



# Handi-Dogs Happenings

February, 2012

Thank you for your generous support. Your response to Handi-Dogs' end-of-year appeal makes it possible for us to serve individuals training their dog to be a service, therapy, or well-mannered companion dog. Although, Handi-Dogs had to increase the client fees this past year, we still rely on your gifts to underwrite service provided to our clients.

The annual program cost per client is \$3,526. Clients pay \$200-\$250 per 10-week session – an average of \$950 per year. Individual donors, Arizona tax credit contributors and gifts from small family foundations - all of you – help us cover the remaining \$2,576 per client. You came through for us to make a significant difference in the lives of our clients. Thank you!

A special note of thanks to Jim Colavito of Metro Med on Pima Blvd. Jeri Odgen, Queso (Jeri's service dog) and I went looking for a new walker for Jeri. Examining her walker, he said: "These tires have plenty of life in them." "That handle is easily fixed, let me get a screwdriver." At first, I couldn't understand what Jim was doing – was he really trying to talk Jeri out of buying a new walker? We clarified that Jeri was looking for the "mountain bike version of a walker" for her upcoming trip to New Mexico. A walker she could use at 7,000 feet in the snow and mud. "Oh, none of these models are made to withstand that type of use," responded Jim. "Wait, I've got something in the back that just might work." He returned shortly with a walker designed for use by a tall, heavy man. "This should work and I'll give it to you for \$100." It did work! It was wonderful to work with Jim because his top priority was meeting Jeri's needs.

Joanie Mauger, President & CEO

## GOOD THINGS COME IN SMALL PACKAGES



*Queso is a 22-pound rescued Cockapoo who doesn't let his small stature get in the way of helping his human, Jeri. About 32 years ago, Jeri was hit by a drunk driver and suffered a Traumatic Brain Injury which continues to affect her today.*

*Encouraged by her friend and life coach, Jeri contacted Handi-Dogs and learned how a dog could enrich her quality of life. After witnessing how dogs were helping people with disabilities, she made acquiring and training a dog her primary goal. She had a list of criteria that she wanted for her 4-legged companion, and soon found Queso at a local shelter.*

*Jeri and Queso began their service dog team training at Handi-Dogs in Spring, 2008 and graduated in Summer, 2009. They were the first team to accomplish this in just 14 months, following the then new curriculum. Jeri says, "I was very surprised I could train a dog as I had never done anything like this. A few of the tasks he does for me include opening/closing the refrigerator, picking up dropped objects, and retrieving my walker when it is out of reach.*

*What I never expected was that through this process I learned I can achieve what may seem impossible - I just need to take one little step at a time until my goal is reached.*

*Before Queso, I had become comfortable sitting at home and having people do things for me. Now, with Queso at my side, I get out a lot more and am excited about life. I feel more confident and enjoy being more independent."*

**WAG for Handi-Dogs.** Our Spring Fundraiser, WAG (Wine & Auction in the Garden) will be held on March 18 from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm. Join us for a wine tasting, appetizers, live music, and a silent auction at a beautiful private residence near Tucson Country Club. All proceeds benefit Handi-Dogs. Tickets are \$50 per person - advance purchase required.



**Can't join us at WAG? You can still support the event by purchasing raffle tickets for our 28-bottle Wine Cooler filled with wines from CataVinos.** Tickets are just \$5 each or 5 for \$20. To purchase event or raffle tickets, phone 326-3412 or email Service@Handi-Dogs.org. **THANK YOU!**

## GET YOUR TICKET TODAY!

Handi-Dogs is pleased to bring to Tucson the **Paws For a Peaceful World Tour** featuring **Paul Owens**, the internationally acclaimed &'Original' Dog Whisperer.



**February 25, 2012**

**10:00 am - 12:30 pm**

**at TMC's Marshall Auditorium.**

Seating is limited. Purchase your ticket today at Handi-Dogs - just \$20. All proceeds benefit Handi-Dogs!

## WISH LIST

Can you help us by donating one of the items below?

- \* Gift certificates to Costco.
- \* Dog food to help low-income clients.
- \* 10' x 10' Canopy Tents.
- \* Items for our WAG silent auction in March.

If you can help email Service@Handi-Dogs.org or call 326-3412.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

\* **Office Helper** - file, organize, help with mailings, etc. - ideally 3 hours/week.

\* **Landscaper** - help clean up the outside of our training facility (3 hours).

If you can help, contact Joanie at 326-3412.

