



**Dogs
For Life**

*Training Service Dogs
For Veterans*

Scrapbook

2023

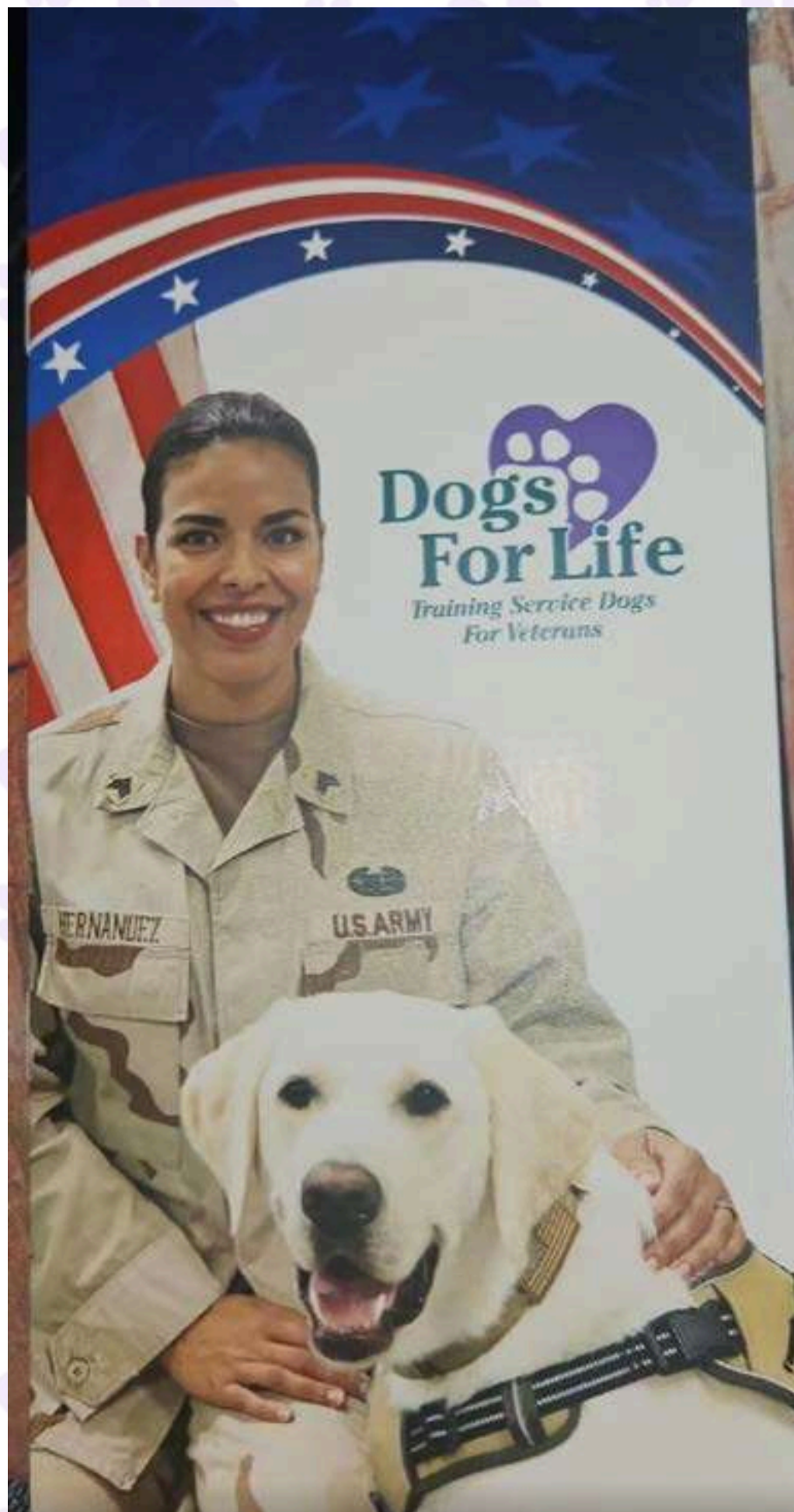


DECEMBER

Santa Paws Ready for New Puppies



Ingrid & Chance on New Brochure



New Water Fountains





NOVEMBER



**22 A DAY
IS UNACCEPTABLE**
Presented by
American Gold Star Mothers
of Indian River County, Inc.

5th ANNUAL WALK-A-THON

FOR
**MILITARY/VETERAN
SUICIDE AWARENESS**

Sunday, November 5, 2023
Registration Opens at 9:00am - Walk starts at 10:00am

2.2 MILE WALK & VETERANS EXPO

Join American Gold Star Mothers of Indian River County
for a community walk.

