Feger at 772-567-8969 or Lindsay Adams, Indian River County 4-H extension agent, at 772-770-5030 for more information.



Darel, retired ATF bomb detection dog

RETIRED BOMB-SNIFFING DOG TO BE AT DOG SHOW

Retired Special Agent L.A. Bykowski has agreed to bring her dog, Darel, a retired ATF bomb detection dog, to "lend a paw" at the 4-H Dog Masters Club Dog Show and fundraising project.

The show is at 11 a.m. Saturday at the Off-Leash Dog Park at 1230 16th Ave., Vero Beach. A \$5 donation is requested.

Country club sponsors training



Photo provided

James Taylor, SSG US Army Retired, and DFL trained and certified service dog Pia Pia receive a donation on behalf of the Dogs For Life, Inc. Veteran Dog Training Program from Russell Mann from Vero Beach Country Club.

Dogs For Life, Inc. (DFL), non-profit organization dedicated to improving the quality of life for people with disabilities by training assistance dogs for hearing and mobility dogs, as well as veterans with the effects of PTSD, has received sponsorship toward the DFL Veteran Dog Training Program.

The DFL Board of Directors is grateful to the Vero Beach Country Club for helping

to sponsor training for veterans with disabilities and who suffer from the effects of Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome.

The Assistance Dog Training Center Campaign is underway and the training center will be built at the off-leash dog park property located at 12th Street and 16th Avenue in Vero Beach. For additional information, call Shelly Ferger at (772) 367-8969.

APRIL 10, 2013 • CONTENTS PREPARED BY SCRAPPS TREASURE COAST NICHE DEPARTMENT • VERO BEACH • INDIAN RIVER COUNTY NEWSWEEKLY

Dogs for Life seeks money for canine training center

VERO BEACH — An Assistance Dog Training Center may be on the horizon for the Dogs for Life dog park on 16th Avenue after an anonymous donor pledged \$100,000 to the cause.

Dogs for Life president Shelly Ferger said the non-profit must raise an additional \$100,000 needed for construction. Dogs for Life previously raised \$100,000 for the \$300,000 center and during the past two months, members and benefactors have contributed an additional \$50,000.

Ferger said the Assistance Dog Training Center will enable Dogs for Life to train even more hearing and service dogs for local residents, expand the "Canines for Comfort" program and offer a new "Service Dogs for Soldiers" program for local veterans returning from war. It will also offset the costs associated with

Press Journal

Section B

Indian River

COUNTY

Thursday, April 4, 2013 »

Canine training center in the works

■ Dogs for Life hopes to open facility; looking to raise \$100K for site

By Janet Begley
Special to Treasure Coast Newspapers

VERO BEACH — An Assistance Dog Training Center may be on the horizon for the Dogs for Life dog park on 16th Avenue in Vero Beach.

Dogs for Life president Shelly Ferger said an anonymous donor pledged \$100,000 toward the training center if the nonprofit can raise an additional \$100,000 needed for construction.

Dogs for Life previously raised \$100,000 for the \$300,000 center, and during the past two months, members and benefactors have contributed an additional \$50,000.

Ferger said the Assistance Dog Training Center will enable Dogs for Life to train even more

hearing and service dogs for local residents, expand the "Canines for Comfort" program and offer a new "Service Dogs for Soldiers" program for local veterans returning from war.

It also will offset the costs associated with operating the dog park, which Ferger said will remain open throughout 2013 thanks to an anonymous donation.

Last year, the 4.5-acre park on 16th Avenue and 12th Street was slated to close Dec. 31 when Ferger said the nonprofit organization could no longer afford the costs associated with running the off-leash park. At that time, Ferger said she was interested in selling the park to someone who would commit to operating it for years to come.

ANNUAL EVENT

Dogs For Life will hold its annual Donor and Volunteer Appreciation Event at 11 a.m. April 5 at the Off-Leash Dog Park, 1230 16th Ave., Vero Beach. Awards will be presented to volunteers and admission is free. All are invited to attend.

But members of the dog park rallied to save it and offered to help with expenses at least through February. Now, an anonymous donor has offered to cover expenses through the rest of the year.

To help increase membership from the current 130, Ferger has been offering "get acquainted" rates of \$25 per month to allow the community to try out the park. New membership rates are \$300 annually, plus a \$65 donation to the capital campaign. The

fee covers all dogs from the same household.

