



BARKALERT

FALL 2023



**PAWS ON THE GROUND IN LAHAINA:
THREE SDF-TRAINED TEAMS DEPLOY IN
AFTERMATH OF DEVASTATING FIRE**

CANINE RECRUITMENT

SAVED FROM THE STREETS: THE BEGINNING OF BUDDY'S JOURNEY

Friends Debi and Lori were heading out for a hike with Debi's two dogs when they spotted a black Labrador Retriever erratically running through a busy section of Wilsonville, Oregon. Concerned for the dog's safety, the two women followed him and coaxed him into their SUV with apple slices.

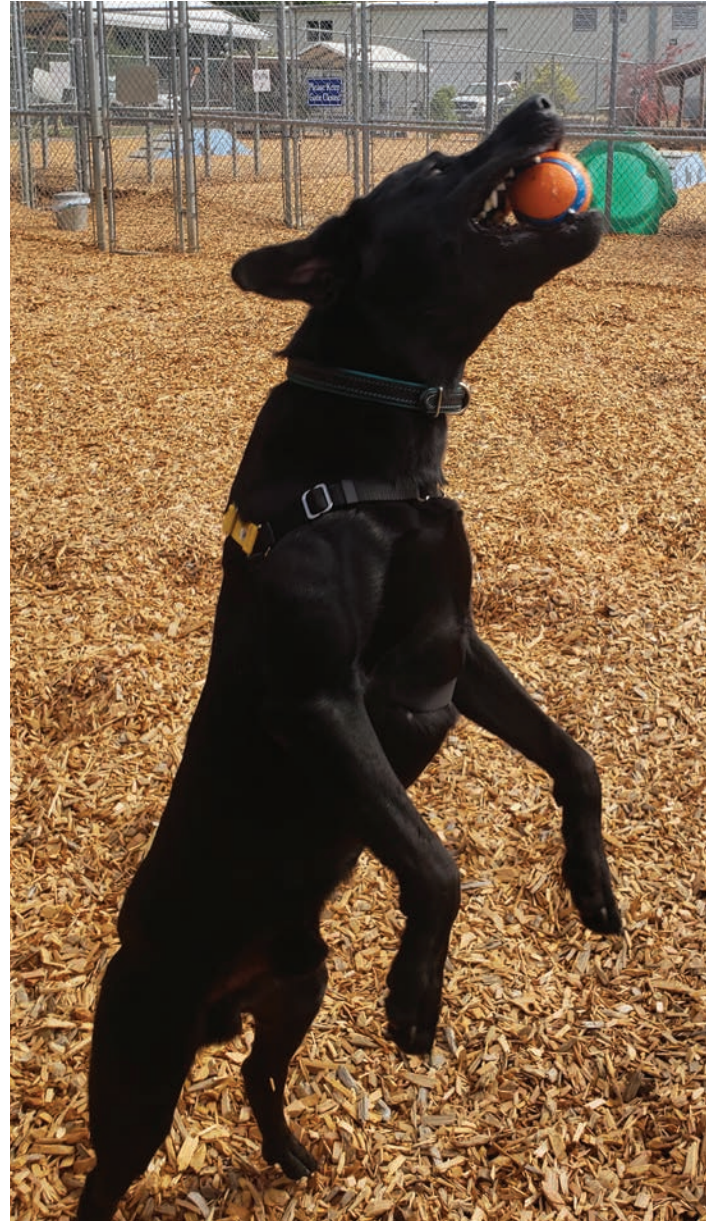
Thinking there must be someone nearby looking for their lost dog, Debi and Lori postponed their hike and instead began searching for the dog's owner. They drove through every neighborhood in Wilsonville, searched local parks on foot, inquired with veterinary offices, and even had the pup scanned for a microchip, but no luck.

By this time, Buddy had grown on Debi. He was a sweet boy who delighted in the company of dogs *and* people, and despite his obvious lack of training, his open friendliness to all made him unique. As a mom of two Labs, Debi already had a soft spot for the breed. But her 25 years volunteering and fostering for Guide Dogs for the Blind meant she had more than a novice eye when it came to dogs.

Debi thought Buddy's remarkable temperament made him a special boy, but she was concerned that potential adopters wouldn't see past his over-the-top energy. She wished she could foster him or even adopt him herself but it was just not possible at the time.

The friends were crestfallen, but had no choice but to leave Buddy at the shelter. With heavy hearts, the women entrusted Buddy to the care of Clackamas County Dog Services.