Let's help END Military/Veteran Suicide!

Scan the QR Code to Register Now!



Riverside Park

Registration at the Grand Pavillion - Opens at 9:00am

\$35 / person online

\$40 / person - day of walk

**Coffee & Donuts provided by
The Salvation Army**

DJ • Raffles • 50/50

T-SHIRTS: Available at Registration starting at 9:00am (While supplies last; 400 available)
Early pick up (if you registered online) is Friday 11/3 at Marine Bank & Trust • 1450 US1

Proceeds to Benefit:



michdaleircgoldstarmoms@gmail.com
 @ircgoldstarmoms
 www.ircgoldstarmoms.org
 570-885-2811

A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Division of Consumer Services by calling toll-free (800-435-7352) within the state. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval, or recommendation by the State. Registration #DTN3348471. American Gold Star Mothers of Indian River County, Inc. is a non-profit tax-exempt organization as described under Internal Revenue Code 501(c)3. Federal ID #85-0621175.





AUGUST

You are invited
to meet the School Therapy Dogs


**Dogs
For Life**
*Training Service Dogs
For Veterans*



*Dog Daze of Summer
Fundraiser*



**Chip
School Therapy Dog**

**For more information, contact Dogs For Life
772-567-8969 • www.dogsforlifevb.org
or email office@dogsforlifevb.org**

**Meet the School Therapy Dogs
on
Saturday, August 12, 2023
from
10 am - 12 noon
at the
Dogs For Life
Off-Leash Dog Park
1230 16th Avenue, Vero Beach**

**Sergeant Ron Garrison & Ellie Mae
School Resource Deputy Mark Birtel & Chip
School Resource Deputy David Partin & Gracie**

 **Rain or Shine**

 **Tented and Air-Cooled**

 **Doggie Wet T-Shirt Show**

 **Pick the Hot Rubber Duckie for a Prize**

 **Splish and Splash in the Sun**

Donations Accepted

Dogs on Leash Welcome

RSVP by August 7 to

772-567-8969 or office@dogsforlifevb.org



Kris & Jasper

THE BEST HEALTH & WELLNESS

Success Stories

Dogs for Life



KRIS

Like many veterans, Kris has struggled with post-traumatic stress disorder since leaving active duty. He served as a medic and, later, a physician assistant in the U.S. Army Special Forces.

In 2020, Kris met Jasper, a young English Labrador retriever, at Dogs for Life, a local nonprofit that trains service dogs for veterans. His life has never been the same since. "The concept of success is the ability to keep moving forward after you fall down," Kris says. "That is the gift that Dogs for Life gives to its clients."

One of the things that impresses Kris most about Dogs for Life is the ongoing involvement of its staff in the care and training of the dogs it places.

Kris continues to work as a physician assistant, and his practice has a special focus on the needs of veterans. He also serves as a facilitator for the twice-weekly veteran PTSD support groups at Dogs for Life and volunteers as a speaker for presentations.

He says, "Jasper's training, love, and affection encourage me to keep moving forward even when I fall down."





