

THE Companion

Issue
44




Canine
Companions®
Spring 2023



New Beginnings

Dear Friends,

As we enter spring, we welcome growth, renewal and new beginnings at Canine Companions. Already in 2023, we've seen wonderful progress with our programs, an inspiring start to the year for driving our mission forward.

Our volunteers, donors, clients and staff are benefiting from new, streamlined technologies and communications. The therapy dog program has expanded to all six of our regions – a major milestone. With so much innovation and positive new beginnings, this year is sure to be one for the books.

At the start of this year, the board of directors welcomed several new members. We also transitioned a number of leadership roles. We thank all members

for their many contributions, especially John McKinney, our outgoing board chair. As always, the entire board will remain focused on supporting the management team to help fulfill the mission of Canine Companions through collaborative strategic planning and good governance practices.

Later this year, we're looking forward to the completion of our new Nelson Schulz Canine Health and Wellness Center, set to open its doors in the winter. This facility is a pivotal move forward, allowing us to efficiently breed, raise and train happy, healthy and successful service dogs to support more people with disabilities.

We will even test ways to expand our reach into areas of the country without an immediate training center, with the goal of seeking greater involvement on a community level, spreading awareness of our mission and engaging more donors, graduates and volunteers.

We are so grateful for your ongoing support, providing a life-changing impact on our clients and communities. We can't wait to evolve and move our mission forward, together with you.

Kind regards,

Paige Mazzoni
Chief Executive Officer

Bill White
Board Chair

Introducing the EMPOWER INDEPENDENCE SOCIETY

The Empower Independence Society recognizes the generosity of our annual leadership donors through unique experiences and exclusive opportunities for individuals to further connect with our mission. Additionally, we are pleased to introduce the Hero Society, a distinguished, lifetime giving society.

The investment of our generous donors makes our program possible, and we are honored to bring more of our mission to you. For more details, visit canine.org/empowersociety.



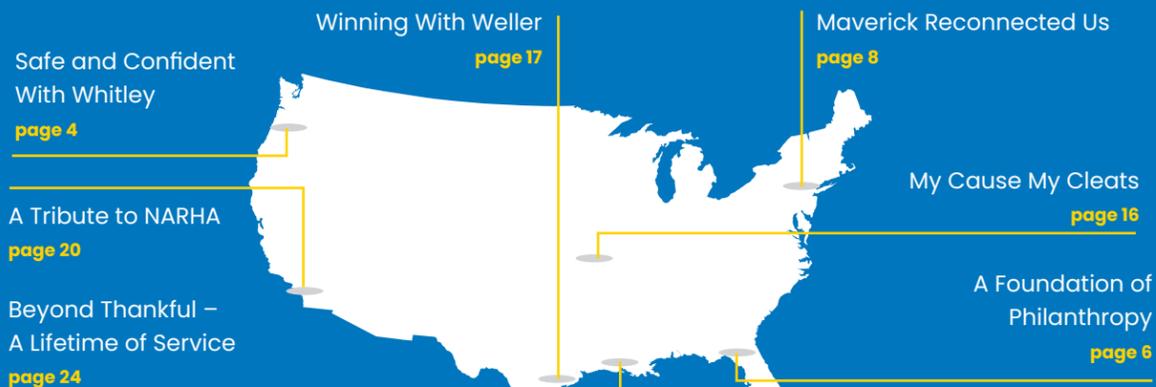
ARE YOU INTERESTED IN ELEVATING YOUR GIVING LEVEL? INVEST IN INDEPENDENCE AT [CANINE.ORG/GIFT](https://canine.org/gift).

2022 by the Numbers



*Includes service and facility dogs, therapy dogs placed and certified, and dogs transferred to other agencies.

HIGHLIGHTS



Safe and Confident With Whitley

Brooks grew up in Washington State, extremely active in the outdoors of the Pacific Northwest: playing football, camping, hiking, fishing and hunting. During a trip to the Columbia River with friends in 2016, Brooks dove from a boat, unaware that the dam had released excessive amounts of water during the week, creating a shallow canal in the sand of the riverbed invisible from above. The dive caused a spinal cord injury, leaving Brooks with quadriplegia and loss of use of his hands. Brooks still leads a very active lifestyle from his electric wheelchair, with an expertly trained service dog by his side.

Brooks knew about Canine Companions for years. His grandmother was a volunteer decades ago, and his aunt is a volunteer puppy raiser and breeder caretaker. After meeting a Canine Companions graduate and seeing the tasks the dog performed for his handler, Brooks says he “felt something he had lost.” This encounter was the push Brooks needed to apply for a service dog to increase his independence. Canine Companions was the obvious choice.

In August of 2022, Brooks was matched, free of charge, with Service Dog Whitley. Whitley is expertly trained to pick up dropped items, open and close doors and drawers, turn on and off lights and has even learned five new tasks to better help Brooks. “Picking up dropped items is the biggest thing she does, and she gets so excited when she gets to do it. Her tail is always wagging,” Brooks shares. “When we’re out in

public, she pushes all the automatic push plates to help me easily get into buildings.”

Brooks feels safe and secure with Whitley by his side. “I don’t have to rely on other people to help. I’m never worried about dropping my phone or wallet in public.” He continues, “Life with Whitley has so far exceeded my expectations of what I thought it could be.”



“I don’t have to rely on other people to help. I’m never worried about dropping my phone or wallet.”

Make more life-changing matches possible. Visit canine.org/gift.



Scan here with your phone’s camera.



A Foundation of Philanthropy

The upkeep of six regional training centers is no small feat. It requires time and resources to provide the best experience possible for our clients and our dogs. Our supporters come from all walks of life, proudly shoring up our physical “foundations” through philanthropy.

Bob Goldfarb is a volunteer, a puppy raiser and a benevolent donor. Recently, Bob and his wife, Pam, generously gave a gift of \$150,000 towards the planned kennel and dorm expansion project at the Northeast Region Miller Family Campus.

Like Bob, Janet Pennock, another long-time supporter, has volunteered for Canine Companions for years. Unlike Bob, however, she is also part of our program staff in our Southeast Region. Florida is known for warm, humid days, which requires extra care for our dogs in professional training. In 2022, Janet made a generous major donation of \$100,000 towards a new air conditioning system for the kennels - a unique and essential gift.

“I know that my gift will have a direct impact on our services and will ensure that more dogs will find that perfect match,” Janet says. Our community of supporters, like Bob and Janet, keeps our mission moving forward.

