

THE CANINE LISTENER

Dogs for Better Lives
Fall 2017 • NO. 131

40TH ANNIVERSARY



Magazine

Looking
Towards the Future

Hilton is
Saving Lives

Laura + Hannah:
Foster Puppy Raisers



Rescuing Dogs and Bettering Lives since 1977

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ON THE COVER

Dogs for the Deaf is now Dogs for Better Lives.

The cover photo features Tori Peckerman and Michael Sauer with Program Assistance Dog, Hilton.

The inside cover photo is Hilton with his owner, Rebecca and her Inspire House students. The back cover features certified dog trainer Jenny Nickelson with Hilton. Photos taken by Cornelius Matteo, CMatteo Photography.

Dogs for Better Lives is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. We professionally train dogs to help people and enhance lives while maintaining a lifelong commitment to all dogs we rescue or breed and the people we serve.



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Special thanks to all contributing writers, photographers and clients who supported this Fall issue!



LETTER FROM BLAKE MATRAY



I have some exciting news to share with you. As of November 1, 2017, we'll begin doing business as ***Dogs for Better Lives!*** We're pleased with this new name as it better reflects the fact that we now offer three different Assistance Dog programs, which include Hearing Dogs, Program Assistance Dogs, and Autism Assistance Dogs. ***Dogs for Better Lives*** was under development for over a year and the process was part of our board approved three-year Strategic Plan. I want to thank those of you who participated in our focus groups as we developed ***Dogs for Better Lives***. We believe our new name gives us the opportunity for continued growth and the ability to change the lives of even more people. Quite simply, our new name reflects what we and our dogs help to provide.

Our mission remains the same and ***Dogs for Better Lives*** will continue to offer professionally trained Assistance Dogs nationally, just as we've done for the past 40 years. We'll continue to rescue dogs suitable for all of our programs and, as we increase our placement of Assistance Dogs, we'll be rescuing more dogs than ever as we work hard as ever to continue earning a 4-star rating from Charity Navigator.

As we begin operations as ***Dogs for Better Lives*** there will be a few things that are different. For example, we have a new logo to accompany ***Dogs for Better***

Lives that you'll see in all of our publications and on our website. Our shirts, Assistance Dog vests, and gift shop items will also reflect our new name and logo. Furthermore, as a donor, you'll now write "***Dogs for Better Lives***" on your check, if that's the way you give, and it's the name you'll see on your gift receipt.

Dogs for Better Lives will work to expand our Program Assistance Dog and Autism Assistance Dog placements and we look forward to helping a diverse group of clients with them. Of course, training of our Hearing Dogs will continue just as it always has. Our new training facility is scheduled for completion in Spring 2018 and we're planning to use this new training space to help even more dogs and people.

Finally, thank you to all our volunteers, donors, and sponsors who have supported us along our 40-year journey. We'll continue to need your help as we take ***Dogs for Better Lives*** into a new frontier. With your support, we're proud of the great results obtained over the years as we begin conducting business as ***Dogs for Better Lives***.

Our name is our promise.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Blake E. Matray".

Blake E. Matray
President & CEO

WE GET LETTERS

Hello,
I teach American Sign Language to high school students in Encino, CA, and every year we hold a Deaf Expo. Students pick an organization to donate to and my students picked yours! We think you do great work, and we thank you!

*Sincerely,
Brigid, Westmark School*

During the early 1980s, I was privileged to be part of Dogs for the Deaf at the Applegate Behavior Station. I worked in the office as a volunteer writing thank you notes and acknowledgements for donations received, mostly by Good Sam Club members. I enjoyed working with Roy Kabat, his daughter Robin and Sir Robert (who had been with Roy when he was doing the Animal Actors of Hollywood). One year, we traveled to the Rose Parade in Pasadena to publicize the program at the parade. It was really special being part of something big at the very start. I didn't realize at the time that the program would have such an impact and a long, rich history. At the time I was there, it was Good Sam Clubs that supported the program and they were so vital to the program's existence.

*Wishing you all the best,
Karen*

Thank you for your important work – your mission is the perfect win-win scenario for dogs and people in need! A friend and I visited DFD in March while on a road trip from southern CA to Seattle, WA and we stopped for a tour. The kindness and dedication of everyone we met was inspiring, and demo dog Keen won our hearts. Keep up the great work!

Lois

Dear Dogs for the Deaf,
I collected \$11.30 through donations in my neighborhood with my friends Aspen and Haley. I hope this can buy food or toys for the dogs.

Abigail, 9 years old.

My mother Erma was a recipient of one of your Hearing Dogs, Dani. About a year ago, mom and Dani moved in with my family – at 92, she no longer could live on her own. We are so grateful for all your good work and assistance in training these Hearing Dogs. Sadly, mom passed away about a month ago – Dani is retired and will live with me for the rest of her days. We would like to give Dogs for the Deaf a donation in her memory. You were special to her, Dani gave her a “quality of life” she would not have had without her.

*Forever grateful to you,
Mavis*

Dear Dogs for the Deaf,
Although I volunteer weekly at the surgical hospital of the Jacksonville Humane Society, I wanted to do more to directly support the efforts of Dogs for the Deaf. When I read a post on Facebook about the gentleman who conducted a fundraiser for the organization, I realized there was something I could do locally. In July, I baked goodies and doggie treats for a Bake Sale Fundraiser to benefit Dogs for the Deaf. Proceeds from Saturday's sale netted about \$130 - not a lot, but hope it will help!

Sue



Look for the Holiday Issue of Simply Pets Magazine on
newsstands everywhere November 5th!
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*Lisa Smith Putnam
"Pets are family too"*

Simply Pets ~a lifestyle magazine for people who
love pets and animals...the place where HAPPY lives!

PLACEMENT HIGHLIGHTS



PALACE

Hearing Dog Palace, a black Labrador obtained from Guide Dogs for the Blind, was placed with Kai in Washington. Kai is a successor client and Palace is her second Certified Hearing Dog.



ZELDA

Hearing Dog Zelda was placed with Annie in Idaho last November to help alert to sounds and provide Annie with environmental awareness. Zelda is a beagle mix and came to us from Southern Oregon Humane Society.



WIDGET

Hearing Dog Widget was placed with Sandra in Pennsylvania in December. Sandra is so excited to have more sound awareness in addition to having Widget's companionship in her home and on their daily walks. Widget is a poodle mix and came to us from Humane Society of SW Washington.



