



Keeping you in the KNOW - Latest and Greatest at Dogs4Diabetics

Summer 2017 - Quarterly Newsletter



TAKING SHAPE

Hear from our Executive Director about the progress of our new home. **p3**

HAPPY TAILS

It's summer and our Client/Dog Teams are living it up with their pups - hear their "tails". **p5**

MEET THE PUPS

Meet our pups in training. They are working hard to learn their life-saving skills. **p8**

*Yellow Neener Photography*

# KIBBLE FROM THE CORNER OFFICE

- by Ralph Hendrix, Executive Director

As I came into the office this morning, I saw the Scavanger's truck parked at the new D4D Training Center. They are a local do-all company that our builder uses for final clean-up on their job sites. As I write this we have a crew cleaning floors, windows, cabinets, and putting the shine on our new home.

The job foreman indicated there are still a few final items needing to be fixed and finished, but he was getting ready for the final inspection by the county. This initial cleaning was one of the final steps. The new building is amazing!

After it is approved for occupancy it will take an additional two to three months to set it up for our use. There will be a variety of improvements that will be made after we take possession. Just like buying a new home, it takes time to get all the services installed and in the case of a business operation it is somewhat more complex. We need to install all our communications systems, phone lines, internet service, computer hook ups, appliances, etc. In D4D's case, we will need to install the dog wash in the grooming and scent prep room as well. Then we will need to move in everything else we need to fulfill our mission. We anticipate we will be making a variety of improvements to the facility as we obtain the resources over the next year or more. D4D is fortunate to have some great people and organizations stepping up to help. We have already received offers of furniture and fixture donations.

We are planning a Public Open House for Saturday, September 16. Put the date on your calendar and join us for a fun day at our new training center. Not all will be complete, but we hope that it will provide everyone a taste of D4D's future! Until then, we are keeping the training center under wraps as we move to get it ready!

Lastly, I wanted to thank everyone for making our Annual Walk for the Dogs such an amazing success. We changed the format, had more participants, more teams, more fun, and all of your wonderful support helped us reach our target of \$70,000 to invest in our mission. We are training more dogs and serving more clients with your assistance!

**Thank You! Thank You!**



Client Training Rooms





# OUR SUMMER CLIENT CLASS...

A warm welcome to these new members of the D4D family!

Let the fun begin... our Summer Client Class has started! We have 6 clients who are working to be placed with our Medical-Alert Assistance Dogs.

We're so excited for these newbies to complete their classroom and field training. They will be learning all the necessary skills (from dog grooming to obedience) needed to have a successful and life-saving partnerships with a D4D pup.

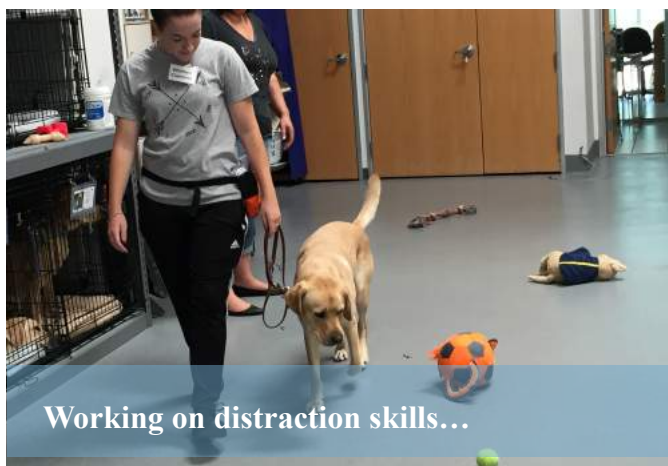
Our dogs are a support tool, which provides a means to transform the client's diabetes management in several ways. We're honored to be part of their journey and look forward to the day they graduate! Welcome Summer Class!