Even though she knew Buddy was in capable hands at the Clackamas shelter, Debi couldn't help worrying. If his family didn't come forward, his extreme vivacity would be a hard sell to potential adopters, no matter how sweet and friendly he was. Debi made periodic calls to Clackamas to check on Buddy and hoped he would be reunited with his family.



**HAVE A CANINE IN MIND
WITH SEARCH POTENTIAL?**

***If you know a dog with
these traits, get in touch!***



- High energy
- Obsessive, intense toy drive, even in new locations
- Friendly with people and dogs
- Fearless, brave, and confident in any environment
- Approximately 1 – 2 years of age
- Golden Retrievers, Labrador Retrievers, Border Collies, Australian Shepherds, German Shepherds, plus obvious mixes of those dog breeds

SHELTER SPOTLIGHT

CLACKAMAS COUNTY DOG SERVICES RECOGNIZES BUDDY'S POTENTIAL

Animal Health Technician Kourtney Kuiper was on duty at Clackamas County Dog Services (CCDS) when friends Debi and Lori walked in with a bouncy black Labrador. The women explained they'd been driving on a busy road when they saw "Buddy" running precariously near traffic.

Fortunately, as the stray holding facility for the whole county, CCDS could help. Located just outside Portland, Oregon, CCDS serves 423,000 residents living within 1900 square miles of urban and rural landscapes, vast farmland, and numerous small towns. In 2022, the shelter successfully reunited 340 dogs with their families and placed another 59 with rescues, so with this kind of track record, Buddy's chance for a successful outcome was very good.

Shelter staff tried but couldn't find Buddy's family, and no one came forward to claim him. By this time, they had gotten to know Buddy and were charmed by his sweet personality. "He was such a fun dog, always happy to see people," Kourtney says.

But there was something else—Buddy was extraordinarily energetic and tennis-ball-obsessed. As CCDS shared in a Facebook post: "Buddy wanted (no NEEDED) to play ball all day, every day. He needed to use his nose, he needed to run, and his brain needed to be challenged daily or he was bored, stressed, and frustrated. His personality, drive, and behavioral needs let us know that he wouldn't be content as a typical household pet, and what he really craved was a job and structure that would keep his brain engaged, his nose active, and body moving all the time. Cue the National Disaster Search Dog Foundation!"

Thanks to consistent outreach by our Recruitment team, CCDS has been a recruitment partner for several years, putting SDF top of mind with shelter staff seeking a job for Buddy. Kourtney submitted the lively pup for consideration in our search program, and SDF followed up with a request for video evaluations of Buddy to review with trainers.

Shelter Outreach Manager Katie Brennan was excited by what she saw. "What struck me about Buddy's initial screening was his intensity during the hunt tests—even without prior experience with this exercise, he immediately knew what to do when the ball was "hidden" and looked like a seasoned pro! The shelter team created a great area in one of their indoor spaces, and Buddy had a blast going over and onto and through lots of objects, such as Christmas decorations and elevated dog beds. He even did

a handstand over a folding table to get to his beloved ball! You could just tell he had an amazing personality and was going to love having a job."

With that, Buddy was no longer a homeless shelter dog but a potential search dog candidate! He said goodbye to Kourtney and everyone at Clackamas County Dog Services who had worked so hard to set him on this path, and with the help of another SDF partner, Angel Flight West, flew to California to start his new life.



BUDDY STARTS HIS NEW LIFE WITH A NEW NAME

At our National Training Center, Buddy quickly distinguished himself as an intense boy with a great attitude. Whether searching rubble or practicing obedience, he was focused, fast, and loved to work! Buddy mastered all his training elements and graduated from our search program in August.

In addition to his new status as an official search dog, he was given a new name, Scotty, to honor the memory of someone very dear to our SDF family.

Scotty's remarkable journey from stray dog to search dog culminated when he was partnered with his first responder handler at an official pairing ceremony. Debi, the Good Samaritan who rescued him from a busy street in Oregon, and Kourtney, the Animal Health Technician who saw his potential and submitted him to our program, were there with us as we celebrated Scotty's exciting new life and our growing SDF community.

Scotty is named in loving memory of Scott Mauck and sponsored by The Mauck Family, the Nahikian Family Foundation, and an Anonymous Donor.



SEARCH TEAM FUND

EXPANDING OUR IMPACT THROUGHOUT THE WORKING DOG WORLD

We are thrilled to share the expansion of our Search Team Fund benefits program to include the support of more odor detection working dog teams across the country to help ensure that no handler has to choose between appropriate care, training and welfare of their canine partner and other financial obligations.