BRITT

Program Assistance Dog Britt was placed with Gloria in Portland, Oregon to provide her students with a positive outlet and help them with social and emotional well-being. Britt is already having a strong impact on her students, as well as with the entire school. Britt is a black Labrador and came to us from Guide Dogs for the Blind.



NONI

Hearing Dog Noni was placed with Richard in California this summer to help him with sound awareness. Richard enjoys fishing out on the lake in his boat and Noni is enjoying it too! Noni is a yellow Labrador and came to us from Guide Dogs for the Blind.



HARRISON

Hearing Dog Harrison was placed with Bob in Palm Beach, Florida this summer and they are a perfect match! Bob's wife Anita stated that she now has peace of mind knowing that Harrison will act as Bob's "ears". Harrison is a Pomeranian and came to us from Southern Oregon Humane Society.



RADAR

Hearing Dog Radar was placed with Susan in California in December to help her with sound awareness and companionship. Both are doing great - they recently rode a commuter train to the airport and Radar performed perfectly. Radar is a spaniel/pekingese mix and came to us from Southern Oregon Humane Society.



MAPLE

In April, Hearing Dog Maple was placed with Karen in Georgia. Maple picked up the sound work quickly in her new environment. We look forward to the many years and adventures they will have together. Maple is a terrier mix and came to us from Southern Oregon Humane Society.



DELIGHT

Hearing Dog Delight was placed with Bert in Washington in January, relieving the sadness that he had after their previous Hearing Dog passed away. Bert and his wife Claydene shed tears of joy the moment Delight came through their door. Delight is a black Labrador and came to us from Guide Dogs for the Blind.



DALLAS (left)

In December, Program Assistance Dog Dallas was placed with Sean in Oregon and is already making a difference with his students at Hillside Elementary School. Dallas is a terrier mix and came to us from Southern Oregon Humane Society.

MOWGLI (right)

In May, Hearing Dog Mowgli was placed with Donna in Pennsylvania to help her with sound awareness, especially when her husband is away. Mowgli loves to do sound work and is a perfect match for Donna. Mowgli is a terrier mix and came to us from Southern Oregon Humane Society.



FOLLOW UPS



TIGER

Tiger is Josephine's third Hearing Dog from Dogs for Better Lives. Tiger helps Josephine feel more aware of what's happening around her, especially cars and people approaching from behind.



WINNIE

Hearing Dog Winnie and Donna have been a team in Pennsylvania since 2009. Donna is very active in her church and in the HLAA, and she commented, "I can't imagine life without Winnie!"



ROUX

Hearing Dog Roux and Candice have been a team for one-and-a-half years and they are doing great together! One of Candice's favorite things is snuggling with Roux after he alerts her to the alarm clock every morning.



RIBBON

Charlene and Hearing Dog Ribbon have been a team for 3 years. Having Ribbon by her side has allowed Charlene to feel safe, especially at night when husband Joe is out of town. Ribbon is a lovable, happy dog and Charlene is thrilled to have her.



MAZDA

Hearing Dog Mazda was placed with Laura 3 years ago to help her with sounds. Mazda is doing a great job - he lets Laura know when people are approaching so that she is no longer startled. Laura and her husband Ivan love Mazda so much, they cannot imagine life without him!



FINLEY

Hearing Dog Finley, aka Finn, was placed with Kim in New Jersey six years ago. "Finn is a great dog. Truly my 'shadow' - he is always with me. Thank you for giving him to me. It was and is a perfect match!"



TROOPER

Henry and Hearing Dog Trooper have been a team for almost two years. Henry says that Trooper does his sound work perfectly and has made a significant impact in his life. Trooper alerting to the name call is especially important. Henry's wife Debby added, "Being able to call for Henry after years of not being able to has made a huge difference in my life!"



ZETA

Kay and Hearing Dog Zeta have been a team for close to one year and they are a perfect match! Zeta has made a major difference in her life - she now wakes up on time and can respond to the phone with Zeta's assistance. "Having a companion like Zeta and playing with her has been remarkable and great for my health."



WELLIE

Wellie became Jen's teammate in early 2016 as her successor Hearing Dog. They are an incredible team and are very tuned into each other's needs. During a spring tornado warning, Jen relied on Wellie's calm demeanor and "ears" as they weathered the storm - she was her hero that day! Jen and Wellie are now one of our Client Ambassador teams in Pennsylvania, and they are doing great!



RASCAL

Hearing Dog Rascal and Carolyn have been a team for one year and they are doing great! Not only is Rascal a pro at his sound work, he has helped Carolyn make new friends and meet neighbors. With Rascal, Carolyn says, "every day is special!"



ROCKET

Hearing Dog Rocket, client Mike, and her husband Bud are doing great together in Florida - it's clear that they adore each other. Rocket was placed with Mike one year ago and continues to work his sounds with zip and enthusiasm. Mike commented, "It is comforting to know that if Bud needs me, Rocket will let me know." By watching Rocket's ears, Mike knows what's going on around her.



GRANGER

Granger, who is close to 12 years old, is retiring from his Hearing Dog duties. Granger and Lois have been together since 2007 and he has been a good worker for Lois over the years. Granger has earned his retirement and will enjoy resting and relaxing in his yard with Lois.

Partnerships for Better Lives
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Fancy was trained by Jessica Reichmuth, a Certified Assistance Dog trainer at Dogs for Better Lives, for handler and therapist, Catherine, at the Children's Advocacy Center.

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For more information about this program, or to join their ranks, contact Wanda Cockey 541-826-9220 ext. 326 or wanda@dogsforbetterlives.org.

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DBL NEWS

PROJECT RIPPLE HOSTED A DOG WALK BENEFITTING DOGS FOR THE DEAF

A terrific group of children, otherwise known as Ripplers, of Project Ripple Organization, hosted a Dog Walk for Dogs for the Deaf, Inc. in January. They raised \$5,035.33!

The Ripplers, ages 18 and under, worked on every part of the event starting from its grassroots in 2016, to its successful debut early this year. The result was over 200 people and their fur-buddies joined in the walk, located at Frank G. Bonelli Regional Park in San Dimas, California. The fun-filled morning included a 2-mile lakeview walk, entertainment, a hot dog lunch, dog kissing/photo booth, raffles, and vendors.