"We've come a long way," Ferger said. "We are very grateful to the people who stepped up, especially those who have been with us since the beginning."

Beth Stryker of Vero Beach serves as an advisory board member for Dogs for Life and said she's hoping many Vero Beach dog owners check out the dog park during its trial run.

"We are hoping many dog owners will take

advantage of the trial offer to see for themselves just how beneficial the park is for their canine companion," Stryker said.

With the dog park on solid ground for the rest of the year, Ferger has turned her attention to building the Assistance Dog Training Center. She said the organization needs to raise another \$50,000 before it can break ground.

"We have to raise it quickly," Ferger said. "We're hoping to build over the summer since we already have all of the permits in place."

But once the training center is completed, the future of the dog park is practically assured, Ferger said.

"The dog park will be there forever," she said.

VERO BEACH

Dogs for Life plans appreciation event

Dogs For Life is having its annual Donor & Volunteer Appreciation Event at 11 a.m. April 6 at the Off-Leash Dog Park, 1230 16th Ave., in Vero Beach.

Fred Jones and Sissy Girl will be presented with the Assistance Dog Team of the Year Award. Carol Hartwig and Baxter will be presented with the Pet

Assisted Therapy Team Award. Jack Saucerman will be presented with the Volunteer of the Year Award. Sydney Liebman, editor of Luminaries of Scripps Treasure Coast Newspapers, will be presented with the Media Award. Elsebeth Sexton Stryker will be presented with the Individual Philanthropist Award, and Anthony Donadio will be presented with the Corporate Philanthropist of the Year Award.

Dogs for Life is a nonprofit organization that trains and certifies hearing and mobility assistance dogs, as well as "Service Dogs For Soldiers" and "Canines For Comfort."

Staff reports



PEOPLE

Golf outing at Moorings benefits SEAL causes

STAFF REPORTER
Continued

The beautiful shoreline setting of The Moorings Golf Club was the site of the inaugural golf tournament and luncheon to raise money for dual Navy SEAL causes.

The UDT-SEAL Museum, just south of Vero, and Trident House, an Indian River waterfront residence recently donated to the museum by Bill and Betty Hensle, were the beneficiaries Saturday of this fine-and-very event.

Nearly 100 people showed up for the tournament and luncheon, among them former and active SEALs, Navy personnel, museum volunteers and staff, and a strong contingent of Vero Beach residents.

Museum volunteer Tom Ilatano chaired the organizing committee, with Bill, co-chair of the event, and Dave Goddard, also co-chair, a retired SEAL and museum board president, were grateful for The Moorings' support. Goddard brought the idea to Ilatano, a Moorings resident.

A lot of money exists in converting a SEALs benefit golf tournament.

Both retired and active SEALs recognize that they lack professional golfing skills. "If you meet a SEAL, when a good golfer, he's probably not a good SEAL," said Rick Kaiser, the restaurant's executive director and Vero resident. "They don't spend that much time on land."

It's a sentiment echoed by Mark Lohrke, an active SEAL participating in the tournament. "It's just golf," he said, but his teamwork did very well and ended up saving money for the day.

Among the incentives for good golf were two "hole-in-one" contests. Rick of Melbourne donated a chance to win



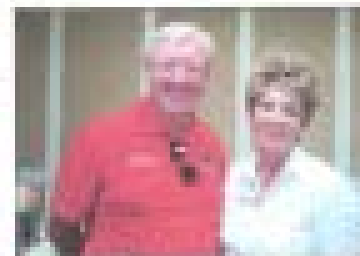
Chuck Williams, Jack Gervino and "Mudbug" Williams



Rick Miskind and the host



Tom Goddard, Mark Ilatano and Tom Ilatano



Mark Ilatano and Betty Hensle

an Audi A4, and Cropper BMF donated a 128. Neither can "come home with a golf," but Steve Morisset, a Moorings member, managed his first ever hole-in-one on the 11th, which earned him a trip to Las Vegas. The Moorings Realty Sales Co. also offered inspiration with a \$10,000 prize in the putting contest.

The SEALs are a very close-knit community with a life-long bond. They have three main organizations: The Navy SEAL Foundation takes care of active duty and former SEALs; the UDT SEAL Association helps vets and retired SEALs; and the museum which focuses on education and history.

