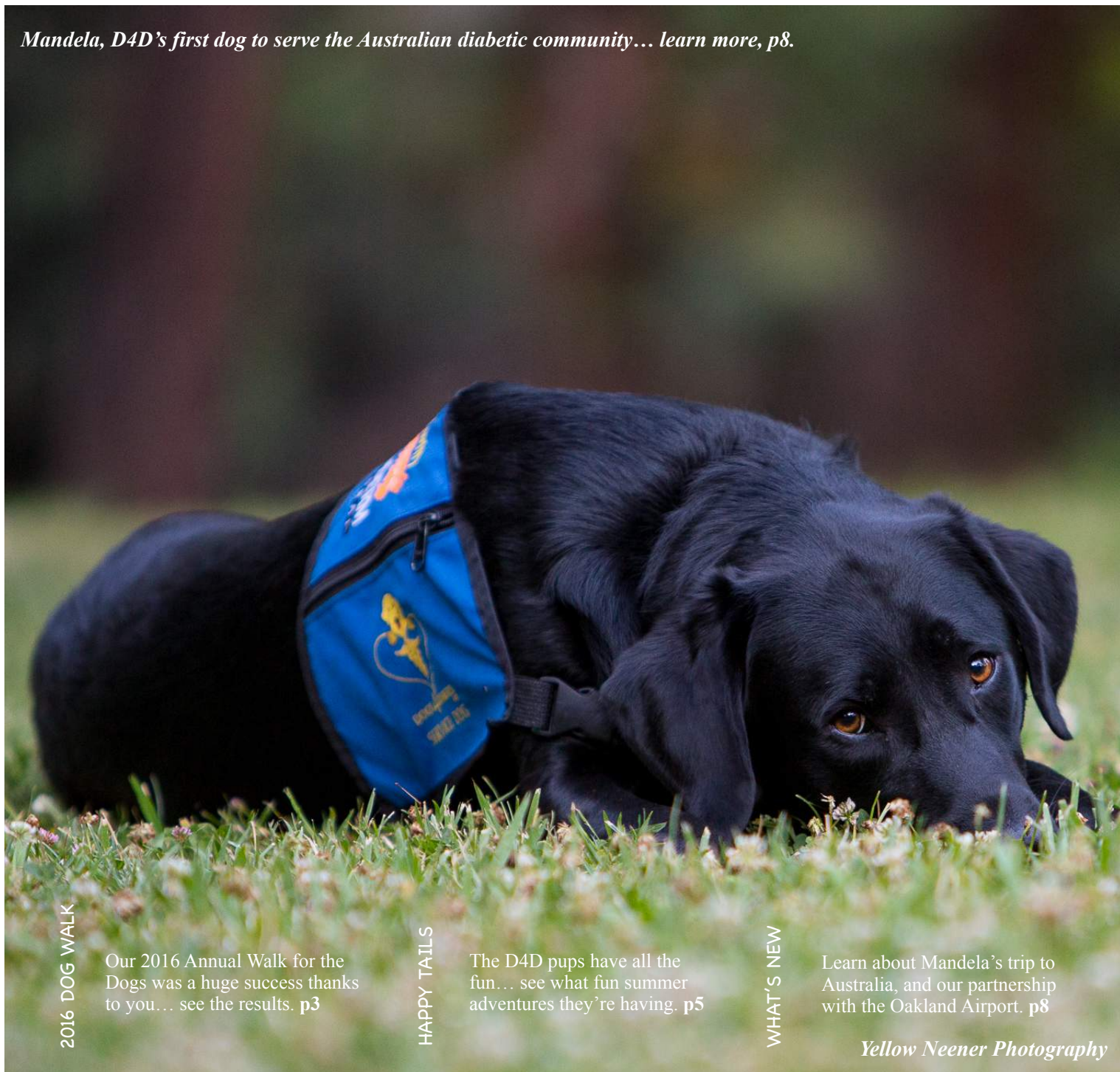




# DOGS4DIABETICS SUMMER 2016

*Keeping you in the KNOW - latest and greatest at Dogs4Diabetics*

*Mandela, D4D's first dog to serve the Australian diabetic community... learn more, p8.*



