The Monthly Treat

July 2016

The Latest and Greatest with the D4D's Pups-in-Training

D4D's Dogs-In-Training, Charcoal (left) & Pilsner

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT...

One of our newest volunteers here at Dogs4Diabetics (D4D), Leah Coombs, generously donates her time several days a week assisting with walking D4D's dogs-in-training, grooming, and scent training in our Nylabone training room.

D4D trainer, Christina, and Leah are long time friends and previous coworkers at Six Flags Discovery Kingdom. Leah alone has over 20 years of animal training and has worked with killer whales, dolphins, walruses, and sea lions.

"The ability to save people's lives through training (D4D) dogs is inspiring." -Leah

When Leah isn't donating her time, she is an active mother and spends her weekends with daughter, Jordan, who plays travel softball and son, Hunter, who plays travel baseball, and basketball. When Leah has free time, she enjoys traveling to Hawaii and watching football with the family. Her favorite team? The Oakland Raiders.

Leah, we greatly appreciate your experience in-training animals and support and time that you've donated so far to our nonprofit. Many thanks!

Leah with D4D's Pup-In-Training, Pilsner

Leah assisting with Scent Training

Summer Time Foster Care Fun!

By Foster Care Leader, Stephanie Perkins...

Foster Care has been taking their training and putting it to the test this summer during our summer outings! Last week, our Foster Care class took the dogs to the Martinez Marina/Waterfront for an evening training walk. We focused on being "proactive" handlers and using positive reinforcement to handle multiple distractions at once. It was a highly unpredictable environment. We encountered other dogs, ducks, geese, wind, water and about 50 people wondering aimlessly playing Pokemon Go!

Continued on next page...