Trident House offers co-occur bill to support and better support SEALs or families of fallen SEALs and their families. "But because they loved one has died, it doesn't mean that they're going to be forgotten," said Kaiser.

museum, for "Mud Bug" Williams, UDT-SEAL Association executive director, and Goddard and Williams.

"We've started taking care of our guys who make it through combat and are wounded, so when they get out, somebody's there to help them," said Chuck Williams, president of UDT-SEAL association.

Retired soldiers for and Trident House were co-sponsors of the tournament and have taken their kids to the museum for many years. They invited Kaiser and Ted Perry, 25-year Vero residents, into their homes.

"This is an easy one," said Ted Perry. "For everything they do for us, the least we can do is play a round of golf."

Goddard praised Kaiser's dedication to the inaugural event. "They went out on his own initiative and created this event," Goddard said.

Ilatano credited numerous volunteers and their efforts, including Andy Brady, volunteer coordinator at the museum, Dorothy Francois, Ron Kruggs, Lisa Fulton, Scott Cooper, and all those who give their time. ■

Many distinguished SEALs participated, including Rick Miskind, a retired SEAL team commander and flag-piper at the annual water field at the

Foundation Forum Focuses On The Lagoon

APRIL 10: The Community Foundation launched a *New Foundation Forum*, which focused on the Indian River Lagoon and provided an opportunity for board members and employees of private foundations to learn and discuss the area's critical needs.



Indian River Community Foundation Executive Director Kerry Barlett with Al DeCresce



Georgia Wiles, Carolyn Smith and OPCA President Dr. Judy Wulder with Dr. William Smith and Sharon Smith

Dogs Have Their Day At Masters Club Show

APRIL 10: Dogs and their owners from Indian River County gathered to show off their obedience and agility training skills for the 4-H Masters Club Dog Show at the off-leash dog park. The day featured a demonstration by L.A. Rykowski and her retired ATF explosives detection dog David.



Georgia Wiles with Miss Isabelle with Daisy and Abby. Standing: Melia Isabella and Journey with Cygn

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VeroBeach

Magazine

BARBERRY 2018

All this summer, come to Verobeach, July and August

PLUNGING INTO SUMMER





The background of the entire page is a repeating pattern of purple paw prints of varying sizes, scattered across a light lavender background.

MARCH

Daisy Mae,



Hi Dog Buddies!

SEBASTIAN RIVER NEWS / March 21, 2013

23



PETS

the certified hearing and service dog

This week I got an email from Daisy Mae Smith, a 9-year-old beagle/springer spaniel mix who lives in Sebastian with her humans Lawrence (Opa) and Hildegard (Oma) Smith.

In case you don't speak German, Oma and Opa are colloquial terms for grandma and grandpa.

The Smiths are hard of hearing, and Daisy Mae is a certified hearing dog as well as a service dog.

Were you raised to have such an important job?" I asked her

"Heck no," replied Daisy Mae. "I was given to Oma and Opa by their grandson, and my 'job' was originally supposed to be being a D-O-G. When I was a pupster, all I wanted to do was play, play and play.

"But one day, Oma and Opa were in



their room lying on their bed reading. I heard the smoke detector screaming and something told me I had to alert Oma and Opa."

"Wow," I said impressed. "Was that when you started your job?"

"No Bonzo," Daisy said rolling her eyes. "It's not that easy to be a service dog even though I did have the talent for it."

"A couple of weeks later, Oma and



Opa were walking through the mall. They saw a woman sitting at a table with a sign which said 'Dogs for Life.'"

The lady turned out to be Shelly Fenger, the organization's founder, who explained to Oma and Opa that the Dogs for Life assistance training program could prepare Daisy Mae to respond to and serve Oma and Opa with their special needs. Oma and Opa

signed Daisy Mae up right on the spot.

"I was so NOT into being told what to do and met the training with great resistance," Daisy Mae recalled. "I was what they call a 'not so easy to train dog,' but then I realized-if I did what I was told to do, I'd get a treat."

"Shelly told Opa, Oma and me my training would begin with basic obedience at the DFL off-leash dog park," Daisy Mae said. "Then we moved into the hearing trained tasks which included the smoke alarm, alarm clock, and door knock."