The kids also contributed to the cause by personally reaching out to the deaf community through learning and performing ASL. Rippler Annie, age 12, working the event remarked, "This was my first dog walk experience and it was amazing watching all of the people coming out to support this event for such a good cause." Rippler Max, age 14, shared, "It was unique to actually be the "hosts" of such a big event that created a ripple effect to a broader group of people than we have before."

Actor Ryan Lane brought his dog Zero and his family to support the kids and their mighty efforts.

Project Ripple Organization is a non-profit family ministry created to enlighten, enrich, and encourage children to help others less fortunate. Outreach events are organized for the children to Serve-Shine-Share. Our belief is that any child can make a difference in their community. It's so important to nurture their compassion for others.

- Tammy Brighton-Craig, www.projectripple.org



THIRD AUTISM ASSISTANCE DOG PLACED IN SOUTHERN OREGON

Autism Assistance Dog Dinero, a two-and-a-half-year-old black Labrador, successfully completed his training at Dogs for Better Lives in February and now resides with a family in Southern Oregon. Certified Assistance Dog Trainer Jess spent six months training Dinero, teaching him the skills needed to work with a child on the autism spectrum.

Dinero has made a significant impact on the life of this child and his family. "Dinero is more than just a dog to Jack: he is his confidant, best friend, and grounding agent when the world appears so vast and unyielding," stated his mother, Whitney.

Dinero is the third Autism Assistance Dog in the last year to be trained and placed by Dogs for Better Lives. As of May 1, Dogs for Better Lives has expanded the application area to central Oregon, which includes Roseburg, Eugene, and Bend. In the near future, the program will expand across the state and eventually nationwide.

- Monica Schuster, Media & Outreach

FOSTER PUPPY PROGRAM

I had the pleasure of meeting Laurie and her daughter Hannah in March of 2017. Laurie had a coworker who was raising a puppy for another nonprofit organization and it piqued Laurie's interest. She had been looking for ways to give back to her local community and that's when she decided to become a Dogs for Better Lives puppy raiser – lucky us!

After talking with Laurie and Hannah, I knew that they would be great puppy raisers and immediately felt that Halo would be in good hands. Watching these ladies work as a team during our puppy classes with Halo is a joy to say the least! They work hard to ensure that Halo receives the best foundation possible before she joins the program to become an Assistance Dog. They enjoy being puppy raisers and take pride in Halo's growth.

I am so glad that I have been given the opportunity to work with Laurie and Hannah and I look forward to watching them grow as a team. Halo will go on to do great things because of this amazing family!

- Hannah Crane, Foster Puppy Program Coordinator

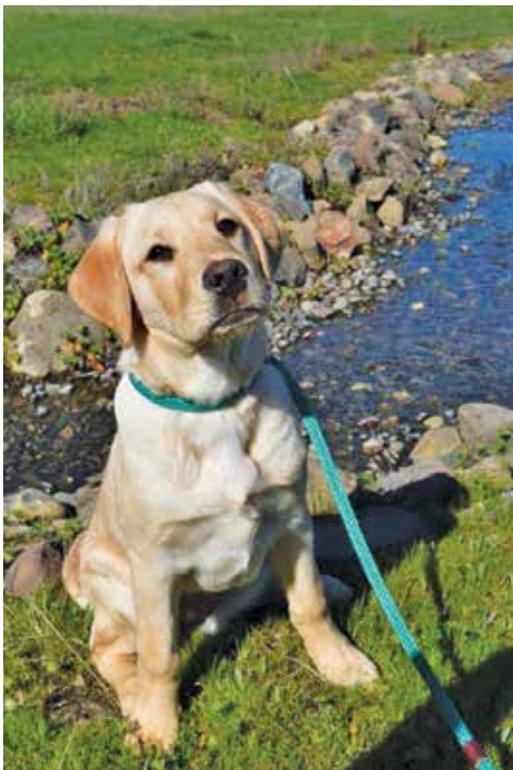
"We have really enjoyed having Halo become part of our family. She has the sweetest personality and is so easy to work with. She is super smart and picks up her training quickly which makes our job very easy.

I am continually amazed at how dogs love to work for praise and food and how they really get what is being taught. We love watching the focus Halo has during training – she definitely has a different demeanor when she is wearing her vest than when she is just being a dog at home.

Whenever we take Halo out into public, there are always lots of questions. It has been interesting to see how people react to her. I ask if they would like to pet her and they always want to. A question that everyone asks is, "How will you give her up?" We know she is going to be amazing at her job and I just let them know that she is going to do great things.

At my job in the School District there are two classrooms of special needs children. They often come by one by one to see her throughout the day. Her reaction to them is so sweet – she loves them and they love her so I believe that she will do very well in being an Assistance Dog."

-Laurie



FROM RESCUE TO HERO, HILTON IS CHANGING LIVES

On a spring day in May 2015, a young man remained outside a classroom in his mother's car. Rebecca, Ashland School District Transitional Program Teacher, recalls that he would not come inside. "He experiences autism, severe anxiety, and depression", Rebecca explained, "and has only averaged 1-2 days per week of class before coming to my class." His mother would take him to school each day and he would complain of illnesses, aches, and pains to avoid going to class.

Later that month, a beautiful brown, tan and black rescue dog named

Hilton was at the door. Hilton had joined Rebecca's classroom as a Program Assistance Dog, professionally trained by Jenny at Dogs for the Deaf. On that day, the young man said: "I'm going in, Mom."

From that day forward, he never missed a day of class.

Rebecca recalls the daily routine. "This student would enter the classroom and head directly to the couch, drop his backpack to the floor with a thud, and then flop onto the couch while calling, "come on Hilton!" Hilton would then jump up



onto his lap and the hugging, petting, and licking would begin. With tail wagging, Hilton would cover him with kisses - the student laughed and smiled with glee!

The student began to engage in the walking and exercise hour, suggesting that Hilton could use a walk too. During the early morning "check-in" process, he not only joined the circle for the first time, but he eventually began making eye contact with the other students.

Rebecca's students range in age from 18 to 21 and need to learn basic life skills to help them integrate into society as independent contributors to their community.

But this beautiful outcome almost ended before it even began.