Fosters taking a Training Walk

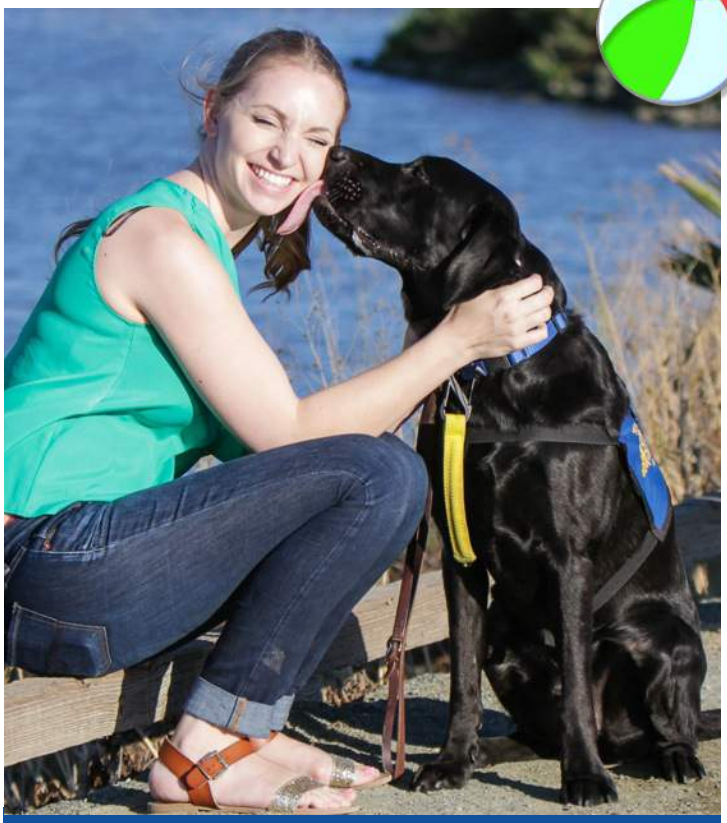
Photos by Yellow Neener Photography

Programs Leader, Stephanie, with D4D's Pup-In-Training, Lorne

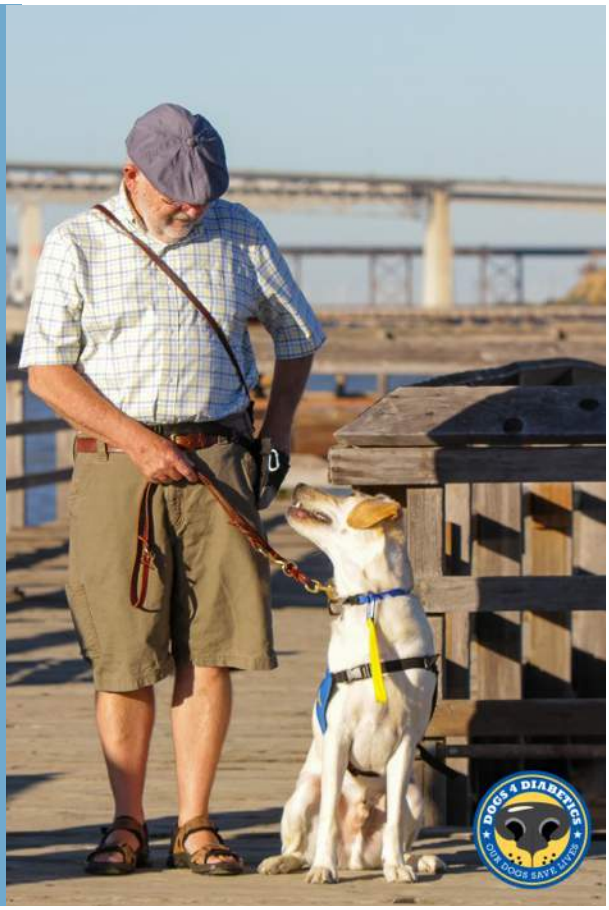
Kellie, with Pup-In-Training, Lorne

Continued from previous page...

Our Fosters had fun practicing their engagement skills and keeping their dogs focused. D4D's Foster Care Providers use a combination of proactive engagement, and positive reinforcement to keep their dogs active and engaged. Engagement is very important to D4D's dogs because a good Medical-Alerting dog is always focused on their handler. Our Fosters work hard on these skills and it really shows! D4D's Fosters really do have all the fun.



Foster, Kellie, with D4D's Pup-In-Training, Hale. Kisses!



Foster, Joe, working with D4D's Pup-In-Training, Pilsner

Fosters taking a Training Walk

We are currently in great need of Foster Care Providers who can bring dogs into the training center. If you know of anyone who may be interested, please invite them to a meeting or have them email 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/. Thank you for spreading the word and supporting our Foster Care Program.

NEW KID ON THE BLOCK...

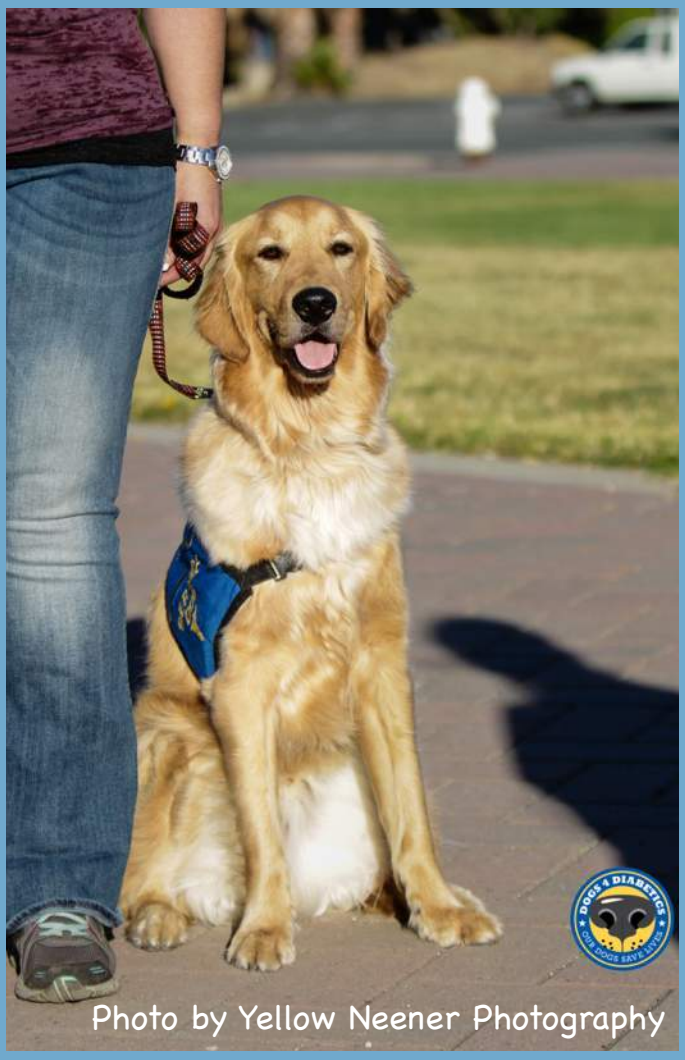


Photo by Yellow Neener Photography

Lorne

This handsome Golden Retriever, Lorne, has officially joined our D4D team!