Meet the Newest Members of the Board

The Canine Companions national board of directors has a big job – to be key decision makers, problem solvers and supporters of our mission. We recently welcomed several new faces to the board, as well as welcoming back John Elliott to our trusted team as vice chair.

John Elliott has been a vital part of our national board for over 19 years and has joined us again after a brief hiatus. Not only is John’s insight incredibly valuable to our organization, but he has also been a steady advisor in terms of growth, inclusion and diversity and engaging key employees and volunteers.



Collette Bunton

Collette came to Canine Companions as a tech advisor through our partnership with Whistle Labs, where she held the position of CEO. She has advised on our key technology projects throughout the last two years. Collette is a seasoned executive, and brings her wealth of experience to our national board. Collette is a resident of the San Francisco Bay Area.



Robert Lavie

Robert has lived all over the world, from Northern Africa to Texas. He has also loved many dogs in his lifetime. Currently residing in Texas, Robert will make a wonderful addition to the Canine Companions board. “I am honored and happy to have been asked to the board of Canine Companions,” Robert says. “I am looking forward to serving and participating in its great mission.”



John Sabo

John joined the national board in October 2022, after several years of involvement with Canine Companions as a volunteer and donor. John is the vice president and general counsel for Thermo Fischer Scientific, Inc. He and his family have raised four puppies, with their latest, Donny, appearing on CBS-Pittsburgh representing Canine Companions.

Canine Companions Junior Ambassador Committee

In February 2023, Canine Companions launched a new volunteer opportunity, the Junior Ambassador Committee. This program is comprised of students and young professionals, ages 17 to 32, with a passion and commitment to Canine Companions and making a difference in the disability community. Committee members are Canine Companions ambassadors in their local communities, educating and advocating for service dog rights, as well as helping plan and participate in outreach events and National Service Dog Month activities.

For more information or to submit an interest form, visit canine.org/jrcommittee.



New Leadership Announcement

We are pleased to announce that long-time board member Bill White has accepted the role of board chair for Canine Companions.

Bill joined Canine Companions in the mid-1990s as a regional board member, and he has been part of our national board since 2002.

After a 31-year career as treasurer of Darden Restaurants, Bill retired in 2020, ready to support our mission in his new role.

In Their Own Words

MAVERICK RECONNECTED US.

My husband, Josh, was medically retired from the U.S. Air Force in 2021, after serving 13 years in the military as an aircraft mechanic. As a result of his service, he developed post-traumatic stress disorder, debilitating back injuries and neuropathy. I became his full-time caregiver, and to complicate matters, our son, Calvin, was born with complex medical needs. It was a sad time for our family. Josh was at a really low point in his life after losing his career. He wasn't willing to talk or express his emotions. He didn't go anywhere. We didn't communicate.

When we first learned about Canine Companions, I realized a service dog could provide a benefit to Josh. But **I couldn't have anticipated the true scope of Service Dog Maverick's impact on our lives.** Maverick makes sure Josh is safe by retrieving his medication bag or cane and by providing a safe buffer in crowds to decrease anxiety. I was able to return to work for the first time in years.

Maverick helps Josh get out of the house and talk to people. He can join the rest of the family for Calvin's numerous medical appointments. Josh is much less anxious at home and in public. I wasn't expecting such a difference. Through Maverick, Josh regained some of his independence and the whole family dynamic has changed for the better. We know Josh won't be 100% the person he was before his injury, but with Maverick, he's so much closer.

With gratitude,



Sarah Gage



L-R: U.S. Army veteran Jonathan with Service Dog Hampton, Sharon and Matthew Hoioos with Service Dog Dacey, U.S. Navy veteran Tom Hoioos with puppy Halo.

Hampton Was Always Yours

As a U.S. Navy veteran, choosing service comes naturally to me. As a three-time Canine Companions graduate with my son, Matthew, choosing service with Canine Companions has been the greatest decision.

Hampton is the second puppy we have raised as a family. The question that people we meet always ask us is, "How can you give them up?" The fact is, Hampton was never ours to give up. She had another veteran, Jonathan, she was waiting to serve, even if we didn't know it, yet.

Looking back, Hampton has been Jonathan's all her life. She was born to be his, raised with love to be by his side and trained to bring Jonathan independence. And we are so glad they are finally together. Hampton, too, chose a lifetime of service!

Sincerely,



Tom Hoioos

"Hampton was never ours to give up."



Supporting Service Dogs STRAIGHT FROM THE VINE

Canine Companions and national partner St. Francis Winery & Vineyards launched the inaugural Straight from the Vine nationwide, three-month mobile tour in New York in August 2022. The tour's interactive wine tasting experience stopped in cities across the country and highlighted the Canine Companions mission, paired with offerings from St. Francis Winery.

Our volunteers and graduates joined over 20 tour stops sharing our mission, spreading awareness and holding meet-and-greets with their Canine Companions puppies and service dogs.

"The St. Francis mobile tour was a great way to showcase our partnership with Canine Companions in a fun and interactive setting," says St. Francis Winery & Vineyards President and Chief Executive Officer Rick Bonitati. "Having the dogs present on many of the stops helped raise awareness of the exceptional work the organization achieves every day, throughout the country. We are proud to support such a meaningful cause."

For a third consecutive year, St. Francis Winery is committed to giving back to Canine Companions with the return of its For the Love of Dogs and Great Wine campaign. For every bottle of St. Francis wine purchased in the United States, now through December 31, 2023, the winery will donate \$1 to Canine Companions, up to \$100,000.



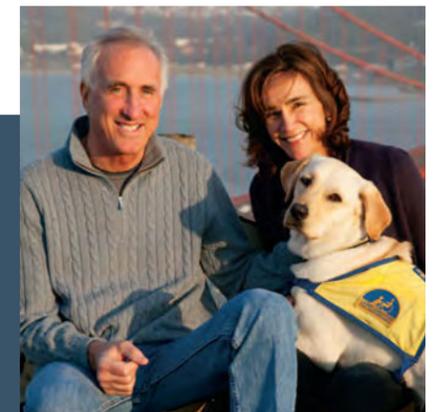
Remembering Steve Boyd

Canine Companions lost a friend and loving supporter in February. Attorney Steve Boyd, who was secretary of our board of directors, was instrumental in the establishment of our Baylor Scott & White Health – Kinkeade Campus in Irving, Texas. This milestone made the placement of more than 300 teams possible since the doors opened at our South Central training center in 2015.