Since 2008, the Search Team Fund has assisted urban search and rescue canine teams with the financial costs of travel and registration fees for trainings and workshops, training and canine care equipment, and medical expenses. While SDF always ensures that the medical care of our canines is 100% covered, not every team has that support and the costs can add up quickly.

Now, working dog teams in sectors such as urban or wilderness search and rescue, avalanche, conservation, electronics, narcotics and other odor detection disciplines that benefit society are eligible to apply for a variety of grant programs within the Search Team Fund, including:

Canine Healthcare Grant

Every SDF-trained canine receives medical coverage for the entirety of their lives, even after retirement. In addition, SDF now offers the Canine Healthcare Grant, supporting non-SDF-trained handlers of active and retired working canines with veterinary costs attributed to wellness, illness and injury that are not funded through a handler's sponsoring agency or task force budgets.

Petco Love Canine Cancer Fund

The Petco Love Canine Cancer Fund was established in 2012 to provide funding for active and retired working canines in urban search and rescue, wilderness, human remains detection, avalanche, military and police disciplines that have been diagnosed with forms of cancer. Petco Love, Blue Buffalo and the Search Dog Foundation partnered to create this grant to ensure that no handler will ever have to make the choice between financial stability and prolonging his or her canine partner's quality of life due to a cancer diagnosis.



Despite the amputation of one of his front legs as part of his cancer treatment, retired search dog Blake still enjoys every moment with his toy and his family thanks to the Petco Love Canine Cancer Fund.



Search Team Grant

The Search Team Grant is designed to help active canine handlers gain the skills and experience needed to be ready for deployment by lessening the burden of their out-of-pocket expenses for training and equipment.

Since inception, this grant program has made it possible for hundreds of first responder-canine handlers to attend specialized training, purchase training gear and equipment, and pay for travel expenses and other costs not covered by their task forces to ensure they are mission-ready.

Altogether, we anticipate expending at least \$150,000 through our Search Team Fund over this next year. In addition to Petco Love and Blue Buffalo, we are grateful to the many donors, including named sponsors Allen Hohnroth and Renee Berlin, who have contributed to support these teams and ensure that every working dog handler can provide the best care possible for their canine partner.

If you would like to learn more about becoming a named sponsor, please call Director of Philanthropy, Debra Roets, at (805) 229-0083.



Above: Hawaii-based handler Noelle Hamilton-Cambeilh and her two search dogs completed testing in Northern California thanks to grant funding.

Center: Indiana search team Annie Schaffer & Maggie after completing their foundation skills assessment test in Ohio, a critical certification they may not have been able to attend without funding from the Search Team Grant.

Below: California Task Force 8 search dog Diana was prepared for helicopter training in San Diego with ear protection and a lifting harness funded by the Search Team Grant.



Are you a working dog handler affiliated with a state or federal task force, or a nonprofit organization seeking financial assistance for training or canine healthcare expenses? If so, you and your canine partner may be eligible for one or all of our Search Team Fund benefits programs.

Learn more here!



LIFETIME CARE

HELPING EVERY DOG IN OUR PROGRAM
DISCOVER WHERE THEY ARE MEANT TO BE



Zena was found wandering by herself in Los Angeles and taken to the North Central Animal Shelter, where her sweet personality got her noticed by volunteers. They enrolled her in the shelter's program with K9 Youth Alliance, which connects eligible dogs with young people from under-resourced communities to train together, resulting in mutual enrichment, confidence-building, and trust. Friendly and animated, Zena was a perfect fit for this program. She was eager to learn and loved engaging with people.

Sharon Nasse, a dog trainer who volunteers at both the shelter and K9 Youth Alliance, worked with Zena in the program and noted her affinity for toys. "Her toy drive surpassed her food drive by about a gazillion times," Sharon laughed. Playing to Zena's motivation, Sharon adopted a more dynamic approach to training. "Food had to move like prey in order to be rewarding," she said.

A longtime shelter volunteer, Sharon is familiar with SDF's mission thanks to ongoing outreach by our Recruitment team. She had seen demonstrations of hunt tests and other evaluations by SDF recruiters and applied that knowledge when assessing dogs at her shelter, resulting in several successful recruitments. After getting to know Zena's temperament, toy obsession, and hunt drive, Sharon believed Zena had search dog potential. She submitted Zena to SDF, and Zena was accepted.

At our National Training Center, Zena passed the initial assessments required to begin search training but disliked walking on unstable rubble. She made it clear that her inquisitive

mind and love of hunting would need to be applied somewhere other than disaster search. Our ultimate goal is to help dogs find the path that makes them happiest, so our team went to work to find Zena a great home where she could focus her talents on the activities she enjoyed the most.