2016 DOG WALK

Our 2016 Annual Walk for the Dogs was a huge success thanks to you... see the results. **p3**

HAPPY TAILS

The D4D pups have all the fun... see what fun summer adventures they're having. **p5**

WHAT'S NEW

Learn about Mandela's trip to Australia, and our partnership with the Oakland Airport. **p8**

*Yellow Neener Photography*

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# KIBBLE FROM THE CORNER OFFICE

- by Ralph Hendrix, Executive Director

A great time was had by all at our Annual Walk for the Dogs on Saturday, June 11th. We had a great turnout and enjoyed the company of many local vendors who promoted everything from dog training to healthcare. Also, at this year's Walk we had a silent auction and raffle prizes; fun photo opportunities with the giant image of Armstrong, our Founding Dog; a Smooch-a-Pooch Booth; a Walk warm-up and wellness coach who got our Walkers ready for the day's activities. We also had a D4D New Building information booth sharing details of our future home, which will allow us to grow our services and serve the larger diabetic community. The building shell is complete, however, the interior improvements will not be complete until early 2017. Stay tuned for updates on its progress over the next year...

The most exciting news to report from the Walk is that we had over 250 walkers who helped raise an incredible \$72,000! This is such a tremendous accomplishment by such a wonderful group of supporters... many thanks to all involved for this outstanding effort, thank you! There was a lot to see and enjoy for a very fun day together!

In other summer news... D4D will be holding a Kids Camp on Saturday, July 23rd. It is intended to explain to parents, teens and children how a D4D dog can serve kids of all ages. We are very pleased to announce that D4D will begin placing Diabetes Buddy Dogs with children under age 12 with skills that match their needs and capabilities. This is an exciting new element of our program in an effort to provide the diabetic community with increased services. As always, our dogs and services are provided without charge. We can only do this through the generous support of our donors, sponsors and volunteers. These are very exciting times to be involved in the growth of Dogs4Diabetics. Thanks to all for your support in the many ways each of you have helped make this happen.



# VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

We couldn't do what we do without the support of our volunteers...

The health and well-being of the D4D dogs has been the long time passion of D4D volunteer, Cindy Sevilla. Cindy has been a volunteer with D4D for over 12 years, actually working with the original Armstrong Project. Her interest began as a Guide Dog Puppy Raiser, now Leader, with the East Bay Guide Dog Raisers in Oakland. Cindy has known Mark Ruefenacht, D4D's Founder, for many years from his work with the East Contra Costa GDB Puppy Raising Group.

A Red Cross CPR instructor with a Pet First Aid Certification, Cindy's initial involvement with D4D was teaching a pet first aid class to new D4D clients. Her class is loved by all our clients who credit Cindy with teaching them to be observant of their dog's behavior and also to perform regular examinations for abnormal growths and other physical changes. Cindy is a major source of information that helps our clients understand their responsibility for the lifetime care of their dogs.

Cindy visits D4D weekly and assists in grooming all our dogs in training. She clips nails, brushes teeth and coats, as well as performs full body checks on each of the dogs she handles letting our training staff know of any health concerns.

"My family has even joined me in supporting D4D. My daughter, Ginger, prepared an evaluation of the volunteer experience at D4D, as part of her MBA Program at Saint Mary's College." The study was focused on finding ways for D4D to recruit, develop and retain volunteers while providing them with a positive and motivating volunteer experience. "My other daughter, Hailey, who is a professional dog trainer, with extensive experience in search & rescue and explosive detection, has also helped D4D with some of their training methods."