Hilton's first testing by Dogs for the Deaf was jeopardized by a moment of uncertainty. CEO, Blake Matray, recalls that moment. "All of the trainers were out training that day, so our Training Director, John Drach and I drove to Klamath Falls where we have rescued dogs in the past." The Klamath Falls, Oregon shelter is one of the few shelters that will allow the dogs to be taken offsite to a shopping area to test how well they will do in public.

Continued on page 22

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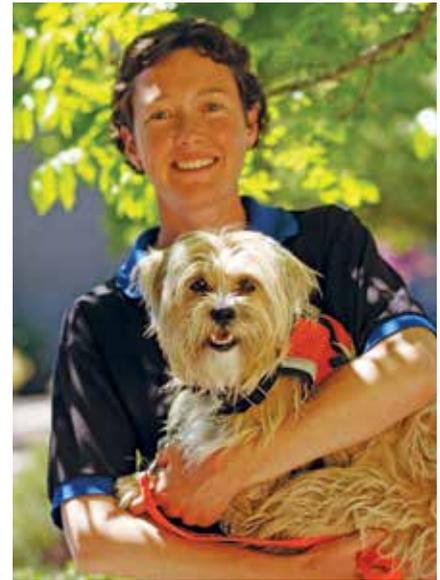
TAILS FROM THE PAST

LOOKING TOWARDS THE FUTURE

How can we know where any given decision we've made will lead us and what opportunities it will provide? Did Roy Kabat know in 1977 when he relocated from southern California to southern Oregon where that would lead? Roy made his own "Career Change" decision to switch from training exotic animals for movies to training dogs to help people who are deaf and the results from that decision, 40 years later, are nothing short of exceptional. Dogs for the Deaf began with a mission to better the lives of both dogs and people. While that mission has been unwavering these past 40 years, there has also been tremendous growth and change for the organization.

to that special relationship. Today, our support from Good Sam Club has continued while also growing to include donations from other service clubs, individuals, businesses, and bequests.

Perhaps the best indication of the growth and evolution of the organization is represented by our programs. While the Hearing Dog program flourished, the organization recognized the need and opportunity to diversify the types of Assistance Dogs provided. From this innovative change came our Program Assistance Dog (PAD) and Autism Assistance Dog (AAD) programs. Now professionals such as physicians, teachers, and counselors who work with people with disabilities can better



also trained to act as an anchor, providing a stabilizing force to keep the child out of traffic, bodies of water, and other dangerous situations.

While all of these programs evolved from the original mission of Dogs for the Deaf, the scope of the clients we now serve has grown. As our organization continues to thrive, we recognize the need to change our name and logo to more accurately represent the wide-ranging services our Assistance Dog programs provide. Over these 40 years, Dogs for the Deaf has not only bettered the lives of people who are deaf or hard of hearing, but also those of professionals working with clients with disabilities as well as children with autism, thus becoming: Dogs for Better Lives. This is an exciting time for our organization and we feel our new name and logo reflects that. As we honor the "tails" from our past, we look ahead to a promising future of training Assistance Dogs to better the lives of clients throughout the country.

- Emily Minah, Client Services

"This is an exciting time for our organization and we feel our new name and logo reflects that."

Some of the changes of this "tail" are evident in our supporter base. After Roy developed the business concept of training rescued dogs to help people who are deaf, he then needed financial support to run the program. Thanks to the hard work and creativity of his publicist, Bennett Mintz, a relationship with the Good Sam Club was formed allowing Dogs for the Deaf to transform Roy's vision to a reality. The generous support of the Good Sam Club from the beginning was the foundational financial support for the organization. In fact, the dog featured in the original logo was named "Sam" to give homage

serve their clients with the help of a professionally trained canine co-worker. Program Assistance Dogs provide comfort, a calming effect, and a sense of normalcy in the midst of extreme or difficult situations these clients might be facing.

Additionally, children living with autism can have the steady, comforting influence that our Autism Assistance Dogs provide when dealing with challenges in their daily routine. Parents of children on the autism spectrum can feel more secure about their child's safety in public as AAD are



1977
Roy Kabat starts the Applegate Behavioral Station and the first Hearing Dog is placed



2002
Dogs for the Deaf is one of the first organizations to become Accredited by ADI



1987
Robin Dickson takes over as CEO when her father, Roy, passes away



1980
Good Sam RV Club Partnership begins



1992
Grand opening of new building and logo is revised

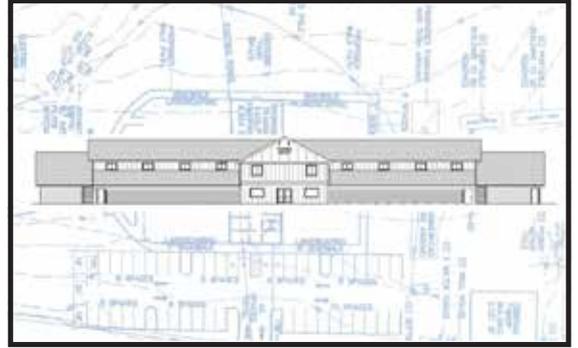


1989
Dogs for the Deaf relocates to Sams Valley at the base of Lower Table Rock



2008

Dogs for the Deaf expands their office building



2018

Second kennel building is completed



2011

First Program Assistance Dog is placed and logo is revised again



2017

Our 40th year and new name/logo change begins

2014

Blake Matray takes over as CEO after Robin retires



2016

First Autism Assistance Dog is placed



STAFF SPOTLIGHT:

PAULA LYSINGER

I come from a dog-loving family where anyone who has less than two dogs is considered odd by the rest of us. On the day I was born, my father's cocker spaniel was whelping a litter of puppies and Dad drove back and forth between the hospital and home. Most of my baby pictures are shared with a dog or two. My parents raised cocker spaniels, Miniature schnauzers, and Shih Tzus as I was growing up, but I didn't start training until I was close to 30 years old when my son got a collie puppy for Christmas. I had a friend who participated in American Kennel Club (AKC) obedience events with her dogs and, after attending my first show, I was hooked! "Mac" the collie earned his Companion Dog title that I trained and handled, and my career in dogs began.

A few years later I felt I had enough experience to teach other people to train their dogs and started group classes after work. I was a professional groomer and used the parking lot behind my shop as our meeting place. I also did one-on-one training sessions, mostly with dogs that were experiencing some behavioral problems. I was still training my own dogs in obedience and dabbling in herding, as well. I stayed busy in the dog world for many years.