Always willing to play an active role in the success of our mission, Steve was a much beloved member of our national board. His loss is felt by many who enjoyed his affable spirit and his kindness.

In Memoriam

Long-time honorary board member, Terry Levin, joined the Canine Companions community in 1983 as an enthusiastic supporter. Over the past 40 years, Terry has filled many roles: a board member, spokesperson and Heritage Society member. After a battle with a prolonged illness, Terry died in 2022. We are grateful for Terry and for her family's ongoing commitment to our mission.



Ten Years of Support From MetLife Foundation



MetLife Foundation has a long-running commitment to strengthening communities across the nation and the globe. Canine Companions has been fortunate to be part of the MetLife Foundation community initiative for over 10 years through its support of our North Central Region.

Recently, MetLife Foundation expanded its commitment to our mission and awarded Canine Companions with a \$100,000 grant to support our work across the U.S. in 2023. Thank you, MetLife Foundation, for your continued support and for providing the gift of independence for people with disabilities!

Learn more at canine.org/corporatepartners



Therapy Dog Work Comes Full-Circle

Melissa and Ed Kinkeade have always had a passion for serving people through animals. In fact, it was one special pet therapy dog named Bo, who inspired Judge Ed Kinkeade to build a connection between Baylor Scott & White Health and Canine Companions.

In 2015, thanks to this collaboration, the Canine Companions at Baylor Scott & White – Kinkeade Campus in Irving, Texas, opened to place service dogs and facility dogs with those in need. Now, the program has been expanded to allow dogs released from the Canine Companions program to continue to do important work as therapy dogs.

Melissa knew their very own released dog, Falco, was the perfect dog for the job, following in his incredibly special predecessor, Bo's, footsteps. Melissa

shares, "Falco has the sweetest temperament. He loves people and loves to work. We are here to serve others in any way we can."

Recently certified through the Canine Companions therapy dog program, Falco will accompany Melissa as they volunteer by visiting retirement homes, elementary schools and more in their community, providing love and comfort in the form of a wet nose and wagging tail.



Expanding Our Therapy Dog Program

Therapy dogs do wonderful work for the community, and therapy work is a great fit for some of our dogs that aren't suitable for service dog work – a win-win! And now, our therapy dog program is open to specific areas in all of our six regions.

The program is available to Canine Companions released dogs that meet behavioral and health requirements for therapy work, and includes an application and evaluation process. Through 2023, we will be offering the therapy dog program in wider areas throughout our regions.

Therapy work isn't for every released dog though, Vice President Training and Client Services Melinda Sowers explains. "We want every Canine Companions dog to not only be suitable for their job, but also to love their work!" We are so appreciative of all of the volunteers who have joined our therapy dog program and look forward to more community impact in 2023!

Learn more at canine.org/therapydogs.



Inspired Healing

When first-time puppy raiser Abby Wilson sought months-long treatment at a regional medical center, she had to make the heart-wrenching decision to leave her Canine Companions puppy, Inspire, behind with another puppy raiser. "I was devastated," Abby says. A few months later, she was discharged from the facility, but needed to find a place to live in Richmond where she could be nearby for further care – something that required a short-term lease. But no apartments would let her sign one for just a few months.

That's when her mom found the Ronald McDonald House (RMHC). RMHC-Richmond didn't just take in

Abby – they agreed to take in Inspire, too. **As a future service dog, Inspire received one-of-a-kind exposure to the unique RMHC environment to help prepare him for life as a service dog.** "They welcomed us with open arms," Abby says. "Everyone knew Inspire by name, respected his space and always asked before they pet or interacted with him."

Abby says with the cooperation, kindness and love from the people at RMHC-Richmond, and with Inspire by her side, she, herself, was inspired to keep fighting to get better. "I truly believe I couldn't have made the progress that I made without Inspire there to encourage me," she says.

"The Ronald McDonald House allowed us to be together. I'm so grateful for everyone involved."

"I truly believe I couldn't have made the progress that I did without having Inspire there to encourage me."

Sponsor a Future Service Dog!

Help the puppies of today become the service dogs of tomorrow.