MAY



Vero Beach Veterans in Cooperation
with the Veteran's Council of Indian River County

And
Boozefighters MC
Present



BIKER'S SUPPORTING VETERANS

INFO FAIR AND CHARITY EVENT

11:00 AM UNTIL 6:00 PM

MAY 27TH, 2023-MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND

2500 15TH AVENUE

VERO BEACH, FLORIDA 32960

FAMILY FRIENDLY FELLOWSHIP FOOD MUSIC CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT KID'S ACTIVITIES AND FACE PAINTING

SUGGESTED DONATION, \$20 PER PERSON



ALL PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT:

- DOGS FOR LIFE
- NEXT GENERATION VETERANS



FOR INFORMATION CONTACT JERZEY BILL: (214) 763-8133

CORNHOLE \$20.00 PER TEAM





**AMERICAN GOLD STAR MOTHERS, INC.
DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA - PUERTO RICO**

70TH ANNUAL CONVENTION

May 6, 2023

Welcome - Michelle Dale

Presentation of Colors - Sebastian Area Veterans Honor Guard

Invocation - Pastor Charlie Jones, US Army 82nd Airborne; American Legion Post 181

National Anthem - Delores Mark, Daughter - Navy Veteran; Music Director at St. Helen Church;

Family Services/Pre-Need Councilor at Cox-Gifford Seawinds Funeral Home

Pledge of Allegiance - Annette Kirk

Retire Colors

Introduction of Special Guests - Michelle Dale

USAF (Ret) Brigadier General Randall C. (Arlo) Guthrie

SGT E5 Civil Affairs NCO Ingrid Hernandez

Founder & CEO, Dogs For Life - Shelly Ferger

Narrative of Loved Ones 3 Minutes each (if time permits) or "Say Their Names"

11:30 a.m. Lunch - 14 Bones

AGSM BUSINESS MEETING

1:00 p.m. - Call to Order - Michelle Dale

Open Bible & Divine Blessing - Jeanette Nazario

Preamble to the Constitution of American Gold Star Mothers, Inc. - Kim Hayes

Mission Statement - Michele Carey

Roll Call of Officers - Kim Hayes

Draping of the Charter - Gold Star Mother, Vera Nickels - Golf Coast Chapter

Department Treasurer Report - Michelle Dale for Sandy Miller

Department Reports: VAVS Report - Toni Gross; Legislative Report - Annette Kirk;

Community Service Reports - Michelle Dale for Valerie Collins

Committee Reports: Compliance - Michele Carey; Georgie Carter Krell Grant - Annette Kirk;

Standing Rules - Kim Hayes; Membership - Michelle Dale

Chapter Reports - Highlights - 5 minutes each Chapter

Unfinished Business

New Business

Nominations and Elections of Department Officers - Annette Kirk, Lorrie Fleming & Kellie Kowall

Installation of Department Officers - Annette Kirk

Announcements for the Good of the Order

Closing



**AMERICAN GOLD STAR MOTHERS, INC.
DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA – PUERTO-RICO**

CALL TO CONVENTION

Saturday May 6, 2023

**Hampton Inn & Suites
Meeting Room
611 20th Place
Vero Beach, FL 32960**

8:00 a.m. Breakfast & Registration

9:00 a.m. Opening Ceremony

\$35 Registration Fee includes Luncheon

**Please RSVP for Business Meeting to Michelle Dale, Department President
570 885 2811 mdale61449@gmail.com**

Dress Code: Business White

Agenda will include:

*Speaker: BG (USAFR ret) Randall C. "Arlo" Guthrie
Speaker: SGT E5 Civil Affairs NCO, Ingrid Hernandez
Speaker: Founder & CEO, Dogs For Life, Shelly Ferger*



LUNCHEON 11:30 a.m.

**1:00 p.m. BUSINESS MEETING TO INCLUDE:
Chapter Reports; Department Report; Treasurer Report; Department Committee
Reports; Election & Installation of Officers**

**HOTEL Information:
Hampton Inn & Suites,
611 20th Place,
Vero Beach, FL 32960
772 770 4010**

**\$159 per night for 2 Standard Queens or 2 Standard Kings.
Breakfast is included for those who are registered.
(\$6.95 per person if you are not registered at the hotel.)**

Guests have until April 12th to make their hotel reservation at the Group Rate.