"I'm even certified to tap a K-9 emergency response phone," Daisy Mae said with pride. "Everybody is always surprised when they find out I have my own phone. And get this, Bonzo. Not to brag but I even went beyond the basics, learning how to 'get Oma' when Opa commands me to do so. I also 'get Opa' when Oma commands me."

"These days I wake up and start my training. Opa starts breakfast and when he says 'get Oma,' I go to the bedroom, wake her up and bring her to the kitchen."

"My favorite parts of the day are when Opa, Oma and I go walking by the river at the park," Daisy Mae said. "But hanging out with my humans and knowing my job is to help make their lives safer and less stressful is what makes me happy and content."

"Daisy Mae, you forgot to mention all of the treats you get," I said.

"Well young Bonzo," she said, "at first it was all about the treats. But now, it's all wanting to please, love and be my humans' best friend and protector."

I still think the treats are important.

Till next time,

The Bonz



From: Dogs For Life
Date: 3/16/2013 8:59:38 AM
To: bonzothe columnist@gmail.com
Cc: [Smith L&H](#); [Schell Patti](#)
Subject: Re: Daisy Mae Smith

Dogs For Life, certified Daisy Mae in 2006 as a hearing dog as well as a service dog that was trained to tap a K-9 emergency response phone.

Her training began with basic obedience at the DFL off-leash dog park and then moved into the hearing trained tasks: the smoke alarm, alarm clock, and door knock.

Both Hildegard and Lawrence were dedicated to training a "not so easy to train - (follow my nose) Beagle". But with the guidance of DFL Trainer Patti Schell they were able to perform all of the required tasks. Once Daisy Mae knew what she was to do, she became quite a committed worker. Even going beyond the basics and "going to get either Lawrence or Hildegard on command".

Even through a very difficult illness last year, Daisy Mae has recovered and never forgot her duties, and was certified again in 2013.

DFL is very proud of this team, it takes a dedicated owner to follow through with the 8 months to 1 year and sometimes beyond, of "in-home" training that DFL currently provides. And to Daisy Mae (Woof! Job Well Done!) ~ Shelly

PS Jennifer, could you possibly scan and forward the article for our scrapbook as I do not receive the Seb. River News. Thank you.


Dogs For Life
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"Kindness is the language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see." ~Mark Twain.

"Please consider including Dogs For Life, Inc. in your will, trust or other estate plans."



Member International Association of Assistance Dog Partners

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March 1, 2013

**CONTACT: Shelly Ferger, Founder/President, and CEO
772-567-8969**

**Dogs For Life, Inc.
Vero Beach Country Club Sponsors Veteran Dog Training Program**

Dogs For Life, Inc. (DFL) a 501(c) (3) tax deductible, non-profit organization dedicated to improving the quality of life for people with disabilities by training assistance dogs for hearing and mobility dogs, as well as veterans with the effects of PTSD has received sponsorship toward the DFL Veteran Dog Training Program.

The DFL Board of Directors are grateful to the Vero Beach Country Club for helping to sponsor training for veterans with disabilities and who suffer from the effects of Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome.

It is estimated that over 80,000 retiring veterans from the Iraq and Afghanistan Wars will be retiring to Florida in the next two years. DFL is committed to preparing to help meet their needs through pre-training service dogs.

The Assistance Dog Training Center Campaign is underway and the training center will be built at the off-leash dog park property located at 12th Street and 16th Avenue in Vero Beach.

For additional information on how to contribute to this worthy campaign effort or apply for assistance dog training, please contact Shelly Ferger at (772) 567-8969.

Vero Beach off-leash dog park membership continues

By news release

Wednesday, February 20, 2013

VERO BEACH — Dogs For Life Inc. has received a donation to help keep the off-leash dog park open until the end of 2013.

In addition, the donation has allowed the organization to continue raising money to build an assistance dog training center on the dog park site at 12th Street and 16th Avenue.

In recent months, the board was concerned it would have to close and sell the park because membership fees were not covering the cost of operations. Meanwhile, the board was raising money for its capital campaign as well as general operational funds for the charity portion of the organization, the Assistance and Pet Assisted Therapy Dog programs.

The nonprofit organization trains assistance dogs as hearing and mobility dogs as well as veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder.

For more information on how to join the park or contribute to the campaign effort or apply for assistance dog training, contact Shelly Ferger at 772-567-8969.