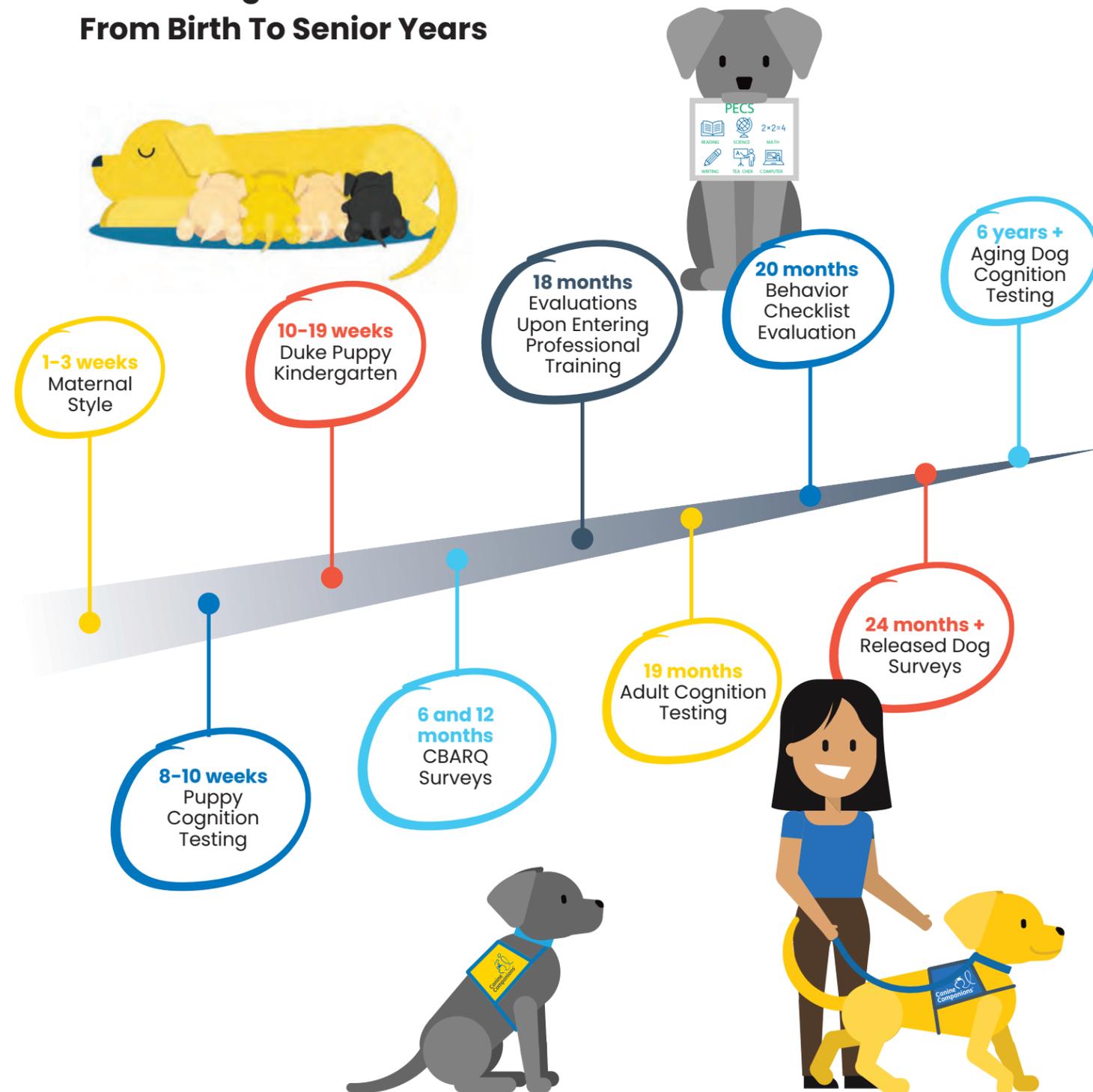
canine.org/sponsorapup





Healthy, Happy Service Dogs 20 YEARS OF BEHAVIORAL RESEARCH

Canine Cognition Studies From Birth To Senior Years



The Canine Companions research program hit a major milestone at the close of 2022 – leading the industry in canine behavioral research for 20 years! Our research department has been active for decades, and our focus on behavioral research has been critical to understanding what traits make a dog more successful as a service dog. Check out our research highlights to learn more, or visit canine.org/research.

RESEARCH OVER THE YEARS

<p>2002 First publication on the benefits of facility dogs in hospice settings.</p>	<p>2011 Duke University and Canine Companions are the first to evaluate cognition in adult service dog candidates.</p>	<p>2017 Five-year study begins exploring the effects of maternal style during the first few weeks of life on cognition and graduation outcomes.</p>
<p>2006 Collaboration with UPenn using the Canine Behavioral Assessment and Research Questionnaire (CBARQ) to study associations between puppy behavior and success.</p>	<p>2014 Emory University and Canine Companions first to study brain activity using fMRI to predict service dog success.</p>	<p>2018 Duke Puppy Kindergarten begins, studying cognition in puppies over the first few months of life.</p>
<p>2016 Puppy cognition studies begin with University of Arizona and Duke University.</p>	<p>2021 University of Arizona partners with Canine Companions to study how genetics can explain cognitive variation in our dogs.</p>	<p>2022 An investigation of cognitive aging begins in partnership with University of Arizona and The Dog Aging Project.</p>

My Cause My Cleats

Many can probably say their dream is to spend a day in a NFL player's shoes... but what about on them? Kansas City Chiefs defensive end George Karlaftis gave us the opportunity when he chose to represent Canine Companions during the My Cause My Cleats week in early December. Custom-painted cleats with imagery of Canine Companions dogs and colors stood out on the field. Karlaftis partnered with us after meeting first grader Patrick and his Canine Companions service dog, Julio.

"Pairing service animals with people who have disabilities can make a massive change in easing that person's life," says Karlaftis. As a special gift, Patrick and Julio received their own pair of hand-painted, signed cleats from Karlaftis, too.

You can bid on the Karlaftis game-worn, signed cleats at Sit Stay Sparkle North Central.

Visit canine.org/SparkleNorthCentral



Puppies in the Spotlight

Canine Companions just had three new all-stars drafted on the field, the diamond and the ice! Future service dog Gill has laced up his skates and joins the San Jose Sharks, cheering on his teammates at games and snuggling during breaks. The Colorado FC Switchbacks welcomed Captain to the field, an adorable black Labrador who will be attending games and winning hearts for the 2023 soccer season. Not to forget America's favorite pastime, puppy Bubba has signed on with the Pensacola Blue Wahoos Minor League Baseball team, joining the roster in spring training 2023.

We are so grateful to our athletic partners for continuing to raise awareness about Canine Companions, both on the bench and through consecutive puppy partnerships! Read about our puppies in the spotlight at canine.org/puppyspotlight.



WINNING WITH WELLER

For 7-year-old Annabelle, Service Dog Weller has opened up doors – literally and figuratively. He has also brought more love and joy than she and her family ever thought possible.

Annabelle's mom, Shelley, shares that, while life before Weller was good, life after Weller has been filled with endless laughter and greater independence for Annabelle. Expertly trained, Weller opens and closes doors and drawers, as well as picks up items Annabelle drops, such as her communication device. In public, he walks faithfully next to her wheelchair, encouraging Annabelle to explore positive communication with the public and giving her visibly more confidence as she navigates the world.

Shelley shares, "I knew a service dog could open up opportunities for Annabelle, and just overall, bring her joy and happiness. We hit the jackpot with Weller!"



Will and Toshi Go to College

They say one of the best ways to meet people in college is to leave your dorm room door open. The other best way? Have a dog! With Canine Companions Service Dog Toshi, I get to do both during our first year at Siena College. We settled in gradually, attending the student preview and orientation together. Toshi joined me in my dorm a few days later.

Now, he greets all my floormates through the gate in my doorway as they head to class. Everyone loves having Toshi on campus. He is a great social magnet. My professors are very accepting of him. My mom says Toshi is the greatest thing that has ever happened to us – and I think my classmates would agree!

Thank you,
Will



Bear Has Never Lost a Case

The criminal justice system can be intimidating to anyone, but it can be truly terrifying to children. Having a friend by their side with a calm demeanor and a wagging tail can make all the difference.

Janet Era is an investigator with the Contra Costa District Attorney's Office in Northern California. She works with children and young adult victims or witnesses of sexual assault, domestic violence and child abduction.

