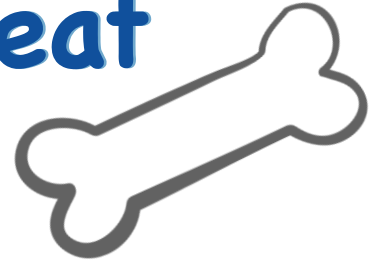




# The Monthly Treat

October 2015



Look what your pups are doing!

## A Treat For All to Enjoy

- by Mark Ruefenacht, Founder



Mandela (left) and D4D Chief Canine Ambassador, Hollis, seal the agreement with their paw prints.



**Left to Right:** D4D Trainer Carrie, Righteous Pups Trainer Joanne, D4D Founder Mark, and Righteous Pups Trainer Jenny, joined by Mandela (left) and Hollis.



Dogs4Diabetics entered into a landmark agreement with Righteous Pups of Australia to train and place dogs with insulin-dependent diabetics in Australia. Hollis (D4D Chief Canine Ambassador) and Mandela from Righteous Pups also seal the agreement with their paw prints. D4D and Righteous Pups of Australia are working together because both programs are highly respected for the quality of their training programs and their commitment to a lifetime of support for the human-dog team. Righteous Pups of Australia has a similar model to Dogs4Diabetics of providing these life-saving dogs at no cost to the recipient. D4D and Righteous Pups of Australia are both accredited by Assistance Dogs International. Dogs4Diabetics Founder, Mark Ruefenacht, said, "We are thrilled to be working with Righteous Pups who reflect our high standards of quality and share our values of integrity and ethics. We are so pleased to have Dogs4Diabetics in Australia (D4D-AU)." Dogs placed in Australia will come from Righteous Pup's breeding program. Stay tuned for more news and photos as we work together in this important endeavor.

# Foster Care Program Update...

## Foster Care Halloween Bash!



Thursday, October 29th



Foster Care will be having our Annual Halloween Bash on October 29<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm at the Dogs4Diabetics training center. This event is open to the public. Fosters, puppy raisers, clients or anyone interested in our program.

All dogs must come in costume! There will be games, a costume contest, great food and a LOT of fun!

Please join us  
for a Scary  
Good Time!



### Foster Care Schedule of Classes:

All classes run from 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm at Dogs4Diabetics training center located at 1400 Willow Pass Court, Concord, CA 94520.

### Tuesday Night Evaluator Classes:

10/6

10/13

10/20- NO CLASS - 3rd Tuesday (Attend Thursday w/ Foster Care)

10/27

11/3

11/10

### Thursday Night Foster Care Classes:

10/15

10/22

10/29 - Halloween Bash! (Open to the public)

11/05- NO CLASS- 1st Thursday

11/12

We are currently in great need of Foster Care Providers who can bring dogs into the training center on a daily basis. If you know of anyone who may be interested, please invite them to a meeting or have them email [fostercare@dogs4diabetics.com](mailto:fostercare@dogs4diabetics.com). Our website also has information for potential new fosters along with a foster care application [www.dogs4diabetics.com/programs/foster-care-program/](http://www.dogs4diabetics.com/programs/foster-care-program/). Thank you for spreading the word and supporting our Foster Care Program.



# What Two Qualities Make a Great Alert Dog?

- Stephanie Perkins, Foster Care Program Leader



## Answer: CONFIDENCE and TRUST!

Foster Care Providers use a couple of techniques to build confidence and trust with our dogs-in-training. One of these techniques is teaching dog agility. When introduced properly (baby steps), agility obstacles can help a dog gain confidence as he/she works through the course. This builds confidence because the dog feels good about working through the obstacles. We teach this with a long line (no leash), so that nothing is ever forced and it is always the dog's choice to move through the obstacle. The dogs love this because it is fun and their decision to move through the obstacle is positively reinforced. The fearful or shy dogs quickly start to trust the equipment and the handler in the process. Where there is confidence, there is trust. Trust is a two-way street between the dog and the handler. This comes full circle in our program because when all is said and done, we always tell our clients to trust their dogs. The nose knows!



Another technique our Foster Care Providers use to build confidence in our dogs-in-training is shaping, offering behaviors, and targeting. These techniques teach our dogs to become creative thinkers, which opens up the dog to become less reliant on the handler. This is an extremely important quality needed in training an alert dog. When a dog learns how to offer behaviors, he/she learns how to interact in their environment in new ways. Also, this gives our dogs the confidence they need to leave the trainers side and move through the room and search for scent.