In 2000, I sold the grooming shop and my husband and I moved to the Rogue Valley with our last collie and our two other dogs. I bred a few more litters and participated in some dog shows, but I was more



focused on my new life and dog training took a back seat for the first time in many years. Even though I wasn't as active as I had been, it was during this period that I discovered positive reinforcement training. What an eye opener! Gone were the days of 'compulsion' training: pushing the dog into a sit or a down, yanking on the choke collar while sternly commanding "HEEL". Asserting my dominance as 'pack leader' was now a thing of the past and I was glad to say goodbye. Discovering this new, pleasant, and FUN way of training opened the door to new activities with my dogs and before long my collie and I had earned a title in Rally Obedience.

Working full-time for Jackson County Community Justice, and then in the mental health

and addictions field for the next eight years, was interesting and challenging, but I felt something was missing. I really wanted to work with dogs again. I missed the camaraderie I always felt around other "dog people". I decided to start training as a career again, gradually easing into it while easing out of the job I was currently at. I had barely made this decision when I happened to see an ad for an obedience trainer for Dogs for the Deaf, Inc. On a whim, I applied for the position and was thrilled when John Drach, the Training Director, called me for an interview. The interview was great, I managed to pass the test, and three weeks later I was offered the job.

These days, I split my time at work between assessing shelter dogs

for possible Hearing Dog candidates, working with behavioral quirks in Career Change Dogs, and running the new Autism Assistance Dog breeding program. Assessing shelter dogs is really different than anything I've ever done before and requires a skill set that I'm constantly honing. I travel as far as southern California on a regular basis to visit humane societies, county shelters, and the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (S.P.C.A.). I look for healthy, happy, outgoing dogs between one and three years of age that are food and toy motivated and get along with people of all ages as well as other dogs. I want that dog that says, "Pick ME, lady! ME, ME, ME"! I have a series of tests I run them through but sometimes even the best candidates who passed with flying colors change their minds after being in training for a few months. That is usually the point

behavioral problems start to surface (if that's going to happen) and they're released from training to become Career Change Dogs. It can be challenging for me to work with these dogs but also very rewarding getting them prepared to go to their loving forever homes.

As the qualities needed for Autism Assistance Dogs are virtually impossible to find in shelter dogs, Dogs for Better Lives has started a breeding program to support our Autism and Program Assistance Dog programs. Our first litter was recently born and I am very excited as it is an honor to be involved in the launching of this important program.

I share my home with Steve, my husband of 20 years, our rescue dogs Meg and Jinx, and our kitties Luna and Doobie. We love hiking, fishing, and rafting locally, and visiting Portland and Bend when we need a city fix.

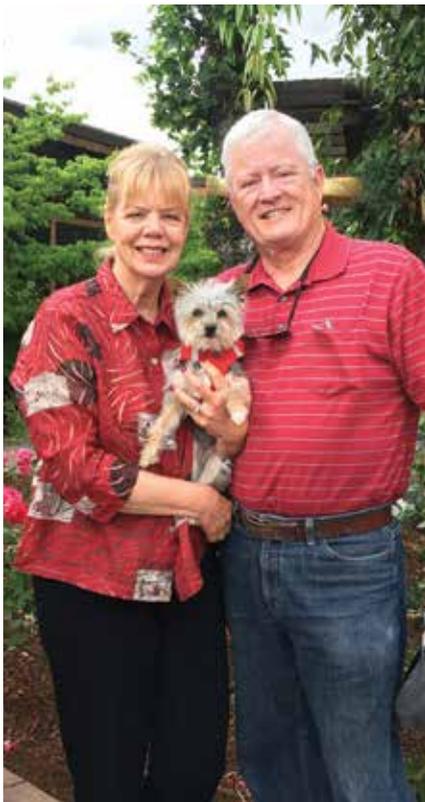
"I look for healthy, happy, outgoing dogs between one and three years of age that are food and toy motivated and get along with people of all ages as well as other dogs."

photography by Cornelius Matteo

www.cmatteophotography.com

917.693.6475
cornelius@cmatteophotography.com

CAREER CHANGE DOGS



Dear Friends at
Dogs for Better Lives,

Thought I would send you an update on my new life. Things are going really well - my new people have fallen totally in love with me! I have cozy beds, a basket of new toys, and a fancy kennel so that I can safely go for rides in the car. I even have a bed in mom's art studio that she placed on a table so that I can look out the window and protect the house from those pesky squirrels!

We do lots of fun activities including walking, hiking and going out for coffee. I hear that I get to go out in the RV - I'm not sure what that is exactly, but they tell me that I'm going to love it!

They think I'm perfect, especially since I've learned that the yard (and not the living room) is the preferred place to go to the bathroom - they looked so happy when I figured that one out.

Life is really good here. Hope to visit you soon!

Love, Clover

Clover came to us from a private owner and found her forever home with Ginny and Doug earlier this year. Interested in a Career Change Dog? If you live within a three-hour drive and are interested in adopting one of our Career Change Dogs, please contact Adoption Program Manager Sena Short at 541-826-9220 ext. 319. You can read more about Career Change Dog opportunities on our website at <https://www.dogsforbetterlives.org/career-change-dogs/>

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VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT:

DIANE RILEY

After more than 47 years working, I retired from my job as an office manager/property manager for a real estate development and sales firm to spend more time with family. Having lots of spare time, I decided that it would be nice to return to work on a volunteer basis.

I first heard about Dogs for the Deaf early in the 1990s when my daughter told me about the great organization she was doing volunteer work at as part of one of her university course requirements. She told me what a nice place it was to work, and how the organization specially-trained and placed dogs that they had selected from local animal shelters with hearing challenged clients. This not only helped the clients but also gave the shelter dogs a new course for their lives. So when I decided to volunteer my time and skills, I called Dogs for the Deaf.

In 2016 I became a volunteer at Dogs for the Deaf and thoroughly enjoy helping out in the administration office in any capacity where I can. The organization is filled with highly trained, efficient and professional individuals who are also warm and friendly making it a pleasant place to work.