In 2019, Janet was partnered with Facility Dog Roberto, known as Bear. Bear helps Janet in her work supporting these individuals and their families as they navigate the criminal justice system. Bear uses up to 45 skills to help calm and motivate victims and witnesses while they're being interviewed or testifying in court, often allowing them to open up in ways they otherwise couldn't and allowing the case to progress.

As an expertly trained facility dog, Bear performs tasks to help children feel comfortable enough to share details of their traumatic experiences during interviews by applying deep, calming pressure, completing puzzles and playing games. During a trial, Bear curls invisibly under the witness stand to support victims as they testify against their perpetrators – sometimes remaining there silently for hours – as disruptions may affect the outcome of the trial.



“I felt comfortable knowing that Aiden wouldn't be on a stand or anything by himself. He would have a friend with him that he trusts.”

11-year-old Aiden has benefited from Bear's presence in the child interview center, courtroom and beyond. Aiden's grandmother and guardian, Barbara, shares, "When Bear's around, Aiden is a different child." She continues, "Going through the system, it has been much easier with Bear around to help us. I felt comfortable knowing that Aiden wouldn't be on a stand or anything by himself. He would have a friend with him that he trusts."

Bear has helped victims and witnesses more than 200 times, and counting. Janet shares, "Our deputy district attorney has never lost a case with Bear. He definitely makes an impact." She continues, "Bear is my partner, and I wouldn't trade him for the world."

Watch Janet and Bear's story!





A Tribute to NARHA

When Dan Guillou was matched with his first service dog, Cinnamon, in 2008, he soon became a familiar face at DogFest San Diego. Dan fundraised for the event with his service dogs, Cinnamon, NARHA and now, Vanetter. Last year, Dan set a big, personal fundraising goal – enough to name a Canine Companions puppy.

“This year, I decided to go all in and set a goal of \$15,000 to name a puppy after my second service dog, NARHA,” says Dan. “NARHA provided me with seven and a half years of service before she retired, and I wanted to name a puppy after her as a tribute.”

Dan also joined the DogFest volunteer committee in 2022, as the food and beverage chair. He worked alongside a group of volunteers to put together a successful event that brought together the Canine Companions and San Diego communities for a day of fun.

“Volunteering on the committee was a great experience,” notes Dan. “As a graduate, it was a fun way to get involved with the organization in a volunteer role.”

Dan plans to continue his role on the DogFest San Diego committee next year and encourages his fellow graduates to attend, fundraise or volunteer at a local DogFest event.

DOG FEST

LEADERS OF THE PACK: 2022 Top DogFest Fundraisers

We would like to acknowledge the 2022 top 10 fundraisers across the country:

Jill Sabo - \$40,750

Jane Rieger - \$26,190

Jim Caprio - \$23,456

Brandt Carter - \$21,125

Doug Erickson - \$19,700

Barbara, Ellen and Rico Lockwood - \$19,685

Margaret and Larry Engel - \$19,601

Mark Stuart - \$19,500

The Trucco Family - \$16,012

Mary Lusso Segall - \$15,935

We are grateful for the fundraisers, big and small, who support our mission through Canine Companions DogFest events. Join the fun!



In 2022, 25 DogFest registrants met the giving threshold to name a Canine Companions puppy. Learn more at canine.org/dogfest.

2022 Jack Warnock Award Honors Exceptional Volunteerism

Each year, the Canine Companions national board awards the Jack Warnock Award to six deserving volunteers. The award, named for graduate and volunteer Jack Warnock, recognizes outstanding volunteerism. We are pleased to announce that Diesta Gundacker of Winter Park, Florida, has been awarded the Jack Warnock Award, along with five regional winners of this prestigious award.

Diesta wanted her children to experience giving back to the community in a way that would be tangible, and in 1999, she received

her first Canine Companions future service dog, Tempo. Nearly 25 years later, Diesta is raising Sota, her 17th puppy for Canine Companions.

However, Diesta's involvement doesn't end with puppy raising. For decades, Diesta has assisted the organization as a volunteer professional photographer. Her stunning images showcase our mission throughout our materials, and Diesta has photographed dozens of graduation ceremonies, hundreds of puppies entering professional training and more.

- Congratulations to Our Winners:**
- North Central Region – Catherine Rupp
 - Northeast Region – Eva LaMere
 - Northwest Region – Laura de Rutte
 - South Central Region – Debbie Byrne
 - Southeast Region – Diesta Gundacker, Jack Warnock Award
 - Southwest Region – Sheryl Ishizaki

Since 1999, Diesta has been involved in the planning of the Southeast Region's annual Tales & Tails Gala. In 2022, she was responsible for soliciting and securing 40% of event sponsors for the event.

We are honored to have Diesta in our community, and congratulate her, and our five regional award winners, on this achievement.



Read about our 2022 winners!



Andy Racks up Wins on the Festival Circuit

The adorable short film, “Andy: A Dog’s Tale,” has been making waves on the film festival circuit. The award-winning film, made in conjunction with Jean Schulz and Jamy Wheless of Ignite Animation, follows the story of Andy, a Canine Companions puppy on a journey.





Building a Legacy of Love

When you spend 26 years working in nonprofits, the concept of giving back becomes second nature. But to long-time Canine Companions supporter Hillary McCarley, it's a concept that stretches far beyond work. To her, giving back is personal.

Hillary and her late husband, Kevin, first learned about Canine Companions after meeting a graduate and his service dog. The McCarleys were impressed by the connection between the two, and it occurred to them that their own son, Michael, could benefit from having a similar bond.

Michael has cerebral palsy and epilepsy. He is also legally blind. Hillary says the two Canine Companions service dogs he's had over the years have made all the difference.

Michael isn't the only one who has benefited from having service dogs. Several years ago, Kevin decided to raise a puppy. He was sick at the time, but seeing the positive impact of a service dog on his own son's life fueled his ambition to get involved. Hillary says Kevin was awaiting surgery when he received the news that Moritz, the puppy he raised, had successfully been matched with a client as a service dog.

Before Kevin passed away, he and Hillary ensured that his legacy would live on through their estate plans by including a gift to Canine Companions.

"In working in nonprofits, you see how an organization is continuously sustained with legacy giving," Hillary says. "Giving back was always something that was important to our family. This organization could not mean any more to me."

You can learn more about including a gift to Canine Companions in your estate plans at canine.org/planned-giving.

"Giving back was always something that was important to our family. This organization could not mean any more to me."