*The contribution our Foster Care Providers make is truly a selfless gift of love. Thank you to all Foster Care Providers for your time, care, love and dedication to our dogs and to the mission of Dogs4Diabetics.*



## Foster Care Evaluator: Threshold, Fear, and Motivation...



Our evaluator and foster classes have also been learning about motivation and threshold as it relates to fear in dogs. We started our class last time by pairing up Fosters and asked them to choose their greatest fear and write it on a piece of paper. One person was holding the paper representing the fear and the other person was reacting to the fear. We used several “human” motivators to attempt to get the person to move closer to their fear. Many Fosters chose spiders and snakes as their fear! While attempting to get the person closer to their fear, Fosters were also learning how intensity, distance and duration play a role in counter conditioning fear reactions.

Once the Fosters understood these concepts, they had hands-on work with the dogs practicing these concepts. All of our Fosters did FANTASTIC and some were surprised that not everyone had the same motivator. Many thought that money would be the highest motivator but to some it was not! It is the same when you are training a dog. We hope everyone had fun and enjoyed learning about how to better handle fear reactions with our dogs-in-training.

## Foster Care Monthly Reminder:

November 1, 2015 - Flea Control and HeartGuard

### Wash Service Dog Vest

Reports are Due! Please email Foster Care Reports to:

[christina@dogs4diabetics.com](mailto:christina@dogs4diabetics.com).

Email all Evaluator reports to:

[fostercare@dogs4diabetics.com](mailto:fostercare@dogs4diabetics.com)

and

[cskym@dogs4diabetics.com](mailto:cskym@dogs4diabetics.com).



## Waggin' Wednesdays

continue to be a great opportunity for Guide Dog Puppy Raisers to learn more about community placement, and our training program.



Waggin' Wednesdays is open to all GDB puppy raisers and GDB staff. Contact Carrie Skym at [cskym@Dogs4Diabetics.com](mailto:cskym@Dogs4Diabetics.com) to set up your visit!



Looking to recycle your Aluminum Cans, Plastic & Glass Bottles?

Donate them to Dogs4Diabetics

Recycling Program and help us in

carrying out our mission in serving the Diabetic community. We are also in need of volunteers to help build the program. For more information, contact Jeannie Hickey at [ghjeannie@aol.com](mailto:ghjeannie@aol.com).

## Chief Canine Ambassador- Hollis



### Extra! Extra! Read All About It!

Hollis recently traveled with D4D Founder and GDB Puppy Raising Leader, Mark Ruefenacht, to attend the GDB Alumni Conference in Portland, Oregon. Mark was awarded the Lori Sheppard Award by the GDB Alumni Association for excellence in advocacy. The award was based on Mark's many years of work in advocating for persons with disabilities, including diabetes and vision impairment.

Please join Hollis for the Dogs4Diabetics graduation on Saturday, November 7<sup>th</sup> at 2 pm at the Walnut Creek Christian Academy. The graduation will honor GDB puppy raisers, graduating teams, Foster Care Providers, volunteers and donors. Invite your family and friends for a memorable afternoon.

Picture: Mark Ruefenacht and Hollis receiving the Lori Sheppard Award from Theresa Stern (GDB).



A promotional poster for a graduation event. On the left is the Dogs4Diabetics logo, which features a heart shape containing a dog's head and a caduceus symbol, with the text "DOGS4DIABETICS" below it. In the center is a close-up photograph of a golden retriever puppy. On the right, the word "GRADUATION" is written in large, bold, gold letters. Below it, "Nov. 7th" is written in a cursive font, and "2pm - 4pm Walnut Creek Christian Academy" is written in a smaller, gold font.

# Thank You

# LAGUNITAS BREWING COMPANY



Dogs4Diabetics  
3rd Annual DOGtoberfest  
Thank you for your support!

Photo Credit - Yellow Neener Photography

## New Kid on the Block



### Tobias

A warm tail-waggin' welcome to our New Kid on the Block, Tobias. We are so excited to have him join us at Dogs4Diabetics. This sweet black Lab has passed his two-week evaluation and is already showing his strong skills in our program.



**Quest** is our newest pup-in-training at D4D. This little ball of fur is only 4 months old (born June 15th) and was generously donated by Amy Ross, a wonderful Minnesota breeder. He has so far been getting to know his new family at D4D and is spending quality playtime with our current D4D dogs-in-training.



**Flynn**

## Bidding Farewell

Flynn (left) and Mars have been career-changed and returned to Guide Dogs for the Blind. These dogs will be missed at Dogs4Diabetics and we wish them best of luck in their future endeavors.

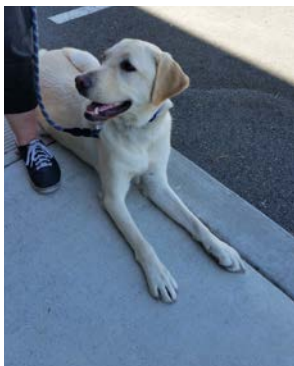
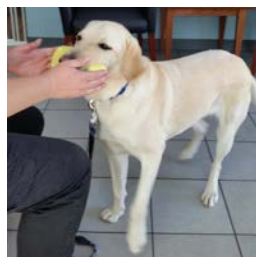
Thank you to Guide Dogs for the Blind for your continuous support and to our GDB puppy raisers for all you contribute to our organization.