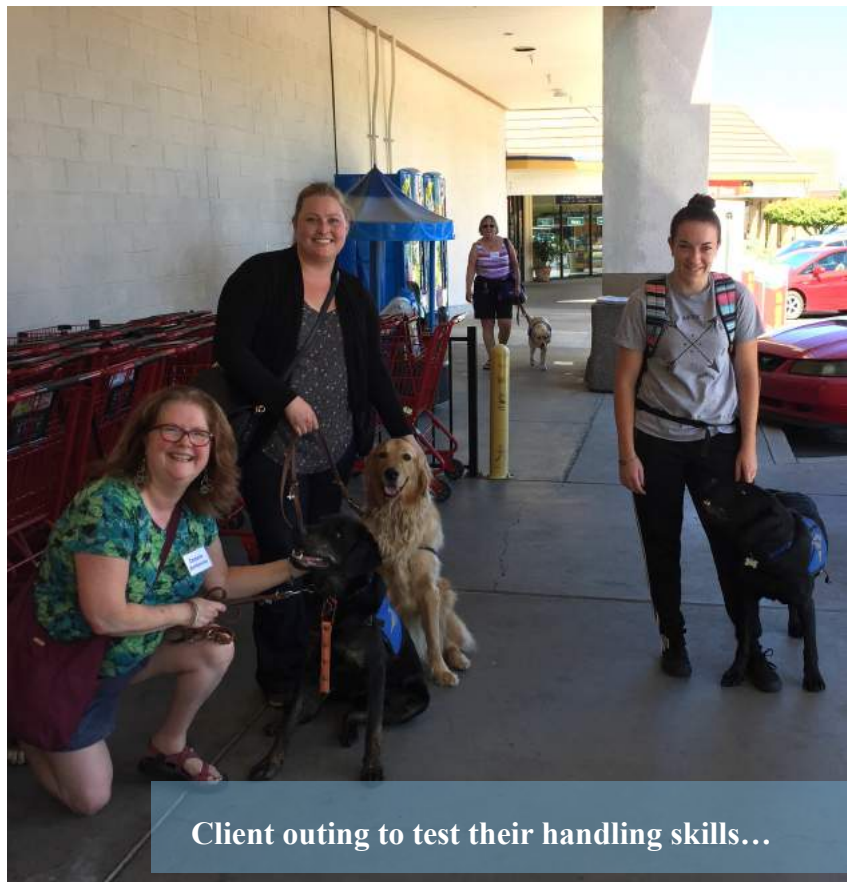
Meet Tim, Connie, Whitney, Aisling, Ginny, and Sara!



Learning to have safe fun...



Working on distraction skills...



Client outing to test their handling skills...



# 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.



"Hitting the trail with Izumi and ready to go backpacking in Yosemite. Having her by my side allows me to do the things we love to do with no fear". – Brittany, D4D Client



"Addie and I are enjoying a relaxing summer with a 'staycation'. Nothing beats spending time with her and getting her famous kisses". - Russell, D4D Client



"Kellen and I are spending the summer at Bearskin Meadow Camp in Kings Canyon National Park. Even with 100 other diabetics Kellen has caught all my lows as well as my co-staffs'. He is such a SUPERSTAR"! – Kristin, D4D Client



"Mezzo and I had the time of our lives... we hit the wide open ocean for an unforgettable cruise. Mezzo was the star of the ship". - Mike, D4D Client



"Flutter and I showed everyone how to play and win a round of mini-golf. Flutter is my best friend and life-saver". - Jordan, D4D Client



# TREATS FROM THE TRAINER... WATER SAFETY

- by Christina Hobson, D4D Trainer

Water can be a great source of fun for you and your dog. However, before you take your pooch out for some water fun make sure you know how to keep them safe.

**Swimming...** you might think canines are natural-born swimmers, but that isn't always the case. There's no sure way to gauge your pal's swimming skills until you introduce him/her to H2O and teach them the basics:

- Choose a quiet, shallow spot in the water.
- Keep your dog on a leash or longline.
- Get in the water with them.
- Don't force them in the water.
- When your dog begins to paddle with their front legs, lift his hind legs to show him how to float.
- The younger your buddy is when you teach them to swim, the better.
- Keep the lesson positive and stress-free for them.

**At the Beach...** while you enjoy the surf with your pal, keep these tips in mind:

- Watch out for strong currents and rip tides which can take you both out to sea. Even the best swimmer can be in danger when seas are rough.
- Don't let your dog drink ocean water as it can make them sick.
- Bring fresh H2O with you to keep them hydrated.
- Keep your pal away from fish that have washed onto the shore. They may smell great to your pup, but they can make them ill.

No matter where your pooch makes a splash, follow these pointers... rinse them off after they've been in any type of water. Seawater minerals, salt, chlorine, algae, and pollution can irritate or damage his skin and fur. Dry your dog's ears completely to prevent an infection.

**Now go have some water fun with your furry friend!**



# ARMSTRONG'S DOG HOUSE

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



Our Client/Dog Teams at First Thursday learning doggy massage... this is a fun monthly get-together for all our teams to bond and learn pup tips.

**Woof!** There is a lot going on at D4D! New Dogs, New Clients, New Volunteers! And a New Training Center almost ready next door! In February, we enjoyed celebrating eight new teams at the D4D Graduation! This coming November, there will probably be another seven to nine teams graduating! And there will most likely be several additional teams working to meet their graduation requirements for early 2018. The trainers and volunteers are working hard and stepping up the dog and client training activities, even though they're still working in our older, smaller training center.