Make even greater independence possible when you become a monthly donor.

Give \$25 or more as a new monthly donor and receive a **FREE exclusive logo keychain.**



Fill out and return the envelope enclosed or donate online by scanning the QR code.



2023 EVENTS

April

22 | DogFest Orlando – Winter Park, FL

May

19 | Putting for Pups Golf Classic – San Jose, CA

June

3 | Sit Stay Sparkle Santa Rosa – Santa Rosa, CA

15 | Sit Stay Sparkle North Central – New Albany, OH

July

24 | New Mexico Golf Tournament – Albuquerque, NM

August

12 | Sit Stay Sparkle Northeast – Medford, NY

26 | DogFest LA/OC – Garden Grove, CA

September

9 | DogFest Wine Country – Windsor, CA

9 | DogFest Tri-States – Ewing, NJ

9 | DogFest San Diego – San Diego, CA

16 | Give a Dog a Job 5K – Richmond, VA

23 | DogFest Long Island – Massapequa, NY

30 | DogFest Texas – Irving, TX

30 | DogFest Northwest – Virtual

30 | DogFest Jacksonville – Jacksonville Beach, FL

October

1 | DogFest North Central – New Albany, OH

7 | Sit Stay Sparkle Seattle – Seattle, WA

10 | Chip In for Canines – Atlanta, GA

14 | Sit Stay Sparkle Southwest – Newport Beach, CA

14 | DogFest Washington D.C. – Reston, VA

21 | 27th Annual Tales & Tails Gala – Orlando, FL

21 | DogFest Bay Area – Oakland, CA

November

6 | Arizona Golf Tournament – Chandler, AZ

8 | Salute Independence – Medford, NY

THANK YOU, EVENT SPONSORS!

We would like to recognize the major contributions of those companies and individuals who have sponsored our gala events in 2022.

NATIONAL SPONSORS:



BEST IN SHOW SPONSORS:



Dennis and Alison Gilmore

Ruttger's Birchmont Lodge



Beyond Thankful - A Lifetime of Service

Living with osteogenesis imperfecta, or brittle bones, caused Stacey Hendricks a lot of anxiety in her daily life. She prepared for every eventuality before leaving the house, concerned she would need help or injure herself when out alone.

After hearing the stories of people with disabilities who were working with Canine Companions service dogs, Stacey was hopeful that Canine Companions was the right fit for her.

In 2014, Stacey was partnered with Service Dog Cavalier. Over the next eight years of their partnership, Stacey would travel and do more than ever before with Cavalier by her side.

Thanks to his expert training, Cavalier helped Stacey retrieve her phone, pick up groceries off the shelf and provide additional confidence.

After a serious accident, Cavalier helped Stacey learn

to care for herself again and motivate her to reach major milestones.

“Cavalier helped me graduate college, move into an apartment and navigate public transportation independently. He helped me realize I could go out adventuring and get out of my comfort zone with his help. ‘Cav’ is like a Swiss army knife – he can solve any problem and adapt to any need.”

In September 2022, Cavalier hung up his vest and entered a well-deserved retirement as Stacey’s pet, now focusing on full-time sunbathing, and non-stop pets, surrounded by love.

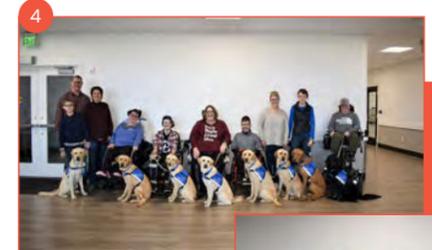
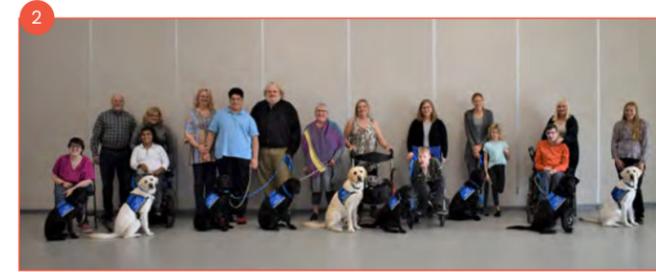
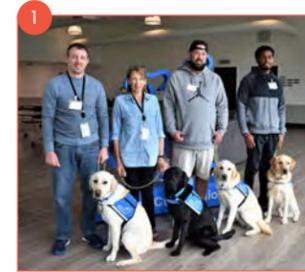
“I don’t know how I could ever thank him,” Stacey remarks. “I feel like it goes so far beyond ‘I appreciate you.’ Everything he’s done has made me a stronger person. Cav got us where we are today and reminds me that I can go further than I thought was possible.”

“I don’t know how I could ever thank him.”

2022-2023 Team Training Yearbook

NORTH CENTRAL

- 1. SEPTEMBER** (L-R) Clay with Maximus; Susan with Memphis; Adam with Champ; Tyson with Boltz.
 - 2. NOVEMBER** (L-R) Cara with Napa; Sunni, Wendy & Tom with Hermes; Joseph, Chelsea & Tom with Ivy; Susan with Finnian; Lauren with Kazoo; Dawson & Michelle with Riesling; Caroline & Julie with Amity; Matthew & Paula with Ike; Aubrey with Humphrey.
 - 3. DECEMBER** (L-R) Dan with Izzy; Kathy with Ivan.
 - 5. FEBRUARY** (L-R) Aiden, Emily & Chris with Reef; Amanda with Venti; Becca with Felicity; Michelle with Bramble; Braden with Frodo; Elizabeth with Iver; Katharine with Fudge; Kyle with Alice.
- (February cont’d): (L-R) Marti with Buster; Maggie with Grover; Mary Faith with Marty; Savannah with Solo



NORTHEAST

- 1. AUGUST** (L-R) Andrew with Auggie; Richard with Marshal.
- 2. OCTOBER** (L-R) Cheryl with Tenney; Jameson with Clifton; Frankie & Sheri with Nobbe; Isabella & Lori with Nimble; Donna with Vinn; Sophia, Richard & Susan with Kippling.
- 3. NOVEMBER** (L-R) Matt with Nino; Aaron & Christopher with Miko; Wendie with Onyx; Karen with Milo; Rachelle & Kathleen with Cam; Mari with Carolina.
- 4. FEBRUARY** (L-R) Laura with Hobbes; AJ with Radar; Cara with Joye; Jamie with Audio; Nick with Cubby; Melissa with Tillman; Eric with Dougall; Jane & Scott with Damir.



