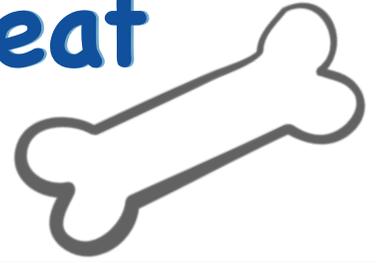


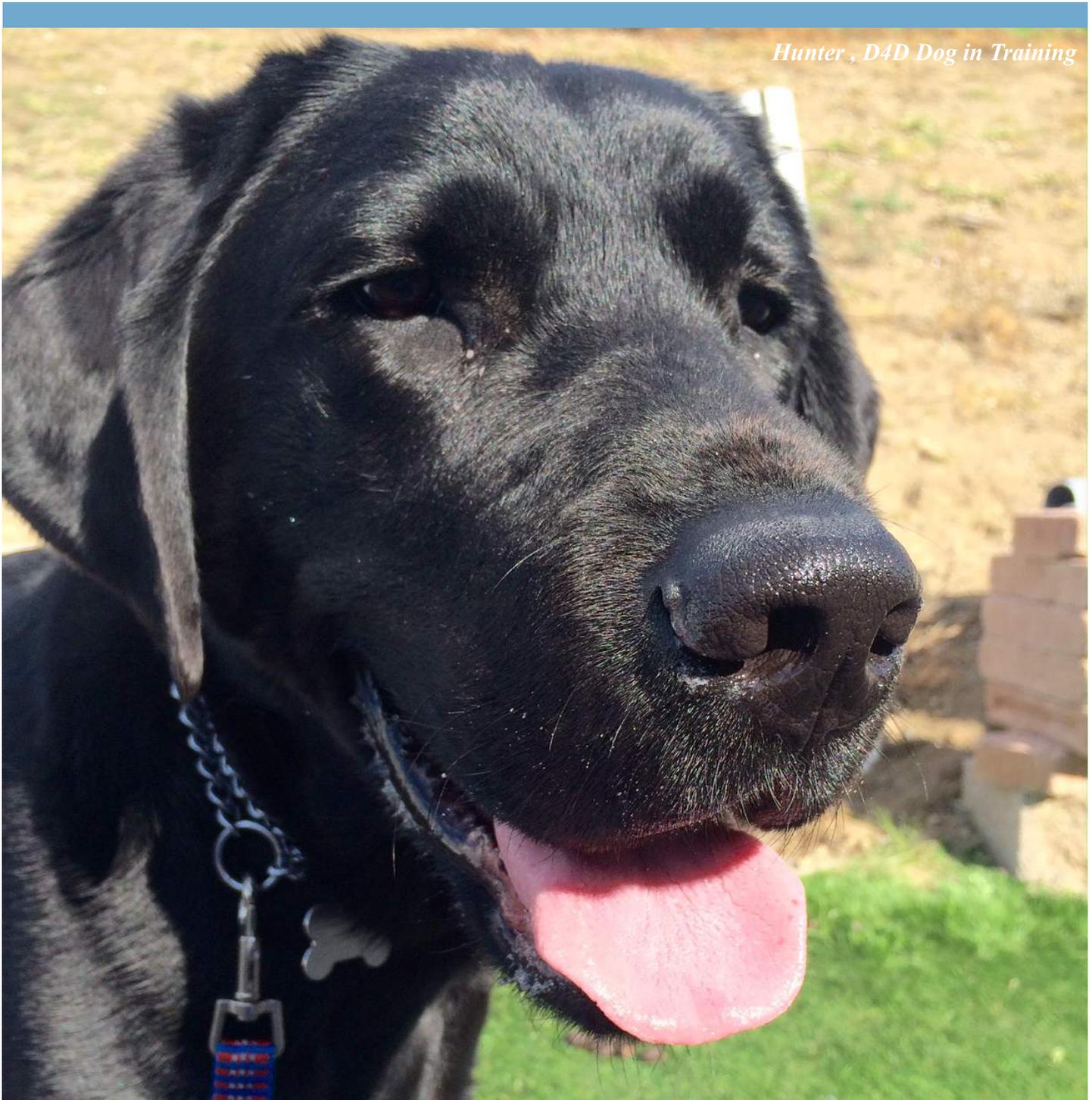


The Monthly Treat

February 2016



The Latest and Greatest with the D4D Pups in Training



Hunter , D4D Dog in Training

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT...