Cindy is expanding her role with D4D and is excited about volunteering in the future as a training assistant as we move forward with our expanded services. "The best thing about D4D is not just the dogs, but it is also about building the community by recognizing and supporting everyone involved, including clients, family members, volunteers and even individuals with diabetes who are not seeking dogs, with D4D's Type You support group." Thank you Cindy for your years of dedication and volunteerism... you are a valuable member of the D4D family!



# HAPPY TAILS

## Summer Adventures...

D4D pups really do get to have all the fun. This summer many of our life-saving Medical-Alert Assistance Dogs are traveling the globe and having the time of their life... all while keeping their humans safe from the dangerous complications of diabetes.



Client/Dog Team Clayton and Whitley are on a cross country summer vacation, visiting Florida, New Orleans, San Antonio, and the Grand Canyon.



Client/Dog Team Brian and Schroeder visit the eighth tallest dam in the United States, the Shasta Dam across the Sacramento River.



Client/Dog Team Brittany and Izumi master the art of paddle boarding together. "Izumi is a natural adventurer and is always ready for a new challenge outside. With "Zoom Zoom" I don't have to worry about adventuring alone - she's always by my side, ready to go and ready to put her foot down when it's time to take a break and check my blood sugar." - Brittany



Client/Dog Team Fred and Picabo traveled to Alaska... "We traveled along the Alaskan Oil Pipeline exploring all of Alaska's beauty together. Picabo was the first dog ever to visit the University of Alaska's arctic research station at Toolik. She was fantastic on the trip and keep my diabetes nice and boring" - Fred



Client/Dog Team Kristin and Kellen enjoying Bodega Bay beach... "Kellen and I squeezed in some beach time before spending the summer at Bearskin Meadow Camp in Kings Canyon National Park. Kellen loves camp and being surrounded by all the diabetics. He's doing stellar at alerting, and loves that his D4D buddy, Fitz, is at camp too!" - Kristin

# ARMSTRONG'S DOG HOUSE

- by Danielle, Mark Ruefenacht's trusted Medical-Alert Assistance Dog & Best Friend

Woof, things are busier than ever at D4D and I'm loving it! Although, I am having a hard time finding time in the day and the space to take my afternoon naps because we have such a full house. We have 16 dogs in various stages of training right now... super exciting stuff!

I had a great time at Armstrong's picnic on Friday, July 1st. It was so much fun getting to see many of my old dog and human friends. I also heard that the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade in Concord was a fun activity for the D4D pups, though I didn't go as I don't have the same energy I used too. Did you know I turned 13 in December of 2015?

I was sad to hear of the sudden passing of one of my old friends, Rochelle, in June, who was only 10 years old. She supported her human, Kristin, for many years helping her to manage her diabetes.



In loving memory of Rochelle... forever in our hearts.  
2006 - 2016

We all miss Rochelle dearly and will always remember and honor her years of service as a Dogs4Diabetics Medical-Alert Assistance Dog.

Several D4D dogs have now been retired and their humans are working with new dogs to help support their diabetes. It is great to see how everyone is looking out for their people and our people are looking out for us pups. The bond we create with our diabetic partners is an unbeatable relationship of love, support, and friendship.

I am happy that my human Mark, D4D Founder, takes such great care of me. I know he tries to make sure all the D4D dogs are always safe, happy, healthy and get the care they need, especially as we get older.

Hollis and Jesse work hard to keep Mark safe on all his work travels. This is a big job and I appreciate all the new dogs that are being trained and placed with D4D clients, new and old. D4D is making a big difference in the lives of dogs and people.

Until next time, Woof! - Danielle





# TREATS FROM THE TRAINER, SUMMER SAFETY...

- by Christina Hobson, D4D Trainer

Foxtails... otherwise called spear grass, is pesky and abundant this time of year and it's very important you are aware of the potential health hazards they present for our pets. These troublesome bristly plants grow rampant in California and love to make their way into dog's noses, ear canals, under skin and between paws.