The office also has another unique element not found in many offices, but one that is especially appealing to me as a dog lover. The dogs that are being trained, and the demonstration dogs used on facility tours, are quite often in the office



area resting peacefully on their dog beds in individual offices, or being worked with by their trainers. Their cheerful energy and wagging tails create a pleasing atmosphere. I love watching the trainers perform their work as they introduce the dogs to various tasks and things they will encounter once they are fully trained and placed with a client. The trainers are extremely professional and patient with the dogs, and the results are amazing!

All in all, I really enjoy volunteering at Dogs for the Deaf, now known as Dogs for Better Lives, and hope to continue the relationship well into the future.

We love our volunteers who lend their administrative talents to us! If you are local and are interested in becoming a volunteer at our beautiful Lower Table Rock facility, please contact Annette Vitello at 541-826-9220 ext. 320. You can read more about our office volunteer opportunities on our website at <https://www.dogsforthebetterlives.org/office-volunteers/>

CLIENT'S CORNER

A ROAD TRIP WAKE-UP CALL BY CHRIS G.

One summer afternoon, my husband Bob and I arrived in our small RV at Four Mile Creek State Park in Youngstown, New York, to spend the night so we could visit Niagara Falls the next day. The gate ranger reviewed our campground confirmation while Hearing Dog Raylene gave him a winsome Labrador grin through the driver's side window.

"They need to see her rabies certificate," Bob said, facing me so I could read his lips. Gulp! I had failed to read the fine print: "Rabies certificate is required." Had I packed a copy in the RV? And if so, where? After a few panicky moments, I found it with other important papers and we were on our way.

That first road trip convinced me to prepare better for future travels. Would I know Raylene's microchip number if we were separated? What if she had a medical emergency? Would I remember which inoculations she had received and when?

On the way home, I resolved to create a "Service Dog Health Summary" and update it before each trip. Now I travel with detailed information about Raylene all in one place including date of birth, breed, vet contact, shots, flea & tick and heartworm treatments, and much more. When we plan an international flight or cruise, I obtain country-specific forms

and a current health certificate (APHIS Form 7001) from Raylene's USDA-certified veterinarian after a physical examination.

A pre-trip checklist reminds me to bring Raylene's bed, waste bags, bowls, towels for rainy days, grooming and first aid kits, training treats, toys, and other necessities including an extra-generous supply of food. "Patch Up" pouches of plain pumpkin go in the cupboard for minor doggy digestive upsets with bottled water whenever the local supply is questionable.

Since that Niagara Falls expedition three years ago, I've learned to pace our road trips for canine comfort with a daily maximum of about 300 miles or roughly six hours of drive time. We stop often to stretch our legs and visit the grass, and Raylene gets plenty of exercise on National Parks trails, at attractions, and in museums.



Raylene's training from Dogs for the Deaf makes her a pro at visiting attractions like the Evergreen Aviation & Space Museum in McMinnville, Oregon.



This summer we drove 10,500 miles in 66 days, visiting 21 states and two Canadian provinces. Raylene boarded a San Antonio river boat, rode shuttles along the Grand Canyon's rim, hiked to lakes in the Canadian Rockies, and dipped her paws in the Pacific Ocean. We even made it to Central Point, Oregon, where Bob and I toured the Dogs for the Deaf campus.

Next July, we're planning a trip to Newfoundland. On departure day, I'll move Raylene's orange vest and leash from their spot by our back door at home to a set of hooks just inside the RV entrance. Bob will turn the key in the ignition, and Raylene will hop up the stairs with that happy grin on her face, eager and fully prepared to see the world beyond her own back yard once again.

STICKING UP FOR MYSELF: HOW TRAVELING WITH TROOPER TURNED ME INTO A DISABILITY RIGHTS ADVOCATE

BY HENRY K.

“Don’t rock the boat,” said the powers that be in the world of the deaf as they patted our young heads in the 1940s and 1950s. “Be happy with what you have.”

In the 1990s the disability rights movement torpedoed such condescension. Though I was sympathetic, I wasn’t really active in the cause until Trooper arrived from Dogs for the Deaf in 2015. Life with a service dog quickly taught me that if people with disabilities are to forge ahead, they must advocate for themselves.

As a way to make things easier for other service-dog team members like us, Chris G.—partners with Raylene, another Dog for Better Lives client—and I are writing an “adventuring handbook” called *Places We Have Peed: Traveling with a Service Dog in North America*.

It will treat the ins and outs of flying, riding long-distance trains, voyaging on cruise liners, RVing and other forms of transportation—including finding suitable relief spots, hence the title. Naturally our individual adventures with our Hearing Dogs are going into the book, and on a recent trip I experienced an event worth mentioning.

When Trooper and I checked in at a well-known chain hotel in New

Orleans, I was told to sign an “ADA Service Dog Agreement”. Hmph. Such documents have nothing to do with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Based on guest agreements at pet-friendly hotels and motels, they make the signer promise not to leave the animal alone in the room, to keep it from barking, to pick up and dispose of waste, and obey half a dozen other rules. And to agree to reimburse the hotel for any damage the dog might cause.

I was offended. But the hour was late, a music festival was rocking,

and rooms would be scarce. So I reluctantly signed.

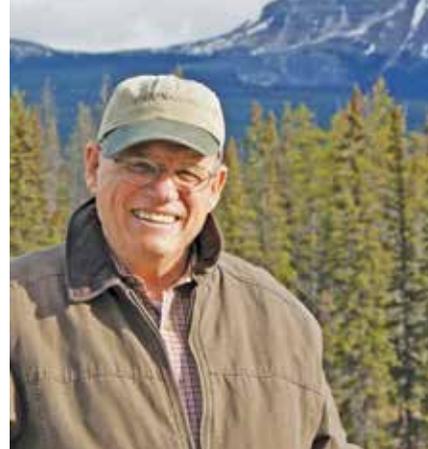
The next morning I emailed the hotel’s general manager:

“I believe this document is gratuitous and discriminatory, and would like

to suggest that the [hotel] refrain from using it in the future.

“A service animal trained to assist a person with a disability is legally an item of medical equipment—not a pet. You would, for instance, not ask someone with a breathing ailment to sign an agreement to reimburse the hotel for any damage his equipment might cause. Such liability is already covered in the normal hotel/guest laws. The same principle applies to service animals.

“I believe that the instruction to pick up after my dog, etc., carries



a suggestion that I am not a responsible person and need to be reminded of obligations that every service dog handler knows by heart. Such a suggestion is, in my view, insulting and sets me apart from other hotel guests as a person with a disability.