Thank You Isabelle! Isabelle has been a wonderful addition to the D4D Team, she has been generously volunteering her time to our Foster Care Program. Thank you Isabelle for all your loving care, the entire D4D Team thinks you and your family are PAWsome!

Isabelle's Volunteer Story:

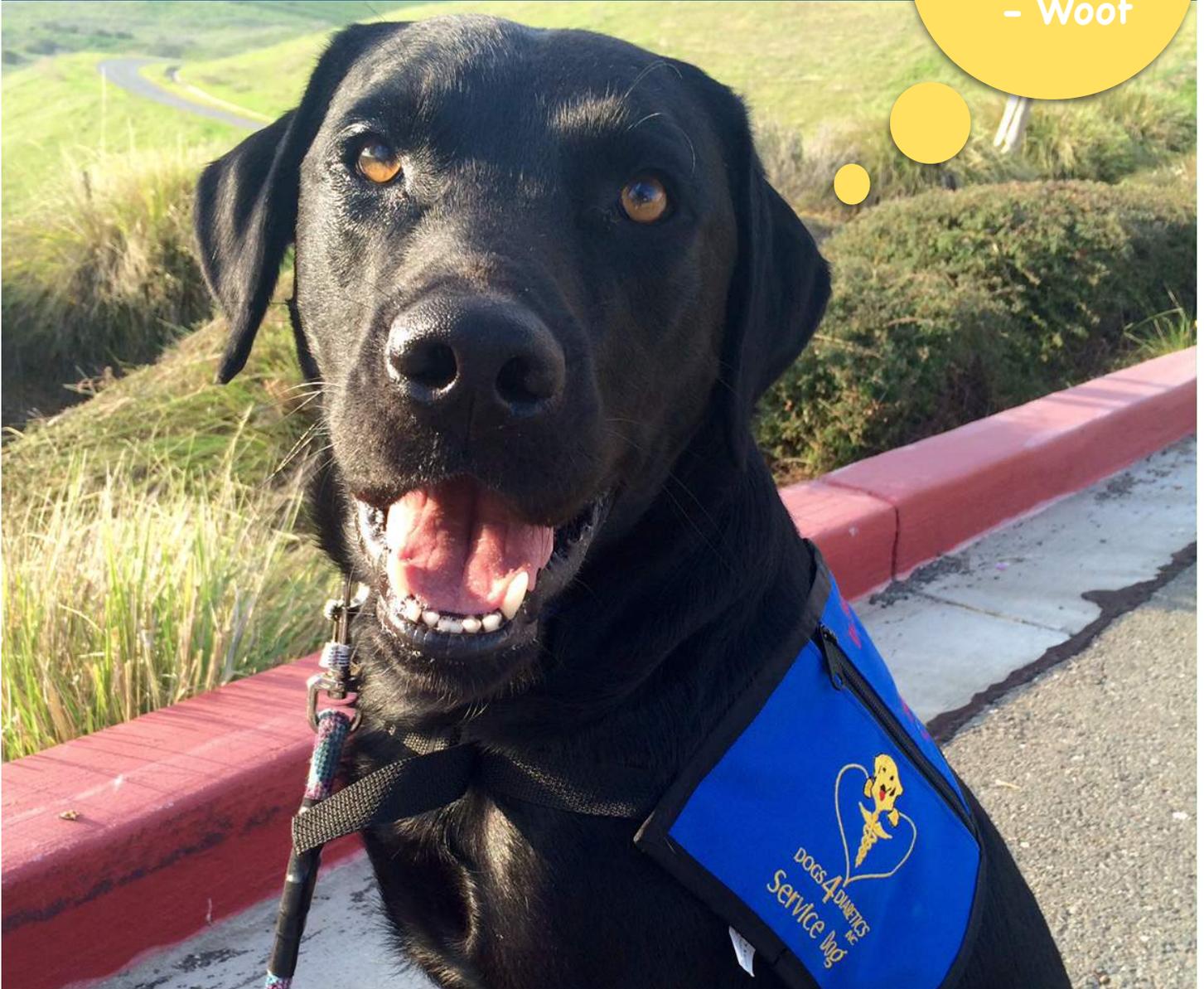
“My family moved to Walnut Creek, CA four years ago from the North part of France. Since moving here my daughter, who is 12 years old has wanted to adopt a dog. I thought it would be great to get a dog and somehow use their therapeutic qualities to give back to the community as well. When I found out about D4D and their Foster Care Program I was so excited. It was the perfect fit for us!”