Press Journal

Section B

Indian River COUNTY

Tuesday, February 26, 2013 »

Quick Read

VERO BEACH COUNTRY CLUB SPONSORS DOG TRAINING

Dogs For Life, a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the quality of life for people with disabilities by training assistance dogs for hearing and mobility dogs, as well as veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder, has received sponsorship toward its Veteran Dog Training Program.

The Vero Beach Country Club is helping to sponsor dog training for veterans with disabilities and who suffer from PTSD.

The Assistance Dog Training Center campaign is under way, and the training center will be built at the off-leash dog park property at 12th Street and 16th Avenue in Vero Beach.

For additional information on how to contribute to this campaign or to apply for assistance dog training, please call Shelly Ferger at 772-567-8969.

Staff reports

VERO BEACH Hometown News

Vol. 10, No. 28 Your Local News and Information Source • www.HometownNewsDL.com Friday, March 15, 2013

Community supports dog therapy mission

**Off-leash park
to stay open
another year**

By Jessica Tuggle
tuggle@hometownnewsol.com

VERO BEACH — A puppy park is staying open for another year and a training center campaign is underway, thanks to generous community members.

After a few weeks of an uncertain future, Dogs for Life of Vero Beach, a non-profit organization focused on improving the quality of life for people with disabilities by training dogs, announced its private, off-leash dog park will stay open through the end of the year with the help of an anonymous donation.

The Vero Beach Country Club is also backing the nonprofit by helping to kickstart a campaign to build a training center for assistance dogs on the dog park site, said Shelly Ferger, founder of Dogs for Life.

Within the assistance dog program is a subsection for dogs to be trained to work with war veterans with post-traumatic stress disorders

and Vero Beach Country Club has stepped up to the plate as a sponsor for that program, Ms. Ferger said.

An estimated 80,000 retiring veterans from the Iraq and Afghanistan wars will be retiring to Florida in the next two years and Dogs for Life wants to help meet their needs by pre-training service dogs, a press release said.

Pia Pia is one of the dogs trained by Dogs for Life to work with her companion, retired U.S. Army Veteran Jim Taylor.

Panic attacks in crowded areas are a common result of post-traumatic stress disorder, and dogs like Pia Pia can be trained to stay close to their companion so that no people get too close and trigger the panic attack.

Other assistance dogs trained by Dogs for Life learn how to help them cope with hearing or seeing loss or other limited mobility issues.

The dogs are trained to alert their companion when a knock is heard at the door, or when a doorbell, telephone, alarm clock or smoke alarm is rung. Some dogs can even be trained to

operate a special phone that dials 911 when their companion is in distress.

Dogs for Life does not receive government funding and relies on membership fees and donations to get through the year.

An anonymous donation in February has allowed the off-leash dog park to remain open through the end of 2013, but on a regular basis membership fees are used to maintain and operate the 4.5 acre park.

A one-year membership fee for one dog is \$300, a second dog would add on \$75, a third, \$50.

Qualifying dogs must be inoculated, neutered and social. Prior to membership, an orientation at the park is scheduled with the dogs. Once the membership is finalized, members have their own security code to access the park from dawn to dusk all year round.

The off-leash dog park is located at the intersection of 12th Street and 16th Avenue in Vero Beach.

For more information about Dogs for Life, contact Ms. Ferger at (772) 567-8969 or visit www.dogsforlifevb.org.



Cliff Partlow/staff photographer
Vero Beach resident Harry Taylor watches as Dixie, his 10-month-old Dalmatian hound mix, tries to climb a tree to get to a squirrel in the Dogs For Life Off-leash Park Friday afternoon.

VERO BEACH - INDIAN RIVER COUNTY NEWSWEEKLY • CONTENTS PREPARED BY SCRIPPS TREASURE COAST NICHE DEPARTMENT

School Zone



Wabasso School

The days have been chilly but we are keeping warm during our weekly visits with Oslo our new friend and therapy dog. Oslo visits with our students and participates with us during PE. The students have a wonderful time. Oslo likes to walk with the students and appreciates a gentle pat on the head. He puts a smile on many faces and we all look forward to his visits. Oslo is a great conversation starter for discussions about being a responsible pet owner. Oslo is a welcome addition to our campus.



Katie and Oslo enjoying each other's company.

Annual Meeting