D4D's staff has been working around the clock... they have been putting on Pre-Application Work Shops (PAWS) as well as special interview days to meet with prospective clients. They are also holding client training classes in and out of the training center on Saturdays and Sundays throughout the summer. Our Foster Care Volunteers meet on Thursday evenings to build their skills to work with the dogs in training. And all our clients come in to meet for an outing and training session every first Thursday.

D4D also puts on its special Type You Support group every third Tuesday of each month which is open to the public. This is an open group for persons with insulin-dependent diabetes and their families. It is not focused on dogs. It gives the people a time to simply share and cope with their diabetes.

Wow! Woof! There is so much going on! And lots of new dogs working! Chassis, Escort, Ving, Toga, Quinoa and Darling are all placed with clients working towards graduation! Robie, Kiko, Dusk, Gabe, Aiden and Megumi are all in training and working hard! Alba and Gambit are waiting for their place in training and being cared for by special fosters, getting special attention! Just fantastic!!

Well, as some of you may know, I am now retired and enjoying a life of leisure, watching over Mark and his folks at their homes. Hollis, Jessa and Majestic have taken over my job of proofing scents on a daily basis. I am looking forward to getting settled into the new training center and finding a new place to relax when I visit everyone! Woof!



# MEET OUR DOGS IN TRAINING...

Aiden, Dusk, Gabe, Kiko, Megumi, and Robie!



AIDEN



ROBIE



MEGUMI

## Kickin' Training Tail...

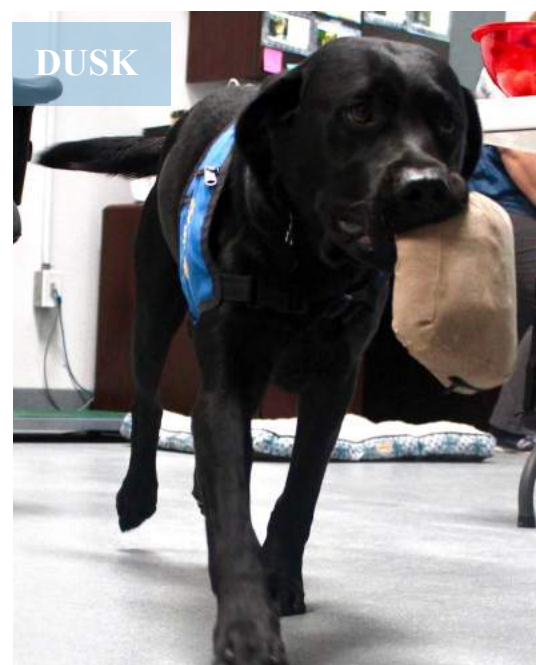
Our dogs go through months of training to learn and perfect their life-saving skills. We love seeing their progression through the program and their skills grow... nothing beats knowing they're ready to be placed with their special human.



GABE



KIKO



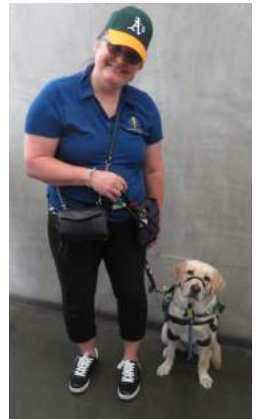
DUSK



# TAIL WAGS...

Dogs4Diabetics had the pleasure of participating in the Oakland A's Bark in the Park again this year. It was an incredibly fun evening... we participated in the dog parade, opening pitch, and a special check presentation. The A's and our friends at Central Garden and Pet generously donated a portion of the proceeds raised by this fun event back to D4D and our buddies at our favorite rescue organization, Tony LaRussa's Animal Rescue Foundation.

A special thanks to the Oakland A's, Central Garden & Pet, and our awesome Client/Dog Teams who represented D4D at the game (Kim, Brittany, Holly, Christy, Ken).



## 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 Treggett, 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 to them, 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.



Our dogs never leave their humans side. D4D client, Bekah, was in the hospital for over 12 days with a non-diabetic illness, and her life-saver, Toga, never left her side.

*"Toga, truly is my guardian angel, she helped me get through this very difficult time, and kept my diabetes in check. I'm so grateful for Dogs4Diabetics for this gift". - Bekah,*

Thank you to all our supporters who make these powerful partnerships possible!

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



**WISHING YOU SOME SUMMER FUN AND SMILES...**