“I attended my first Foster Care Meeting over a year ago now, and have never left! Everyone at D4D has been so welcoming and I immediately felt their warmth, kindness, and passion for what they do. I will never forget the first time I saw a dog alert on their diabetic partner (thank you Dennis and Yancey!), it was amazing! The dog's unwavering dedication for its owner is the most beautiful reward for a D4D Foster Care Provider.”

“I have fostered three dogs to date. All have been so different in their own ways, and all so incredibly lovable. When it's time for the dog you have fostered to be placed with their diabetic partner our “love story” always has a happy ending! We are able to share in the joy and the emotion of this new life-saving partnership. I've learned so much through my Foster Care experience with D4D, and I will always be thankful for what these amazing dogs have taught me!”

NEW KID ON THE BLOCK...

Hi, I'm Moses!
- Woof



As you know, D4D and Righteous Pups of Australia (D4D-AU) are working together to provide life-saving Medical-Alert Assistance Dogs to the Australian diabetic community in hopes of having a global impact!

We've been collaborating closely with Righteous Pups in the training of Mandela, who many of you have seen his training progress in our Monthly Treat. With Mandela nearing the end of his U.S. adventures and embarking on his next chapter of being a Medical-Alert Assistance Dog in Australia, we begin the training of a new Australian pup. His brother, Moses!

We are so excited to have this handsome guy in our training program, and to further our partnership with Righteous Pups. Stay tuned for more news and photos as we work together in this important endeavor to have a global impact on the diabetic community.

ADVANCED FOSTER CARE CLASS...

POSITIVE REINFORCEMENT TRAINING AT D4D!

Dogs4Diabetics enjoys using positive reinforcement with the dogs in our foster care program. This month our foster care providers learned about lure-reward training. This is a highly effective way to teach our dogs positioning and proper heeling. It is easy and fun for both the dog and the foster care provider, and our dogs learn quite quickly with this training method. This type of training simply involves using a food reward to guide the dog into the desired position or behavior. If the dog gets out of heel position while walking, instead of correcting the dog for being wrong, we use a lure to show the dog the correct behavior then mark/reward when the dog is back in proper heel position. This gives us the opportunity to reward when a dog is right rather than correcting a dog for being wrong. Lure-reward training works because food makes dogs feel good, and a strong motivator will help a dogs focus, learn, and enjoy the training!

Foster care providers also focused on using positive reinforcement while practicing loose leash walking and polite leash manners. Our foster care providers were surprised when their leashes were replaced with toilet paper during a training class! The expectation was that the dog should walk in heel position without pulling. Using toilet paper as a leash takes away the use of corrections, leash pressure and all leash cues. Our foster care providers could only use positive reinforcement and luring to keep the dog in heel and not allow the dog to pull towards any of the distractions that were in the environment. If a dog did pull, the toilet paper would break. We are ecstatic to report that all dogs made it through without breaking their toilet paper leash. The only exception to that was when Stephanie, our foster care leader decided to take "one more" lap through the cones with Mandela, a dog we are training for Righteous Pups of Australia..... clearly demonstrating we need to quit while we are ahead! Needless to say, this exercise was fun and shows us the power of positive reinforcement. It also showed us that our foster care providers have amazing dog handling skills!