This cool pup-in-training has been career-changed from Guide Dogs for the Blind, and takes the spot as this month's "New Kid on the Block."

He has passed his two week evaluation, and is starting to learn how to bringsel on cue. Currently, Lorne is in Phase B1.

Dogs-in-Training

Josette

Josette, has reached Phase C6 in her training and is waiting to be placed with a D4D client. We're so proud of Josette and all the hard work she has put in to reach this point -You Go, Josette!

Quinoa

This cutie, Quinoa, is in Phase C6 and has been kickin' tail in her training. She has passed her final test and is waiting to be placed with a D4D client -You Go, Girl!

Jacqueline

Jacqueline (Josette's sister) is also in Phase C6 and is waiting to be placed with a D4D client. These sisters are smart and good looking pups too.

Dogs-in-Training

Moses

Moses, from Rightous Pups of Australia, is in Phase B5. He is continuing his skills in bucket training and has started his testing.

Hale

This handsome pup-in-training, Hale, is in Phase C4 and has found the hypoglycemic scent! Keep up the good work, Hale!

Quest

This sweet Collie, Quest, is working on perfecting his skills in Phase B-1,3 before moving on to the next Phase.

Flutter

Flutter, with her adorable smile that will melt your heart, is in Phase C-1,2. She is working on bucket training and is starting to learn how to grab her bringsel.

Dogs-in-Training

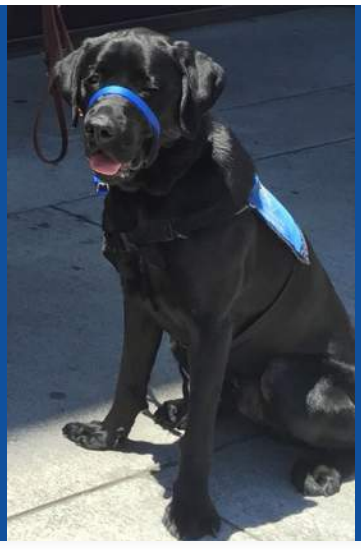
Pilsner

Pup-in-training, Pilsner, is getting ready for his bringsel test and once passed, will move onto advanced scent training. He is in Phase C-1,3.

Charcoal

Charcoal, is improving his beginning scent training skills in Phase C-1,2 and working on bucket training.

Career-Changed



Argo, has been career-changed and returned to Guide Dogs for the Blind.

His upbeat and lovable personality will be missed at D4D and we wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors.

Thank You to GDB for your continuous support and to our GDB puppy raisers for all you contribute to our organization.

Mandela

"All of us at Dogs4Diabetics, bid Mandela farewell. This a bitter-sweet farewell as all of us have come to love Mandela, his gentle spirit, and his enthusiasm to give "hugs." But, we are also excited to see the first D4D-trained dog return to Australia where we are opening the door to serving insulin-dependent diabetic children and adults through our unique partnership with Righteous Pups Australia. Jen and JoAnn of Righteous Pups have just completed their fourth trip to the US for training with Dogs4Diabetics. We are thrilled to be working with such a dedicated and ethical organization and we look forward to jointly serving the good people of Australia. Help us wish Mandela the best of luck!" ~Mark R., D4D's Founder

Working Towards Graduation...

D4D's Client/Dog Team, Paul and Hunter, are taking their summer easy and relaxing in style on a comfy outdoor swing.

"Hunter and I are working really hard to meet our Graduation requirements." - Paul

Heidi with her Medical-Alert dog, Topanga, joined by husband, Dave, having a good time at Armstrong's Annual Patriot's Picnic.

"Topanga and I are enjoying summer vacation and working hard toward our graduation goals." -Heidi

Photo by Yellow Neener Photography

CONGRATULATIONS ARE IN ORDER…

Another D4D team have met Graduation requirements!!!

Carol and Joust

Carol and Joust have met their Graduation requirements, and will be graduating on Saturday, November 5th, 2016.