Scan here to watch future graduation ceremonies.



NORTHWEST

1. SEPTEMBER (L-R) Mary with Papaya; Constance with Della; Toni with Fidget; Molly with Marie.

Jessica with Ewan.

Braylen & Brandi with Vance.

2. OCTOBER (L-R) Nancy with Redwood; Ryan & Alma with Norma; Susan with Levi; Rebecca with Nolanna.

3. NOVEMBER (L-R) Martin, Maggy & Brendan with Fonzie; Zander & Jennifer with Zanna; Jason, Mike & Shannon with Orwell; Emmett, Eric & Andrea with Yoshi; Cruz, Amy & Michael with Cobie.

(L-R) Dan with Zastrow; Janice with Rally; Dana with Primrose; Renee with Hansel; Marcella with Rinka.

(L-R) Todd with Valentina; Linda with Jersey; Andrea with Randy; Angelina (not pictured) with Ila.

Damon with Hercules.

4. DECEMBER Charleston, Ashley & Cameron with Revel.

5. JANUARY (L-R) Advay, Sumant & Geethu with Luke; James & Larkin with Nia; Kristin, Laura & Tony with August; Sarah & Kate with Nacho; Madelyn & Matthew with Nettle; Tricia with Trix; Nicholas & Melissa with Brickle; Gracie, Andrew & Ella with Bazeley; Samantha, James & Rebecca with Glennon.

6. FEBRUARY (L-R) Elizabeth with Nathan; Sam with Melissa; Miriam with Phoebe; Jo-Marie with Campbell; Mary with Carmen.

7. MARCH (L-R) Marcia with Adelaide; Tanya with Bebe; Gayla with Wisteria; Jake with Fremont; Jeanette with Velvet.



SOUTHEAST

1. NOVEMBER (L-R) Rob with Spruce; Samantha with Laddie; Molly with Maxine.

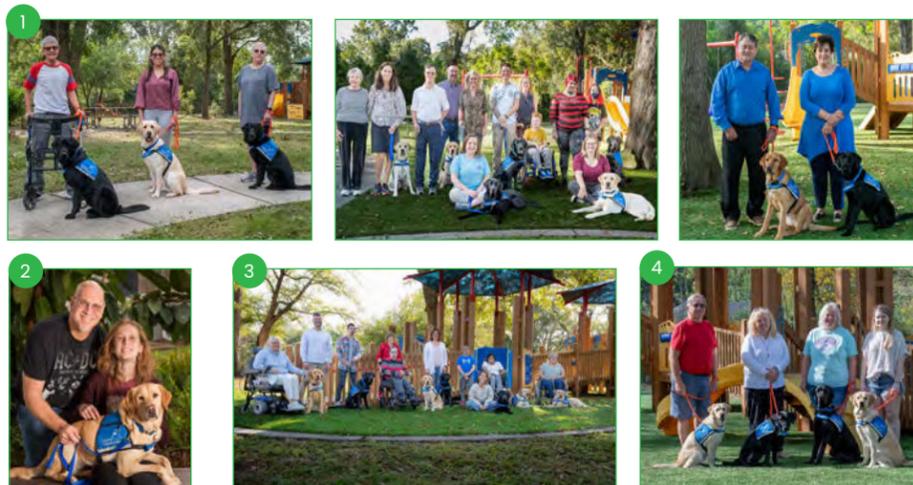
(L-R) Will, Carol & Amy with Jetson; Erika with Ariel; Curren, Barry & Nerissa with Willis; Arya & Licia with Keeper; Katherine with Berto; Robyn with Jacob.

(L-R) Kevin with Noni; Karen with Brandy.

2. DECEMBER Syndi & David with Kinsey.

3. FEBRUARY (L-R) Laura & Ed with Farley; Noah with Schooner; Andy & Margy with Floranne; Declan & Jamee with Knox; Monica with Alma; Jamaica with Getty; Barbara with Baker.

4. MARCH Richard with Lindsay; Sandy with Susan; Nancy with King; Isabelle with Candy.



SOUTHWEST

1. OCTOBER Adina & Anna with Isha; Ashley & Kate with Zion; Gabriela with Jana; Heather with Davi; Shannon with Bodhi.

2. NOVEMBER (L-R) Finley & Leah with Ravi; Keelyn & Michele with Oaken; Gannon, Dana & Brian with Jen; Finnegan & Morgan with Ingot; Graeme, Stephanie & Adam with Conrad; Chloe & Sonia with Cedar.

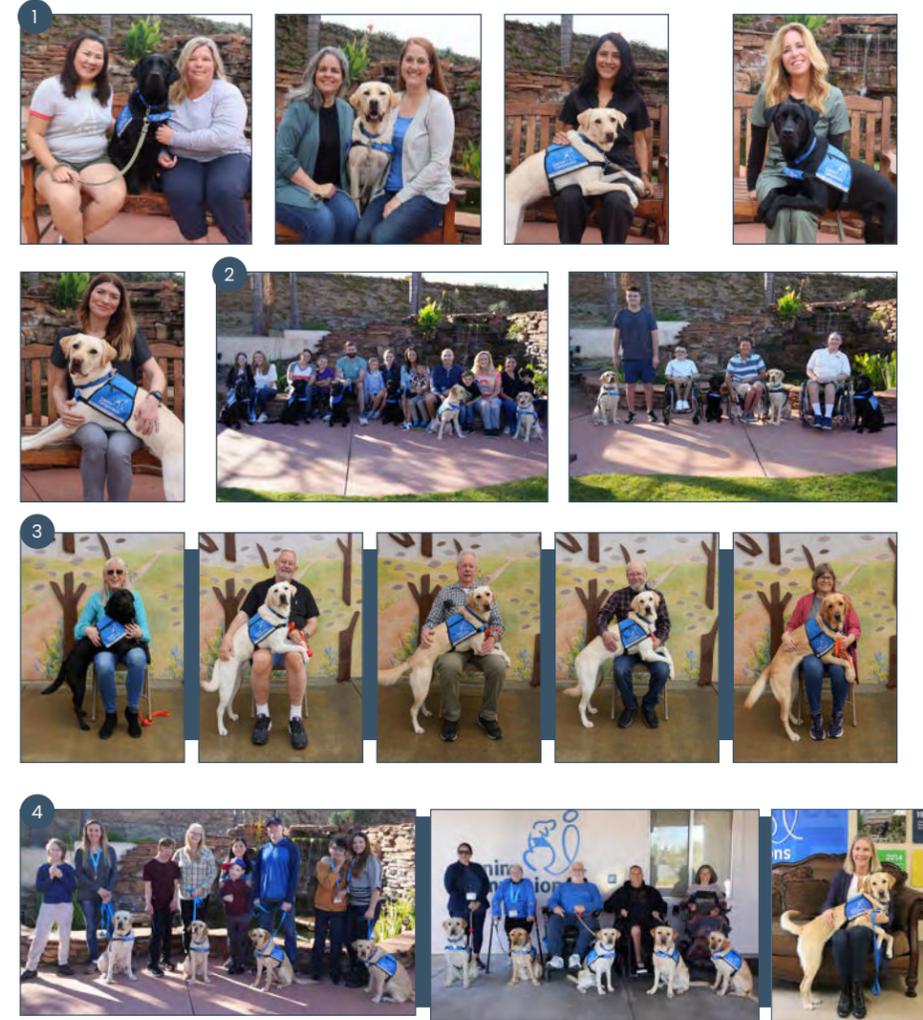
(L-R) Gavin with Epic; Cody with Tuesday; Chad with Norris; Marc with Anders.