## *Why are they so dangerous?*

Foxtails are the seeding parts of the plant. Their structure has adapted itself to be dispersed by animals. The barbs cause the foxtail to cling to fur and the movement of the animal causes the foxtail to burrow into the fur. Since the barbs permit it to move only in one direction, once it punctures skin the danger of foxtails then goes beyond simple irritation. These tough seeds don't break down once inside the body but travel. An embedded foxtail can lead to serious infection for your dog and can even lead to death if left untreated.

- Feet - Foxtails love your dog's feet and can easily become embedded between tender toes. Check for foxtails if you notice swelling or limping.
- Ears - If your pooch is shaking their head, tilting it to the side, or scratching incessantly at an ear, this could be the sign of a foxtail -- one that may be so deep inside the ear canal you can't see it. Your veterinarian needs to take a look using a special scope.
- Eyes - Redness, discharge, swelling, squinting, and pawing all may be signs your dog has a foxtail lodged in its eye. If you think this may be the case seek veterinary care immediately.
- Nose - If you see discharge from the nose or if your dog is sneezing frequently and intensely, there may be a foxtail lodged in a nasal passage.
- Genitals - Foxtails can find their way into these areas too. If you notice your dog persistently licking at its genitals, foxtails could be the cause.



## *What to do if your pup has a foxtail?*

If you find a foxtail use tweezers to remove any foxtails you can easily get to. But if a foxtail is deeply embedded, or if the area around it is red or swollen, call your veterinarian right away.

# KEEPING YOU IN THE KNOW

What is else is new at D4D...

## Dogs4Diabetics bids Mandela farewell...

This is 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 (RPA).

Jen and JoAnn of Righteous Pups have just completed their fourth trip to the US for training with Dogs4Diabetics. They have worked closely with our trainers on the various aspects of our training techniques, which make our dogs so successful in their work.

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. We wish Mandela the best of luck in all his future adventures and life-saving work.

## Helping the Oakland Airport...

Mark, D4D Founder and Client/Dog Team, Kim and Hatcher, help the Port of Oakland team design Service Dog relieving areas inside the Oakland Airport.

Dogs4Diabetics was invited by the Port to work with them as Community Partners and help design a Service Dog relieving area, which will be placed inside a secured area within the airport. Until the law was recently changed, having to relieve a service dog at the airport was not the easiest of situations. For example, if we were inside the designated secured area and there was a plane delay, you would have to go outside the building to relieve your dog, and then go back through the security checkpoint.

This was a very exciting opportunity for D4D and we hope that our input will ease traveling in the Oakland Airport with service dogs.

*Jen with RPA and Mandela*



*Yellow Neener Photography*

*Mandela in ready for Australia*



*Yellow Neener Photography*

*Mark and Kim at the Oakland Airport*





Dogs4Diabetics  
invites you &  
your child &  
teen with type  
1 diabetes  
to...



# Dogs4Diabetics Kids & Teens Day Summer Camp

Dogs & Diabetes!



**We hope  
you can Join us!**

- Fun!
- Informative!
- Dogs!

**When:** Saturday,  
July 23rd, 2016

**Where:** D4D-  
Nylabone Training  
Center located at  
1400 Willow Pass  
Court #200  
Concord, CA 94521

**Time:** 9 am - 3 pm  
(with option to stay  
until 4pm and...)

- Snuggle with the  
dogs
- Watch a kid  
friendly short  
movie.

**Cost:** NOTHING!  
IT'S FREE!



**At this event, Dogs4Diabetics (D4D) staff and current  
D4D youth clients and their parents will:**

1. Discuss what having a Medical-Alert Assistance dog is all about and how it helps your diabetes.
2. Explain the process for getting a D4D service dog.
3. Address your questions about having a service dog.

You will learn how these dogs are trained and about canine obedience. Also, there will be dogs for you to handle and take for a walk!

In addition, we will have a panel of current youth clients and their parents to discuss what it is like having a diabetes service dog.

A parent must attend with their child/teen under 18 years old.