**Guests can call the hotel at 772-774-4010 or use the direct link below or use the direct link below.
Booking**

**Link: [https://www.hilton.com/en/book/reservation/deeplink/?cityocn=VRBDNHX&groupCode=CHHGSM
&arrivaldate=2023-05-05&departuredate=2023-05-06&cid=OM.WW.HILTONLINK.EN.DirectLink&fromId=HILTONLINKDIRECT](https://www.hilton.com/en/book/reservation/deeplink/?cityocn=VRBDNHX&groupCode=CHHGSM&arrivaldate=2023-05-05&departuredate=2023-05-06&cid=OM.WW.HILTONLINK.EN.DirectLink&fromId=HILTONLINKDIRECT)**

Request For Photographs:

Please bring a framed photo of your Hero to display on the Table of Honor.

Each Chapter in good standing is entitled to be represented by one (1) Delegate and one (1) Alternate for every 5 members or major fraction. Each Chapter President, Department Officer, Past Department President and VAVS Representative shall be a Delegate with one (1) vote but no Alternate.



APRIL



772-567-8969

1230 16th Avenue, Vero Beach, Florida 32960
www.dogsforlifevb.org • office@dogsforlifevb.org



**Service/Hearing & Veteran Dog Graduation
Donor & Volunteer Awards Ceremony**

*Saturday, April 22, 2023
12:00 p.m.*

Event Schedule for Saturday, April 22, 2023

- 12:00 p.m. Lunch & Social
- 12:30 p.m. DFL Donor & Volunteer Awards Ceremony
- 1:00 p.m. Service/Hearing & Veteran Dog Teams Graduation Ceremony
Quilts of Valor Presentation

2022 Award Recipients

- Kathi G. Schumann Award Linda Barberi
- Military Veteran Trainer of the Year..... Don Peterson (US Army, Ret.)
- Volunteer of the Year Cheryl Marshall (US Air Force, Ret.)
Phillip Tettleton
- Individual Philanthropist Award Earl Tindol (US Army)
- Corporate Philanthropist Award..... American Gold Star Mothers of IRC
Dyer Mazda Subaru
Florida Eagles Dog Chain Club
LEB Printing & Design
Live Oak Animal Hospital
- Puppy Sponsor Awards..... Linda & Edgar Duncan
Judith Hansen & Pablo Gonzalez
Kathi G. Schumann

Graduates

- Tim Barnes & Gypsy
- Steve Defren (US Army) & Rosie
- Jim Hyde (US Navy) & Otis
- Nancy Kicherer & Stryker
- Michele Laibe & Lua
- Sarah Lang & Bradley
- Barbara McCoy (US Air Force) & Mercedes
- Howard Teich (US Army) & Tucker
- Charlie Watson (US Army) & Sam
- Gary Wilson (US Army) & Swift

IRCSO School Resource Dogs

- Mark Birtel & Chip
- Ron Garrison & Ellie Mae



GRADUATION

*Service/Hearing & Veteran Dog Team Graduation
Donor & Volunteer Awards Ceremony*

You are cordially invited

Dogs For Life Training Center
“Under The Oaks” at the DFL Off-Leash Dog Park
1230 16th Avenue, Vero Beach, Florida 32960

Please RSVP by April 17, 2023
by calling: 772-567-8969 or emailing: office@dogsforlifevb.org

Quilts of Valor will be presented to Veterans





MARCH

PETS



Hi Dog Buddies!

This week I got to go to a gym cuz my innerview-ee's Mom an Dad are TRAY-ners who help humans do Fitness an Boxing, an he – Biggie Smalls Bass – is the Official Gym Dog.

Biggie's a 5-years-old, purebred French Bulldog, fawn color, squishy black face, perpetually earnest expression. He has ears that look like sails. An No Tail. Whatsoever. Zero. Nada. Just a bouncy liddle ca-boose and very good poss-chur. All in all, one super spruce poocheroo!

Soon as me an my assistant walked in the gym door, he trotted right over for the Wag-an-Sniff, wearin' a tidy collar and short gold chain leash.

Since he was of French origin, I decided to employ one of the three French phrases I knew, just in case.

"Bone-SWAW, Mush-sure Bass!"

"Well Bone-SWAW to you, too, Dude! Welcome to our gym. This is my Mom, Sam, an my Dad, Travis. You can call me Biggie. An no need for French. I'm from Sara-SODA."

"Thank Lassie!" I said, relieved. "I appreciate you takin' time out of your busy day for an innerview."