“I understand that the hotel needs to distinguish between genuine service animals and fraudulent ones. But such a document puts the onus on the wrong party, and causes us distress.

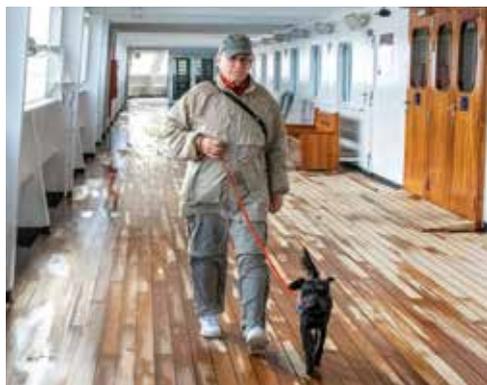
“Thank you for reading this and understanding the issue.”

To my surprise the manager responded quickly. He wrote:

“I have looked into the nuances of the ‘Service Animal Agreement’ that you signed upon registration. I can truly appreciate your concern and I cannot apologize enough that you were asked to sign this outmoded and unnecessary document. To be fully forthcoming with you, this document has no purpose nor application as it relates to Service Animals and the [hotel]. . . . The template has been deleted from our database and all copies of this document have been destroyed.”

Sometimes squeaky wheels get results. Right, Trooper?

—
Read more about Henry’s adventures with Trooper at <https://henrykisor.blogspot.com/>



Henry and Trooper taking a constitutional on the promenade deck of the cruise liner Amsterdam.

Hilton: *Continued from page 14*

Blake remembers being hopeful for this alert young dog. Anticipating a smooth session, Blake and Hilton exited the van and entered through the automatic sliding doors of the store. Joyful and with tail wagging, Hilton performed wonderfully as they passed the register area. Each step was a reassurance that this little guy would be on his way back to the Dogs for the Deaf headquarters in Central Point, Oregon.

But as Blake and Hilton continued further into the store, they encountered a transition from the linoleum to the cement – and Hilton froze. Blake looked down to see Hilton completely still: he would not move. The polished cement was a different surface texture and Hilton did not like it. “Oh no.” Blake thought to himself. He knew that a dog with any uncertainty during the evaluation process would most likely have difficulty completing Assistance Dog training. As he glanced over to see John’s reaction, Blake’s thoughts



were confirmed: John’s expression showed disappointment.

“This is it”, Blake thought. “I can’t believe we got this far and I will have to return this beautiful dog to the shelter.”

But in an instant, everything changed. Blake said, “Let’s go Hilton” and then Hilton resumed walking. The entire transition lasted seconds, but it

seemed like hours. The three walked the rest of the way through the store and Hilton passed with flying colors!

We see miracles like this every day at Dogs for Better Lives and it’s your support that helps make it happen. You make the difference - and we thank you.

- Wanda Cockey,
Major Gifts Manager





GOOD SAM SEAHORSES

Good Sam Seahorses and Dogs for Better Lives Service Club Coordinator Michelle Erwin swapping stories and selling raffle tickets at the Lake Okeechobee Rally in Florida. For over 30 years, Good Sam chapters across the country continue to raise funds and awareness on our behalf. Thank you Good Sam for your enduring hospitality and generosity.

GOOD SAM – RAMBLING SAM'S

Jax Rambling Sams' Steve and Frankie Zubor celebrating 51 years of marriage at the Florida State rally. Thank you for your service Steve; we salute you!



Ambassador Jennifer Hampton & her Hearing Dog Wellie

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CLUB NEWS

BPO DOES CONVENTION

I am incredibly fortunate to have attended the BPO Does Convention the past four years. This is one of the highlight events that I look forward to attending each year. The generosity of this group of women has amazed me from my very first convention that I attended in South Carolina. Most of the Does have never visited Dogs for Better Lives, but they recognize the work that we do and they work tirelessly to support us.

This year, I met my first Doe at the airport in Minneapolis. She recognized the logo on my shirt and saw that I was traveling with a dog in an orange vest.

She immediately asked if I was going to the Does Convention and we shared a cab from the

Rochester airport to the Kahler Grand Hotel. On the way, we chatted pleasantly and by the time we arrived at the hotel, I had made a new friend.

On Saturday morning, we were set up in the Raffle Room where the Does conducted raffles throughout the weekend benefitting Dogs for the Deaf, now Dogs for Better Lives. They also had an “adoption” table where they “adopted out” stuffed dogs, benefitting Dogs for Better Lives as well. One of the Does bought a stuffed dog for my demonstration dog, Vega, who had attended the convention with me the last three years. She was disappointed to see that Vega wasn’t with me this year, but purchased Vega a stuffed dog anyway and asked me to take it home to her. A female yellow Labrador named Tracy accompanied me to this year’s Does Convention, just after completing her Hearing Dog training. We spent the day at the raffle table greeting the Does who came by and catching up with old friends. Tracy received a lot of attention from the Does and she enjoyed every minute of it!

That afternoon, I talked to the group about our Autism Assistance Dog program and Tracy did a Hearing Dog demonstration. Many of the Does had already seen a Hearing Dog demonstration with a small dog where the dog jumps on the handler to alert the handler to the sound, but this was the first time many of them

had seen a large dog nose the handler for the alert. I was happy to answer many questions about the Autism program, and Tracy did an excellent job with her demo.

The Opening Ceremony on Sunday was one of my favorite activities of the weekend. The care and attention to detail that goes into planning it is incredible! Every year the BPO Does reserve seats on stage for Dogs for Better Lives representatives as their guests of honor. Tracy and I were escorted onto the stage, along with Michelle Erwin, Dogs for Better Lives’ Service Club Coordinator. As part of the ceremony,

we were led to the stage and had amazing views of all that took place that evening. Towards

the end of the ceremony, we were presented a donation check onstage. I am so thankful that Michelle accepted the check on our behalf, because I always get a little choked up.

At the airport on Monday, I met another Doe who recognized Tracy and me. She stated that she had to fly back early because her husband was not doing well and mentioned that her daughter was a veterinarian. She asked for my business card so that she could talk to her daughter about possibly becoming an Ambassador for us. I was floored! Here was a woman in the middle

of a personal crisis, yet she still thought about how she could help us. This, to me, embodies the spirit of what I see when I visit the BPO Does Convention each year. Thank you BPO Does for all that you do to support Dogs for Better Lives.