Due to space constraints, this event will accommodate the first 25 kids with type 1 diabetes and one parent. Total attendance is limited to 50 people. Registration is on a first come basis.

Please register for the Camp under our "Events" tab on [Dogs4diabetics.com](http://Dogs4diabetics.com)

For Questions, please contact Marikary Batina at (925) 305-1039 or via email at [mbatina@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mbatina@sbcglobal.net).

Parents are responsible for managing their child/teen's diabetes during the session including but not limited to checking blood sugars, counting carbohydrates, dosing insulin, managing injections or pumps and sensors, and treating a low or high blood sugar. Parents must provide ALL their child/teen's diabetes supplies and lunch, snack, and drinks. D4D will provide bottled water, vegetable tray, cookies, and popcorn.

# NEW PROGRAMS...

Dogs4Diabetics is excited to announce two new programs focusing more on our clients...

First is our Diabetes Buddy Dog program to serve insulin-dependent diabetics of all ages with a variety of custom-trained skills.

Second, our service dogs, traditionally trained only for glucose detection and alert (low and high blood sugars), may be offered with additional, unique skill sets that better meet the needs of our new clients. Some of the new skill sets may include retrieving a glucometer or low-blood-sugar supplies, physically alerting a client to an alarm on a insulin pump or continuous glucose monitor, or seeking help when needed.

As always, Dogs4Diabetics is committed to serving the needs of our clients and innovating to compliment advancing technology that is available to people with diabetes.



## DONATE

Thank you to each and every donor, your donations, large and small, contribute to the success of our program!

- Donate online at [www.Dogs4Diabetics.com](http://www.Dogs4Diabetics.com)
- Mail in a donation to: Dogs for Diabetics, Inc.  
1647 Willow Pass Road, #157  
Concord, CA 94520-2611
- Or visit [www.dogs4diabetics.com/donate/](http://www.dogs4diabetics.com/donate/) to find out the various other ways you can contribute

## D4D THANKS YOU

Thanks to all who've made this newsletter possible:

- Mary Hooker, Yellow Neener Photography
- Ralph Hendrix, Executive Director
- Christy Gillham, Director of Development
- Carrie Skym, Programs Manager
- Christina Hobson, Trainer
- Diane Ketcham, Programs Coordinator
- Ryan Arter, Program Assistant

Like us on **FACEBOOK**, follow us on **INSTAGRAM** and share us with your friends!

Also, check us out on **YOUTUBE** - "Dogs4Diabetics"



# CORPORATE SPONSORS

## BECOME A PARTNER OF D4D...

The following organizations have supported Dogs for Diabetics, Inc. for many years with donations of dogs, financial resources and various other goods and services which have been critical to D4D's mission. They have earned the right to be thought of as Partners to the Achievement of our Mission.

We are able to provide our great dogs to insulin-dependent diabetic clients at virtually no cost, through the generous support of our supporters. D4D relies on the support of individuals, foundations, and corporations. We would like to honor and thank these donors for their support, which in many cases, has been provided over several years.

### *The D4D Family Thanks You:*

- Allied World Insurance Company
- AvoDerm
- Bollinger Canyon Animal Hospital
- Canine Companions for Independence
- Central Garden & Pet
- Four Paws
- Guide Dogs for the Blind
- Lagunitas Brewing Company
- Nylabone
- Pet Food Express
- Presidio Bank
- Worldwise Inc.

We welcome other organizations to develop a similar commitment to serve the Medical-Alert Assistance Dog community throughout the United States and the world.



Client/Dog Team Yvonne and Ravenna will be graduating the D4D program this coming November. "Ravenna, has completely transformed my life and my diabetes management - she is truly my guardian angel."

This life-saving partnership is made possible by all who support our work, our mission, and share in our passion to make a difference in the diabetic community.

WISHING YOU A HAPPY, FUN AND SAFE SUMMER!

Woof, Flutter - D4D Pup in Training