"Happy to, Bonz – er, may I call you Bonz?"

"Absolutely! You have such an intrestin' life. I can't wait to hear all about it, whenever you're ready."

"Born ready!" Biggie said, and I grabbed my pen. "Mom an Dad already had a Husky, Jaxx, an, cuz they're at the gym, like, all the time, they were lookin' for a more portable pooch to be the Gym Dog. An it hadda be a bulldog, but a liddle one. They found a good breeder On The Line with phodos of my litter – 10 of us. We were all irrisis-tubble, squishy-faced fuzzballs but I was the irrisis-tubble-est. So the breeder brought me to Lake Placid where Mom an Dad picked me up. I was

only 10 weeks old, an not only portable as required, but also playful, cuddly an mellow. Basically perfect, if I do say so.

"Me an Jaxx had our first meetin' at Gramma BamBam and Grampa Dave's cuz it's Noo-trull Territory. Got along right away. We'd chase each other. I'd do laps around him, of course. I'm not good at distance cuzza havin' Very Short Legs, but I can Sprint Like Anything for a second.

"I was a pretty well-buh-haved pupper except for one liddle habutt: Chewin' Furniture. Mostly the wooden end tables. When I was alone in the house for what I felt to be Too Long, I'd chew the legs. After a while, they were pretty much chewed up. And that was the end of the end tables. Thank Lassie, I outgrew that. Now I only chew my tennis balls. I love playin' catch, an they're just the right size for my not-large mouth. Dad sometimes Fake Throws, an I go roarin' after it, then I ree-lize he didn't ackshully throw it. Makes me feel like a Total Doof!

"I enjoy ridin' in our car, an our golf cart, which we often take to work, since we live close by. Mom an Dad took me out on their jet skis one time, I had my own life vest an everything, but I was Not A Fan. I'm just not super into water, ya know? 'Cept in my bowl. I do enjoy leash walks, an sunbathin' on the deck. I sorta like the beach. It's great for diggin', but the ackshull water not so much. Diggin' in the yard's way more fun."

"Do you have any speshull human or pooch pals?" I inquired.

"Lemme see, there's my leash walk neighbor Casper an his human, Miss Danielle. He's liddler than me even. Jaxx is way bigger an probly kinda intimidatin', but Casper's not afraid of me. He says we're Fun Size.

"My human gym buddies are Liam, he's 8 in human, an Landon, he's 5. My Mom an Dad offen watch 'em, here at the gym, for their Mom an Dad. They're Cool Kibbles

How to size up Biggie Smalls? He's a fab Frenchie!



Biggie Smalls.
PHOTO BY JOSHUA KODS

liddle human puppers.

"Oh, an I almost for-GOT, we have a bran new Husky pupper at home, Nash, he's jus 5 months old. We're all three gonna go to Training Class together soon as he gets the OK from our vet, after his No Pup-pies Procedure."

"Any favrite foodstuffs?"

"Well, I totally love buh-nanas an peanut budder. Since I have a Sensitive Tummy, I hafta eat speshull food. For a treat I get a chiggen an sweet puh-tado pot pie snack. Majorly Yummy. An if I need to take any medicine, Mom puts it in a liddle piece of buh-nana."

"Humans are clever that way," I observed, then asked, "Where do you sleep?"

"Well, Bonz, I am a Daddy's Boy, so – I sleep with him. I know he totally loves me cuz I snore Really Loud! Ackshully, I don't know if you noticed, but I sorta snort a LOT. Mom says I sound like a liddle piglet. Us French Bulldogs often have that issue cuzza our smushy faces. I guess it's the price we pay for Adorable-ness.

"Anyway, I know it's gettin' close to bedtime when we all settle in together an watch TV. I speshully enjoy 'Pup Academy' on Netflix. When they bark, I bark back. It's the puh-lite thing to do, doncha think?"


"Absolutely," I agreed, then, "Spea-

kin' of TV, I saw on the Nooz a while back that, for the first time ever, a French Bulldog (who looks just like YOU!) won the top award, Best In Show, at last Thanksgiving's National Dog Show. Congrats to you and your breed!"