- Andrea Woodcock,
Assistant Training
Director

“I was floored! Here was a woman in the middle of a personal crisis, yet she still thought about how she could help us. ”



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For more information, visit the *Other Ways to Give* section of the Dogs for Better Lives website (located in the *Support Us* tab) or contact us at (800) 990-3647



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Please continue to support the special work and mission of Dogs for Better Lives

DFD LEGAL / FINANCIAL INFORMATION Dogs for Better Lives, Inc. makes every effort to maintain required charity registrations at state and federal levels. Our philosophy at Dogs for Better Lives has always been to be extremely diligent in following state and federal rules and regulations. To continue this due diligence, we have enclosed additional information as requested per the following states listed below:

CO - Tax Id #93-0681311, Registration #20073010658. No goods or services were provided in exchange for this donation. Your gift is tax-deductible according to current law as written in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. The official registration and financial information of Dogs for Better Lives, Inc. may be obtained from the office of the Colorado Secretary of State by calling 303-894-2680, or online at <http://www.state.sos.co.us>

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WA - Tax Id #93-0681311. No goods or services were provided in exchange for this donation. Your gift is tax-deductible according to current law as written in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. The official registration and financial information of Dogs for the Deaf, Inc. may be obtained from the Washington Secretary of State's Charities Program office at 800-332-4483 or online at www.sos.wa.gov/charities. Registration by the Secretary of State does not imply endorsement by the Secretary of State.

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“I want to help people

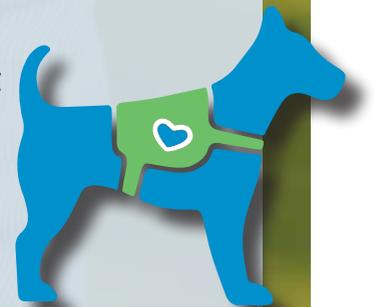
who are Deaf or who have hearing loss to know a greater freedom and sense of safety and independence.”

Ila is a retired gym teacher who worked with children with special needs. She experienced first-hand the profound impact a Hearing Dog can have on people’s lives and knew she wanted to support Dogs for Better Lives.

That’s why Ila has decided to leave Dogs for Better Lives a gift of charity in her will.

Please consider including Dogs for Better Lives in your will or future plans.

Contact Wanda for more information, (800) 990-3647.



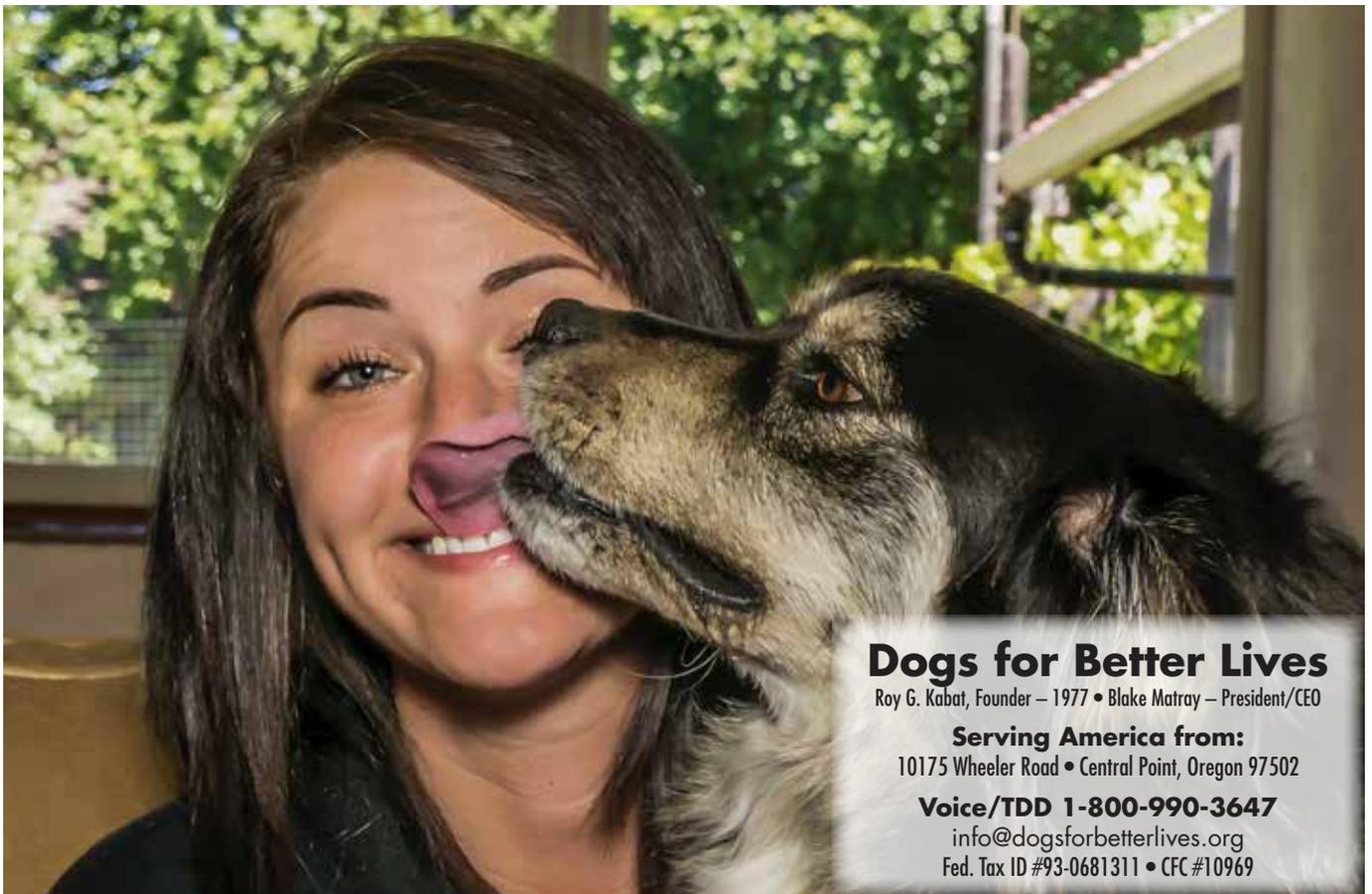


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