**Mars**

# Dogs-in-Training

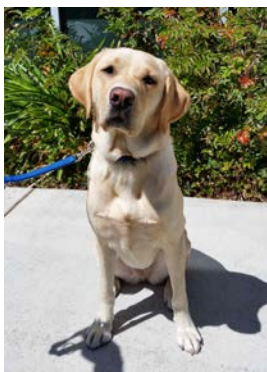
## Joust



**Left:** Joust holding a dumbbell. **Right:** Joust outside Dogs4Diabetics on a beautiful fall day.

Joust is in Phase B1, 2. He has shown good understanding in food refusal and collar response.  
You Rock Joust!

## Ravenna



**Left:** Ravenna passed her Bringsel Test!

**Right:** "Did someone say "treat"?" -Woof, Ravenna  
Ravenna is in Phase C6 and kickin' serious tail in her training. She is currently preparing for placement with a diabetic client.

## Winifred (Winnie)



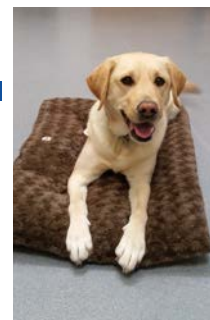
**Left:** Winifred chews on her favorite dog bone.



**Right:** Winifred alerting in bucket training.

Winifred has been Rockin' 'N' Rollin' in her training at D4D & is in Phase B-1, 2.

## Topanga

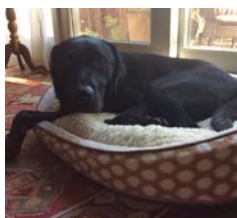


**Left:** Topanga alerting on the hypoglycemic scent.

**Right:** Topanga loves the new dog beds donated by Worldwise—they're awesome!

Topanga has moved onto Phase C5. She is one of our top dogs at D4D and will be paired with a diabetic client soon - Keep up the good work Topanga!

## Pax



**Left:** Pax in his new dog bed.

**Right:** Pax working on dumbbell training at D4D.

Pax has advanced to phase B-1, 3. This sweet Lab is doing a wonderful job discriminating between scents.



### Dogs and Clients working on meeting graduating requirements.



Izumi posing for a picture while on a beautiful afternoon walk with her human.



Fitz loves to be the center of attention when his human brings out the camera.



### Dogs and Clients who have met graduation requirements.



Norton in his D4D jacket relaxing on one of the many new dog beds donated by Worldwise.



Throwback picture of Sonata playing with her rope after training at D4D.

Isn't she so cute and adorable?



How cool is this picture of Persimmon? She has her own shopping mall in Dublin, CA.



Watch out it's a giant ant!

No worries, it's Flik from the 1998 hit Pixar movie, A Bug's Life.

Fantastic picture of Chassis and his human.

# Dogs and Clients who have met graduation requirements.



Kellen and his human will be graduating in November and they sure make one perfect team. We're so proud of Kellen.



Hatcher picked out his new dog bed at D4D and he absolutely loves it.

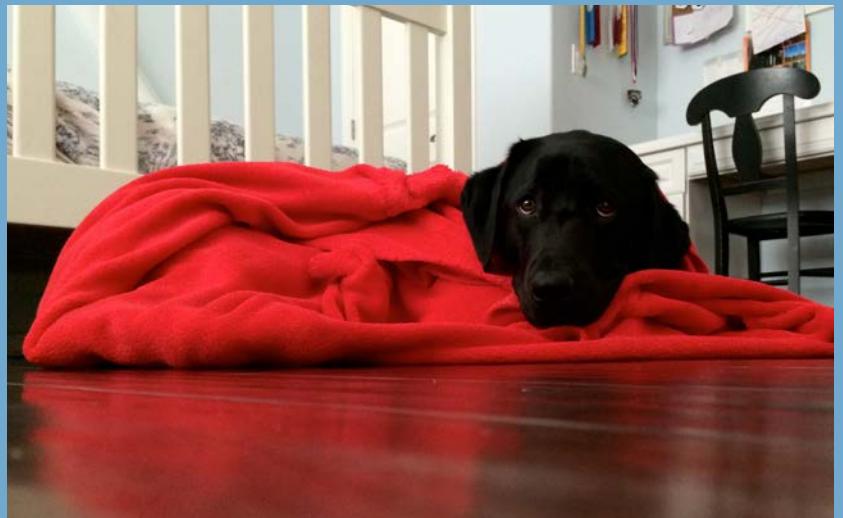


**Left:** Schroeder is photo ready.

**Right:** Schroedor & his human enjoying each other's company while on vacation.



Mystery can't wait until our Fall Graduation in November. She and her human have met all graduation requirements.



Rialta loves to be cozy and comfortable at home.