"Thanks, Bonz," Biggie replied. "I did see that. I just didn't wanna boast but, since you brought it up, I thought it was about fluffin' time us Frenchies received our Just Desserts! We're small but mighty. His name is Winston, by the way. He also won second at Westminster. His success makes me walk a little taller," he grinned.

Headin' home, I was thinkin' about sturdy, bouncy, mellow Biggie Smalls, small in stature but huge in personality and definitely walkin' tall.

Till next time,

The Bonz 

Don't Be Shy

We are always looking for pets with interesting stories.

To set up an interview, email bonzothecolumnist@gmail.com.

DIVINE

Our VIP's Have Paws

PETS



Bonz says time flew with Lulu, a real people pooch

Hi Dog Buddies!

You know an I know – all of us dogs just KNOW – that we have a PUR-pose. Sometimes our humans unnerstand it, sometimes they don't. But WE always do. Am I right?

Anyway, I mention it cuz this week's innerview-ee, Lulu Sandzen, says she knew what her purpose was when she was only a teensy pupper.

Lulu is a bee-ooty-ful Havanese, 8 anna haff pounds, with white an silvery black wavy hair, kuh-waffed Just So. I was astonished to learn she was 10, cuzz she was SO wiggly an energetic an totally loves to give Slurpy Puppy Kisses, which co-in-ci-DENTAL-ee are one of my assistant's Favrite Things.

A nice lady welcomed us an Lulu wiggled right up for the Wag-an-Sniff, then wiggled over to my assistant. "I'm Lulu an this is my Mom, Pam. I know you're Mr. Bonzo cuz my Mom an my fren Oliver's Mom are frens an Oliver was in your collum an he thought I could maybe be too, so he woofmailed you an WAH-LAA! Isn't it SO Cool Kibbles?"

"Totally!" I agreed. "Oliver sent your phodo, too. It's great meetin' you in the fur. I know you have a wonderful tail about how you an your Forever Mom got together, an I'm eager to hear it."

Lulu curled up next to my assistant, dispensed a couple more kisses, an began.

"Mom an her buh-loved hus-bun were together for a long time, then he hadda go to Heaven an she was Sad. Altho the house was the same, it seemed Empty. A fren told Mom she needed a dog to love, so Mom started lookin' around an found a person in Sebastian who hadda litter of Havaneses (which happened to be the one I was in). Even tho I was bran new an didn't know fluff about anything, I

hadda feelin' I had some sorta of Spe-shull Purpose. But I was 6 weeks old and not even 1 pound. It was kinda weird."

As Lulu told her tail, I smiled, because I completely understood what she was saying.

"Well," she continued, "Mom arrived, an all us puppies were bouncin' an squeakin' and bein' adorable, an ex-ooding that New Puppy Smell. She was pickin' us up one by one, an when she picked me up (I was just a tiny lump in her hand), we just stared into each other's faces for the longest time. I wasn't bein' rude or anythin'. It had just dawned on me that She was my Purpose. I knew it. She knew it. The lady who owned us knew it, too. She said to Mom, 'Wow. That's amazin'. I never saw anything like that, before. That's your puppy!'"

"Oh, for Lassie's Sake," I managed. "That's a wonderful story, Lulu! So, what's your life been like?"

"It's just us grrris, me an Mom. It's perfect! I love travelin' with Mom. We go inna car or in one of those big birds called a plane. I'm a Free-quent Flyer. One time I schooched outta my under-the-seat carrier an sneaked up to the seat in front. The man who was sittin' there put me on his lap an patted me for a while. Then he finally handed me back to Mom. She didn't even know I had wiggled away."

"I love car ridin', too! Me an Mom have driven to, lemme think, umm, Tennis-SEE; TEX-us; South Cara-LINE-uh; Lou-weezie-ANNA; West Ver-GIN-ya; GEORGE-uh."

"Me an Mom go to the Citron Grill for lunch. We sit outside an I am TRAY well-buh-haved. I sit quietly an just gaze around lookin' adorable. Everyone wants to pat me. No offense, but generally speaking, I prefer humans to pooches. When I overhear 'em on the phone tellin' Mom they're comin' over,

I rush to the door to wait.

