



Handi-Dogs Happenings

August, 2011

Dear Friends,

Since 1978, Handi-Dogs has been serving our community helping people gain independence and self-esteem by helping them train their own dogs to be service, therapy, and well-mannered companion dogs.

This is important because the presence of a dog in a person's life can have significant physical and emotional benefits. Service dogs do specific tasks or work for people with disabilities which help their humans become more independent, self-confident, and empowered.

We know there are many more people in our community that can benefit from our services – people with behavioral health issues, hearing impairments, frequent seizures, mobility challenges, autism, and other physical or emotional disabilities.

A key objective for us is to increase the number of clients we serve. We have the trainers and facility, we now need to fill up all of our classes.

To do this, support from individuals is needed – both financially and through volunteering. As a first step in our growth objective, I am pleased to announce that three new volunteers have joined our Board of Directors - Kathleen Carter, John Fikkan, and JoAnn Turnbull. These passionate individuals bring welcomed business and non-profit management skills.

If you are interested in helping us reach more prospective students, either by making a donation or volunteering, please let me know.

Thank you for your support - together we can change lives!

Joanie Mauger

Handi-Dogs President & CEO

Joanie@Handi-Dogs.org

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Joanie Mauger, President & CEO of Handi-Dogs and Handi-Dogs Certified Service Dog, D.O.G. (a blue grey Shepherd) with 'his person' Tom Young accepted a very generous donation of \$1,000 on behalf of Handi-Dogs from the Green Valley Lions Club.



Tom shared how he has been challenged with mental health issues for about 10 years. He became desponded and homeless until his family was able to find him and help him seek medical treatment. While medications and regular care helped, Tom continued to struggle with everyday living. His friends drifted away, he rarely felt comfortable looking another person in the eye, and eventually avoided leaving his home.

By training D.O.G. to become his service dog at Handi-Dogs, Tom once again feels a sense of purpose. One way D.O.G. helps is that he positions himself between other people and Tom, giving Tom enough space to feel comfortable. With D.O.G. at his side, Tom is more active in the community and comfortable talking with others once again. With renewed self-confidence, Tom has even begun taking professional dog training courses with a hope to help others in the years to come.

Thank you Green Valley Lions Club for helping us help others like Tom, who can improve their quality of life with a Service Dog at their side!

Donate



Donations can be made online at www.Handi-Dogs.org, or by mailing to: Handi-Dogs, 75 S. Montego Dr., Tucson, AZ 85710. **THANK YOU!**

SAVE THE DATE!



Dogtoberfest 2011

Sun. October 23rd

10:00 am - 2:00 pm

This promises to be a fun-filled event for people and dogs. There will be lots of games, activities, contests, raffles, food, beer garden, vendors, and more.

LEARN MORE at
www.DogtoberfestAZ.org

Interested in being an event sponsor, vendor, or volunteer, or have an item you'd like to donate for our raffle, please call 326-3412

NEW CLASSES

Enrollment for our Fall training classes is open until Aug. 19.

Classes take place from Sept. 12 through Nov. 18.

Handi-Dogs offers affordable classes to seniors (ages 65+) and to people with disabilities of all ages.

Puppy
Basic Obedience/Canine
Good Citizen Test Prep
Therapy Dog
Service Dog Training

To learn more, call 326-3412 or email Service@Handi-Dogs.org.

SERVICE DOGS 'FLY' THROUGH THE AIRPORT



On July 10th, Handi-Dogs lead trainer Glenda Laird and fellow instructors accompanied 12 Handi-Dogs certified service dog teams (or soon to be certified) on a field trip to the airport. To prepare them for eventually flying with their dogs, the teams practiced how to maneuver through an airport.

Going through security check points, being patted down, and having a wand metal detector being waved over their bodies, is not something most dogs experience.

Glenda provided guidance to the handlers on how to effectively work with their dog to make the experience as low-stress and positive as possible. She noted, ***"I am so proud of all the handlers and their dogs. They all were fantastic!"***

One handler commented, ***"I am so glad I attended. I definitely learned things that I will use next month when we fly together for the first time. Thank you Glenda and Handi-Dogs!"***

RUTH ANNE'S STORY

Ruth Anne was in an airline crash resulting in a diagnosis of PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome) with recurring periods of depression and panic attacks. She also experiences frequent small seizures, tremors, migraines and has Fibromyalgia. She became a self-proclaimed recluse for over 3 years.

Thinking a service dog could improve her quality of life, Ruth Anne began training at Handi-Dogs in January of 2010 with her Labradoodle Cassie.

Through her training, Cassie learned specific tasks to help Ruth Anne. In the car when Cassie senses Ruth Anne is becoming stressed, she will pant which is Ruth Anne's signal to take deep breaths to calm her anxiety.

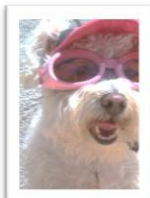
When in a store if Cassie senses that Ruth Anne is feeling overwhelmed she moves close to her and braces her reminding Ruth Anne that she is there to help. That firm touch at her side gives her encouragement and confidence.

Besides the new found help from Cassie, Ruth Anne realized, ***"Being with others in our training class and having the support of the instructors and volunteers gave me a new and positive experience. My self-confidence began to build and I started attending other activities and feeling like I had a life again."***

From confidence gained by training her own service dog, and with Cassie by her side to assist her, Ruth Anne is once again active and self-sufficient. She has led a book group discussion, organized small groups, is involved in fundraising for needy children in Africa, and recently babysat her two young grandsons by herself. ***"It is so good to have a life that is more active and involved. The road to recovery began when Cassie and I started the adventure of training at Handi-Dogs. What a gift!"***



'COOL DOGS' (A tip from the Handi-Dogs trainers)



Tucson heat can make even the 'coolest' dog not feel or look so cool anymore. Did you know that dogs cannot cool themselves by sweating like we do? They primarily cool off by panting but we can also help them. Here's how.

Make fresh and cool water available at all times. Offer shelter and/or plenty of shade when your dog is outside. It is recommended to allow indoor access or even better keep your pet inside! Provide a plastic kiddie pool for your dog to play in.

Consider getting a cooling dog bed, cooling vest, body wrap or collar. Limit exercise to early morning or evening hours. Protect your dog's feet by purchasing booties. Find alternative ways to stimulate your dog with indoor activities such as mental games, physical activities that can be done inside or teach a new skill. And NEVER ever leave your dog in the car!

WISH LIST

Can you help by donating one of the items below?

Non-toxic bright colored acrylic paints

Rolls of white craft paper

Gift Certificates to Costco or an office supply store

Front load washing machine or dryer (does not need to work—will be used for training dogs how to help their human load/unload laundry).

Hospital bed for use in our therapy and service dog training classes.

Volunteer to clean-up landscaping around our training building (once every 6 months).

Congratulations!

Please join us in congratulating our recent service dog training graduates!

Certified Service Dog Teams:
Tom and D.O.G.; Monica and Sasha; Cameron, Allison and Daisy; Lindsay and Teddy; Denise and Sweet Pea; Sheila and Sonny; Jessica, Malcolm and Mr. Darcy.

Earning their red vest (precertification level): Suzanne and Benny; Feliza and Kodi; Joanie and Spock; Linda and Jazzy; Denise, Monica, Brian and Sparky; Marti and Luna, Jane and Molly.

Earning their blue vest (Canine Good Citizen): Karen and Daisy; Jeff and Copper; Ed and Molly; John and Flash.