## BEING A VOLUNTEER IS AN HONOR!



With a passion for helping others along with all things dog and dog training, Kim Silver began volunteering with Handi-Dogs as a classroom assistant in Fall, 2010. Some days she works one on one with a team on a specific skill, and other days she may be a distraction for a dog.

Kim says, "I do whatever is needed and understand that no task is too small. I love to see the light bulb go on for a handler and watch the team excel through the program. I look forward to class each week and would not want to be anywhere else.

I remember the day I "got hooked" on Handi-Dogs. I was sitting beside a handler and noticed she was having a hard time paying attention to the trainer, controlling her dog, and trying to write something down. I offered to take over her dog so that she could pay attention and write her notes. The sense of relief in her face spoke volumes. Offering to handle a dog may not seem like a big deal to most people but it can mean a lot. Small acts equal big things at Handi-Dogs.

I believe Handi-Dogs is a valuable part of our community. Being a volunteer is an honor. As a volunteer, I am welcomed into very personal relationships between handlers and their dogs. After a year and a half of volunteering, I am still humbled by the opportunity to work with the teams. I encourage anyone who values positive approaches to dog training, enjoys learning, and has patience, to volunteer or get involved with Handi-Dogs in another capacity."

## COMMUNITY PARTNERS HELPING HANDI-DOGS

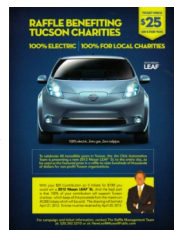


### WASH YOUR CAR & HELP HANDI-DOGS!

Before going to Metro Car Wash, visit their website, [www.metrocarwash.com](http://www.metrocarwash.com) to print a coupon and have 15% of your full-price purchase donated to Handi-Dogs!

### ENTER TO WIN A CAR!

Purchase a raffle ticket from Handi-Dogs and 100% of the money will be used to support our local programs. To learn more about this raffle sponsored by the Jim Click Automotive Team, visit their website [www.jimclicknissan.com](http://www.jimclicknissan.com). Tickets are just \$25, or 5 for \$100. You can purchase tickets at the Handi-Dogs office or by calling 326-3412. Good Luck!



## WHAT EVERY DOG SHOULD KNOW



'Leave It' is a cue that should be taught to all dogs. This cue teaches a dog to ignore whatever he is interested in sniffing, picking up, eating, etc. that you don't want him to.

If your dog has a "normal" curiosity about his surroundings and all its objects and distractions, your dog will approach undesirable temptations in the course of his day - unless trained to ignore them. At times, 'Leave It' is often used as a safety cue to stop your dog from grabbing things like other

dogs' poop, medication you dropped, broken glass, etc. Training 'Leave It' prepares your dog to respond with a "what to do" cue rather than having to manage non-desirable behavior with a harsh, loud "NO!" or a potentially hurtful physical correction such as a yank of the leash.

Training a reliable 'Leave It' is not easy. It requires lots of practice in different environments with many types of tempting objects - first on leash and then off leash. Dogs do not generalize well. Your dog's ability to leave a plate of food alone on the coffee table does not mean he will leave a piece of old steak found at the park.

Once you have trained a reliable 'Leave It' all is not done. You should also train a 'Give' or 'Drop' cue, as once your dog has put something in his mouth 'Leave It' is no longer appropriate. Additionally, training your dog to focus their attention on you (such as 'Watch Me') is also helpful. Then, when you see a known temptation (such as food by a trash can in the park), you can ask for your dog's attention before he becomes too interested in it.

Need help training the 'Leave It' cue? Contact us and we can send you a step by step training guide.

## NEW CLASSES

Enrollment for Spring training classes is open until March 16. Classes take place from April 2 - June 8.



We offer affordable classes to seniors (ages 65+) and to people of all ages with disabilities. (Therapy dog classes open to all ages)

- \* Service Dog Training Classes
- \* Therapy Dog Classes
- \* Pet Dog Classes (drop-in available)

All classes include basic obedience, and Canine Good Citizen Preparation and Testing.

## SAVE THE DATE!

March 26, 2011

In celebration of 'Write A Will' month, Handi-Dogs is pleased that Linda Goode from Prudential will be on-site to present a 'brown-bag lunchtime' seminar, **Wills, Trust & Special Need Considerations**.

Don't let any more time slip away - get the information you need to begin your estate planning. For more information call 326-3412 or email [service@handi-dogs.org](mailto:service@handi-dogs.org).

Donate



Thank you for any support you can provide.

### Handi-Dogs

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