"I do not enjoy walkin' in the grass or gettin' my paws wet so Mom has an umbrella just in case. I'm also not fond of baths, however, I very, VERY much enjoy Spa Day."

"Do you have any other family members? Any pooch frens?" I inquired.

"Oh, YES! My brother Burnett lives in Austin; an my sister Carolyn lives in Chattanooga. My pooch BFF is Madison, she's a Bichon Frise. We met when she was just a pupper, about 3 months old."

"It was something like 6 years ago an there was this hurry-cane an Madison an her Mom Miss Audry didn't have any electricidy so they stayed with me an Mom for a liddle while. Altho she was just a pupper, Madison was Very Well buh-HAVED in un-fuh-MILL-yer SIR-come-stances, an always used the P-pad! Now we stay at each other's houses when our Moms hafta go someplace without us."

"Where do you sleep? An, do you have any favrite toys?" I inquired.

"Bedtime's my favrite time of all!" Lulu said. "When I'm sleepy, me an Mom get cozy an I drift off while she studies lotsa interstin' stuff for her job at the museum. She's what's called a DOE-sent."

"A what?"
"It's a human who guides other humans around a museum or art gallery or a zoo even, an explains everything that's there!"

"Woof! That's way Crispy Biscuits! So they hafta to know a lotta stuff!"

"Troo! My Mom's a-MAZE-zing! Oliver's Mom's a DOE-sent, too!"

"Any favrite toys?" I wondered.

"Well," she smiled, "I do have quite a number of toys but, to tell the truth,




I mostly play with my fluffy dog bed, which I don't sleep in cuz I sleep with Mom, of course."

With that, she ran behind a chair an emerged dragging (an practically hidden behind) a fluffy dog bed about the same size as her. She flung it about. I landed on top of her. She landed on top of it. She was in it. She was half in, haff out. She was rollin' around in it. She was draggin' it. It was hilarious. At last she extricated herself from the fluff an trotted back.

Headin' home, I was thinkin' about charmin', energetic Miss Lulu, filled with joy and wiggles and totally committed to fulfilling her Purpose as a Dog: showering her Mom with unending slurpy kisses.

Till next time,

The Bonz 

Don't Be Shy

We are always looking for pets with interesting stories. To set up an interview, email bonzothecolumnist@gmail.com.

DIVINE ANIMAL HOSPITAL

We have Warm Hearts for Cold Noses!

Our Veterinary Family Welcomes New Patients

Dr. Randy Divine • Dr. Patty Shockency
Sandy, Terrie, Patte,
Aspen, Jennifer, Helene,
Tiffany, Leslie, Sharon



654 21st St. (Miracle Mile Plaza) • 772-299-3665 (Call or Text) • DivineAnimalHospital.com

Our VIP's Have Paws

COMPLETE HEALTH CARE

Advanced Ear Disease Diagnostics, Treatment & Technology
Stem Cell Therapy & Pain Management Hospital
Sound Wave Energy Therapy
Class IV Laser Therapy

Early Spay/Neuter • Dentistry • Chemotherapy
Ultra Sound • Orthopedics • Dermatology
Ophthalmology • Acupuncture • Vaccinations
Endoscopy • Digital Radiology • Complete Lab
Telemedicine • Grooming • Science Diet

Multiple Pet Discounts

Emergency Service • We ARE Available 24/7



The background of the entire page is a repeating pattern of light purple paw prints. The paw prints are stylized, with four distinct pads and a central pad, and are scattered across the white background.

FEBRUARY

32963

PEOPLE

Ingrid Hernandez
and Shelly Ferger
with Chance.



'PATRIOTS FOR PUPPIES'

POOCHES GIVE VETS UNCONDITIONAL LOVE P. 24

Vero News > 32963 Features > People > 'Patriots for Puppies': Pooches give vets unconditional love

'Patriots for Puppies': Pooches give vets unconditional love

Written by: *Stephanie LaBaff* March 02 2023



PHOTO BY JOSHUA KODIS

Dogs For Life supporters had a barking good time during the second annual Patriots for Puppies fundraiser at the Pointe West Country Club to finance programs for disabled individuals and veterans.

