



Impact Report

July / August 2018

Your investment in focused training yields life-enhancing results.

Bodie Helps Dorothy Connect to Her Community

Hearing Dog Bodie, a 2-1/2 year-old terrier mix, was placed with Dorothy in Pennsylvania earlier this year. Bodie came to us from Valley Animal Center in Fresno and is helping Dorothy with sound awareness and companionship.

Dorothy loves to volunteer at her local senior center thrift store, and having Bodie by her side helps her remain independent and connected to her community. Thank you Bodie!



Worth the Wait: Hearing Dog Reno

Hearing Dog Reno was placed with Shirley in South Carolina one year ago and he has made a huge difference in her life. Reno alerts Shirley to the phone, door knocks, smoke alarms, and he does a great job helping her with sound awareness wherever they go.

Shirley is very thankful to have Reno by her side, saying "I feel blessed to have Reno. He



does an amazing job everywhere we go. Having Reno in my life was definitely worth the wait!"

Rescue Warriors Keep Up the Pace

Paula Lysinger and Brittany Peery, Dogs for Better Lives' "rescue warriors", travel throughout the West Coast in search of suitable dogs to adopt from animal shelters for our assistance dog training programs.

When assessing potential candidates, Paula and Brittany focus on one to three year old dogs that are healthy, confident and trainable. Paula notes, "We want dogs that get along well with other dogs, who don't chase cats, are food and toy motivated, and do not have any obvious behavioral problems (such as food guarding), and who really like all kinds of people."

When people think of animal shelters, most think of a number of dogs languishing away with euthanasia looming as the unavoidable end. And for a very long time, it was like that at many shelters. Thankfully, spaying and neutering pets is commonplace these days and people are more apt to keep their dogs in the house or a fenced yard, therefore unwanted litters of pups has become far less common. That doesn't mean there aren't any stray dogs that wind up in shelters; it just means that there are fewer dogs in shelters than in the past.

Perhaps the biggest change in the rescue world is public awareness. The public has paid attention to the many media campaigns aimed at the plight of shelter dogs. Who hasn't shed a tear at the commercial featuring Sarah McLachlan singing "Arms of an Angel"? People have overwhelmingly responded by increasing their demand for shelter dogs. According to a recent study, shelters simply cannot keep up or meet Americans' demand for over 8 million dogs a year.

Dogs for Better Lives is located within a day's drive from some of the largest animal



shelters in the U.S., and we've successfully rescued tens of hundreds of dogs from these historically overpopulated high-kill shelters in the past. Today, this has become somewhat challenging because other rescue groups are pulling dogs from these same shelters and transporting to their locations across the U.S. But this isn't slowing us down - we're committed more than ever to search for and adopt potential assistance dogs through increased Rescue Road Trips, implementation of our new Volunteer Canine Recruiter program, and through partnerships with other similar dog agencies such as Guide Dogs for the Blind and Dogs with Wings.

Rescuing dogs is vital to our mission, and the continuing efforts by our rescue team is made possible through the ongoing support of our donors - thank you!

Watch our newest video featuring Paula and Brittany on the hunt for potential DBL Assistance Dogs at the Valley Animal Center's Super Adoption event:



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Dogs for Better Lives' mission is to 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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