3. DECEMBER Allison with Capri; Bill with Zakir; Gerald with Dreamy; Jim with Chloe; Maureen with Vivian.

4. FEBRUARY (L-R) Ryder & Meggan with Edwin; Derek & Dawn with Estelle; Jacob, Dan & Hana with Bliss; Abdul & Raneen with Verona.

(February cont'd) (L-R) Jo Ann with Blaze; Elizabeth with Mara; Robert with Giselle; Brian with Kobe; Michelle with Earlene.

Jennifer with Francis.



SOUTH CENTRAL

1. NOVEMBER (L-R) Star with Magic; Megan & Katie with Grayson; Kelsey with Solace; Kaden & Sheila with Riven; Nancy with Jayla; Andy with Fraser; Solomon, Stephanie & Matt with Wickie.

Bridger & Cindy with Winnie.

Charles with Suzanne.

Raul with Ondine.

2. JANUARY (L-R) Steve with Priscilla; Rebecca with Ari; Lily & Hend with Ember; Kelsey with Alpine; Gretchen with Arizona, Susan & Fawn with Roxy; Jayce with Emblem; Eden, Chris & Kristal with Vinny.

Carol with Fanny.

Michael with Wyla.



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Eukanuba™



Cavalier faithfully served Stacey for eight years.
[Read their story on page 24.](#)

> Making the World Accessible Since 1975

Support Increased Access and Inclusion

Educate and Celebrate

Since 1975, Canine Companions has been leading the way, placing expertly trained service dogs and supporting access rights for our clients. Advocacy education is vital to our mission, allowing people with disabilities to have access to a wider world, with a service dog by their side.

In recent years, Canine Companions has been an important changemaker:

We served on the Department of Transportation advisory committee for the Air Carrier Access Act to help update the guidelines to protect service dog users during air travel.

The PAWS Act passed, a bill Canine Companions has worked on for a decade, allowing veterans to access service dogs for post-traumatic stress disorder.

Canine Companions sponsored a new California bill to reduce fraudulent equipment and certification sales.

In 2023, we will continue to advance accessibility and inclusion for our clients and place more service dogs for those in need. Help us today by including a donation in the enclosed envelope or give online at canine.org/gift.

A Service Dog is More Than A Vest™

New research shows the impact of poorly trained dog on service dogs in public places. Data was collected from over 1,500 service dog users, including 475 team Canine Companions, and from 60 additional Assista International-accredited programs across three con

93% encountered a poorly trained dog in public place where pets are not permitted.

80% feel that the issue of poorly trained service dogs increased.

80% report that poorly trained service dogs have negatively impacted their independence and quality of life.

Read the full study results to learn the impact of poorly trained dogs on service animals at canine.org/ImpactSurvey.

September is National Service Dog Month

September's annual National Service Dog Month is the biggest celebration of the life-changing work of service dogs and an important time to educate our communities. In 2022, we reached people in all 50 states during our inaugural campaign, providing education on service dogs and access for our clients. This fall, we plan to expand our reach to ensure as many people as possible know the important role service dogs fulfill for people with disabilities.

Sign up for our eNews to get updates at canine.org/news or if your business is interested in partnering with Canine Companions during National Service Dog Month, reach us at info@canine.org.



Support Access & Inclusion*

\$25 Dressed to Impress
Equipment for a new graduate team.

\$50 Squeaky Clean
Grooming supplies for a Canine Companions dog.

\$250 Cutting-Edge Canines
Research and enrichment tools for canine studies.

\$500 Foundational Volunteerism
Help expand our volunteer programs to enhance innovation and outreach.

\$1,000 Fun and Games
Interactive toys and equipment for training service dogs for children.

A SERVICE DOG IS MORE THAN A VEST™

Decoding Dogs – What To Know



SERVICE DOGS

Service dogs are trained in specific tasks to assist a person with a disability.

- > Allowed anywhere their handlers are permitted, like a movie theater, hospital or restaurant
- > Highly trained and socialized to be safe in public

FUTURE SERVICE DOGS

Future service dogs are learning to assist a person with a disability.

- > Public access laws for future service dogs vary by state. Canine Companions puppies rely on the goodwill of businesses to help prepare for their jobs.



FACILITY DOGS

Facility dogs are trained in specific tasks to work alongside professionals.

- > Clients include those in a healthcare, visitation or educational setting. Their skills help improve client outcomes
- > Allowed in the handler's workplace, but not in other public places

EMOTIONAL SUPPORT ANIMALS

Emotional support animals provide comfort to people with mental health conditions.

- > Pets that are allowed in housing, even if the property has a no-pet policy
- > Not allowed in public places



THERAPY DOGS

Therapy dogs are certified pet dogs that provide comfort to many people.

- > Provide comfort to people in libraries, schools or other settings
- > Only wear vests during approved visits and not allowed in public places

KNOW THE LAW

Businesses can ask two questions:
 "Is the dog a service animal required for a disability?"
 "What task or work has the dog been trained to perform?"

Any dog in a public place must be under control and behave in a safe manner.
 Learn more at canine.org/advocacy