Before kicking off the celebration, Shelly Ferger, DFL CEO and director of training, announced that they had raised \$95,000 of their \$100,000 goal through sponsorships and ticket sales.

That funding, she said, will enable them to continue to improve the quality of life for veterans and other individuals and help them achieve self-reliance and independence by training hearing and service dogs.

Of course, the real stars of the evening were several of the service dogs that accompanied their human partners, providing the physical and emotional support needed along with unconditional love.

When Ferger founded DFL in 2001, the work primarily focused on training hearing dogs. But in 2015 they were inundated with requests from veterans returning from the Gulf War.

"The older veterans were told to suck it up and not to admit they had PTSD," said Ferger.

However, after seeing so many of their comrades commit suicide, the Next Generation veterans realized that to save themselves, they needed to talk about what they had been through.

"They found that the dogs were the thing they needed. It's the unconditional love a dog gives.

These veterans don't love themselves after having fought a war. They can talk to their dog and tell it everything they've done, and the dog still loves them," said Ferger.

She said that dogs help veterans integrate back into their families and society, explaining that regardless of a person's appearance, most people will look past the individual if they have a dog.

"They might be in a wheelchair, or they might be walking on a cane. They might barely be making it through the grocery store, but people will look past that when they have a dog," said Ferger.

"It's amazing how a dog can not only change your life but save your life and give you back the security and independence that you've lost for so long."

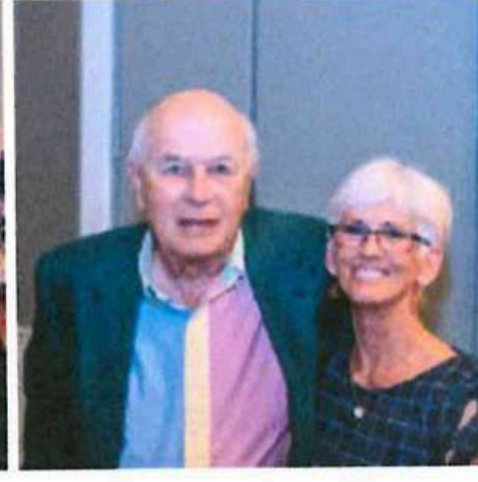
It takes eight months to a year to train adult dogs and two years to train the puppies. DFL currently has three puppies in training and will celebrate the graduation of eight dogs on April 22.

Attendees enjoyed a delicious dinner, live music, and a silent auction at the military-themed golden oldies dance and show that featured Jerry and the Dolls, who took folks down memory lane' with the music of the '50s and '60s.

DFL programs include Service Dog Training, Veteran Service Dog Training, Veterans Training Veterans PAWS program, Veteran PTSD and Support Groups, Puppy Raising, Female Veterans and First Responders Support Group, Pet-Assisted Therapy program with the Vero Beach Police Department, the School Resource Dog program with the Indian River County Sheriff's Office, the Foster Dog Program, and its Off-Leash Dog Park.

For more information, visit DogsForLifeVB.org.







Presents

Military Themed Golden Oldies Dance & Show

2nd Annual Patriots For Puppies



Saturday, February 4, 2023 ★ 5:30 - 9 PM

Pointe West Country Club ★ 7500 14th Lane, Vero Beach

**Dancing ★ Live Music ★ Food ★ 50/50 Raffle
Military & Golden Oldies Dress is Encouraged**

Sponsorship Opportunities

A Fundraiser To Benefit Dogs For Life Programs

- ★ Service Dog Training
- ★ Veterans Training Veterans PAWS Program
- ★ Veteran Service Dog Training
- ★ Veteran PTSD Recovery & Support Group
- ★ Female Veterans & First Responders Support Group
- ★ Pet Assisted Therapy Program - VBPD
- ★ School Resource Dog Program - IRCSSO
- ★ Puppy Raising - Foster Dog Training
- ★ Off-Leash Dog Park

1230 16th Avenue • Vero Beach, FL 32960 • (772) 567-8969 • www.dogsforlifevb.org





Lee Curre
Photography

Bubbles!