Photo Description: D4D's Client/Dog team, Carol and Joust, are taking on mini-adventures this summer and having a blast too.

"Together, Joust and I crossed the bridge and became winners." - Carol

Clients & Dogs who have met Graduation requirements

Madi and Winnie

Here is a great #throwback picture of D4D's Client/Dog Team, Madi and Winnie, during their trip to Chicago.

"Still reminiscing our trip to Chicago while preparing for our trip to the east coast in the next few weeks!" -Madi

Joe and Tobias

D4D's Client/Dog Team, Joe and Tobias recently visted the White House. They weren't able to meet the President or the first dog, Bo, but they took a tour, saw a portrait of President Lincoln, & saw fine china used by past Presidents.

Clients & Dogs who have met Graduation requirements

Yvonne and Ravenna

D4D's Client/Dog Team, Yvonne and Ravenna (right) are joined by D4D's Client/Dog Team, Kim and Hatcher, walked in the Concord 4th of July Parade. It was a fun-filled day with many great memories.

Erryn and Pax

Erryn with her D4D's Medical-Alert Dog, Pax, are takin' names and kickin' tail when it comes to diabetes this summer. This dynamic duo knows how to work hard and have fun at the same time.

Summer

Brittany and Izumi

Brittany and Medical-Alert dog, Izumi, along with husband, Andrew, show off their red, white, and blue colors while at Armstrong's Annual Patriot's Picnic.

Foster Care Class Schedule:

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

Thursday Night Classes:

- 08/04 Client Support Class (No Meeting)
- 08/11
- 08/18
- 08/25

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

Did you Know?

Your donations, large and small, contribute to the success of our program. Learn more how your donations make a difference.
Donate today: Dogs4Diabetics.com

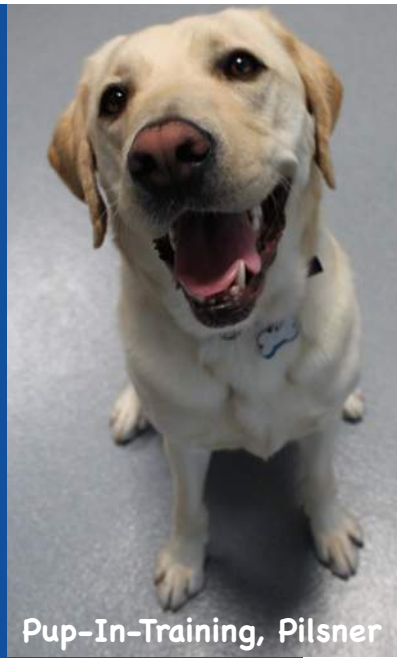
Please Join D4D for our August Type-YOU Meeting.

This is an open support group for insulin-dependent diabetics to provide a forum for discussion of your life with diabetes.

Tuesday, August 16th @ 7:00 pm

1400 Willow Pass Ct. Suit 200, Concord

No registration needed.



Pup-In-Training, Pilsner

We Need Foster Care Providers...

Foster care is one of the foundations of Dogs4Diabetics. The number of dogs we can accept into our program is determined by the number of Foster Care Providers available. If you are looking for a volunteer opportunity where your service will help save a life, please contact Foster Care Leader, Stephanie Perkins: FosterCare@Dogs4Diabetics.com

As a foster, not only will you discover the delight of a four-legged, wet-nosed companion, you will join a community working toward improving the lives of people with diabetes.

Get involved and really make a difference!

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 at ghjeannie@aol.com.

DOGS4DIABETICS TRAINING PHASES

The A,B,C phases of Dogs4Diabetics training refers to the dogs current level of training and socialization.

Phase A…

- GDB Released from the Puppy Home or GDB Early Training Release (Phases 0-3)
- Little or No Formal Training

Phase B…

- GDB Training Release (Phases 4-7)
- Needs more formal training to pass the ADI public access test

Phase C…

- Completed Formal GDB Training (Phase 8) or Guide for a Client.
- Meets standards of the ADI public access test

Scent Training Phases 0-8

0 - Pre-training evaluation
1- Bringsel training
2 - Beginning scent training
3 - Intermediate scent training
4 - Advanced scent training
5 - Testing
6 - Waiting for placement with a client
7 - Placement with a client
8 - Client and Dog are ready for Graduation