Beck working with Valisa using a toilet paper leash and positive reinforcement to ignore distractions.



Pam reinforcing Hunter for proper positioning.



Stephanie, going a little too far with Mandela. However, he really did outstanding!

ALBANY FOSTER CARE GROUP

THE PILOT PROGRAM HAS BEGUN!

Dogs4Diabetics is piloting a new foster care program that utilizes people who live outside our local area. Until very recently, fosters were required to live in close proximity to the training center due to transporting the dog to and from the training center on a daily basis. We are excited to share with you that our Albany foster care group has grown to eight people! All eight of the fosters will share the responsibility of bringing the dogs into our training center in a “dog pool.” With our current fosters that means that they will each have to drive less than once a week!



During this pilot program we are exploring the use of a cell phone app to schedule drivers/fosters for the week. It will alert key volunteers and staff members of the dogs arrival and departure from the training center. The app will also alert the fosters of their schedule and remind them when it is their turn to drive. It will also allow fosters to trade schedules with each other. In addition, we will be exploring remote training in hopes that we will be able to start foster care groups like this in other areas. We hope this pilot program continues to go well because we have our eye on the Antioch area next!

D4D FOSTER CARE

HAS A NEW MEETING LOCATION!

With the expansion of our foster care program, we have out grown our space! A huge and grateful **THANK YOU** to IBEW Local 302 in Martinez for donating the perfect place for us to hold our growing foster care classes. Local 302 heard about our program and the need we had to find a larger place to meet (Thank you Kellie Case) and they stepped right up to lend a helping hand. We greatly appreciate their generosity and they are happy to be able to support the community in such a positive way. **THANK YOU! THANK YOU!**

The address is 1875 Arnold Dr. Martinez, CA. 94553. Stop by on Thursday nights and check it out!



Dogs-in-Training

Hunter...

Hunter, is in Phase B 1 and 2. He is learning to recognize and find the hypoglycemic scent with his nose.



Mandela...

Mandela, is in Phase B 4. He is learning how to pair scent with a bringsel alert.



Quest...

Quest, is in Phase A 1 and 2. He is also learning how to recognize and find the hypoglycemic scent like his buddy, Hunter.



Moses...

Moses, is in Phase A 1. This new kid on the block is working on how to bringsel on cue.



Working Towards Graduation

See what your pups are doing!



Izumi and Brittany love their hikes! "Even when we're out on a fun adventure Izumi's priority is to keep me safe." - Brittany



Joe and Tobias love hanging out at the Beach, and enjoy their fun time. They are working to meet Graduation requirements.



Madi and Winnie: "I've only had you for a short time sweet girl, and you have already saved my life a number of times!" - Madi



Pax is an alerting machine, and working hard with his human, Erryn to meet their Graduation requirements.



Joust, and his human Joyce are having so much fun together, and working hard to meet Graduation requirements.



Ravenna and Yvonne are working to meet Graduation requirements, and having a blast doing so!

PROGRAM & FOSTER CARE UPDATES...

Foster Care Class Schedule:

All classes run from 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm at Dogs4Diabetics Training Center, located at IBEW Union Hall 1875 Arnold Dr. Martinez, CA 94553. A special thanks to IBEW Union Hall for letting us use their space free of charge.

Thursday Night Classes:

- 3/3 (NO CLASS - Client Support Class)
- 3/10
- 3/17
- 3/24
- 3/31

As a reminder, send all reports (Foster Care and Evaluator to FosterCare@Dogs4Diabetics.com)



CAREER CHANGED... Arnold has been career changed. We will miss you sweet Arnold. We wish you all the best on your next adventure!

New Foster Training Class...

On February 11th, our new foster training classes began and they are in full swing. We are thrilled to have 12 new foster care providers join our foster care team. These new fosters are taking a 10 week training class that will teach them everything they need to know to foster and train a dog for us. We thrilled with their enthusiasm for learning and the love they already have for our dogs!



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 to set up your visit!

cskym@Dogs4Diabetics.com

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: ghjeannie@aol.com.