Maureen Deaton, a Virginia wilderness search and rescue (SAR) handler, heard about Zena through SDF's network of career change partners. A former equestrian forced to quit riding after a close call, Maureen found her new passion in SAR. "Search and Rescue allows me to utilize my physical skills, my passion for helping others, and my love for the outdoors in beneficial ways," Maureen says. But her own dog, River, didn't share this passion, so she was looking for a dog to partner with in her new endeavor. She contacted our team about Zena and was invited to visit during our handler training program to work with Zena alongside other handlers and trainers.

After spending eight days working with Zena and another potential canine candidate, Maureen knew Zena was the one for her. "While we were hiking, I observed Zena as herself. She enjoyed nature, capturing all the scents and sounds around her. Her confidence on the trail, in constantly evolving environments, displayed her boldness. With each step, her enthusiasm for the adventure began to shine. She convinced me that wilderness SAR could be for her, too."

A few weeks later, Zena traveled to her new home in Virginia, where Maureen says Zena is acclimating well. She's run in open fields, explored forests, and even met some neighboring cows! She and Maureen will have many more adventures together as they train towards wilderness SAR certification to help find people who are lost or missing.

Zena finally found her home and a happy, purpose-driven life. More than that, she's found acceptance and love. Concludes Maureen, "We have continued to call her Zena, because, yes, she is a warrior princess. She is a firecracker. She is a comic. (When she shakes her pony toy, I have to laugh). And, yes, she has won my heart."

Photo credit: Leslie Sheridan

Are you an adventure-seeker in search of a sidekick, or an active household looking to add an energetic family member? Are you a working dog handler or trainer looking for your next high-drive, talented partner?

If so, your perfect companion might be one of our adoptable dogs!





DEPLOYMENT SPOTLIGHT

MAUI FIRE

Hawaii had been experiencing a year-long drought and was under a red flag warning for fire risk when they saw numerous brush fires ignite in the first few days of August 2023. Dry weather and gusty winds contributed to brush fires across the island, which were mostly minor and quickly contained, including a 30-acre fire in a field adjacent to Maui's Kahului Airport on August 4. But as Hurricane Dora churned several hundred miles south of Hawaii, low humidity levels on land and a high-pressure system to the north produced intensely powerful winds that fed the flames on the islands.

In Upcountry Maui, a brush fire that started shortly after midnight forced residents to evacuate less than four hours later and burned 1,000 acres and 16 structures on its first day. At the same time, high winds knocked down utility poles, leaving thousands without power. Near Lahaina, a brush fire ignited, was contained, and flared up again a few hours later, spurred on by high winds. As the fire increased in size and intensity, ground resources already spread thin could not keep up, and air support remained grounded from winds gusting up to 80 mph. With no way to contain it, the fire tore down the hillside to the Pacific, destroying everything in its path, including the historic town of Lahaina.

When the immediate danger of the wildfire had passed, rescuers began to arrive on the island to render aid and assist with recovery

efforts. On August 13, two SDF-trained human remains detection (HRD) search teams, **Nick Bartel & Six** and **Ed Ruiz & Harper** from California Task Force 2 (CA-TF2), traveled to Maui along with their teammates, Celine Serrano & Prentiss, followed by a third SDF-trained HRD team, **Jon Munguia & Clifford** (CA-TF2) a few days later.

In addition to these teams, SDF handlers Julie Padelford (CA-TF4) and Eric Darling (CA-TF5) were deployed with their HRD dogs Rampage and Mazie, respectively, as part of a larger disaster response that included nearly 40 other canine teams from across the United States.

On August 26, after two weeks of searching, the canine teams concluded their mission and returned to Los Angeles with our thanks for their dedicated efforts in helping to bring closure to families and friends of those lost.

As the people of Hawaii continue to grapple with the effects of this unprecedented tragedy, our hearts remain with those who have lost loved ones, homes, and livelihoods, and we will hold them in our thoughts as they recover and rebuild their lives and their homeland.

Harper is sponsored by Nanci Denney Bergin and an anonymous donor. Six is sponsored by The Joel and Dena Gambord Family.



At left: California Task Force 2 search team Celina Serrano & Prentiss search the wreckage of a burned building in Lahaina. Photo: FEMA

At right: Search teams Ed Ruiz & Harper, Celina Serrano & Prentiss, and Nick Bartel & Six prepare to deploy from Los Angeles with a send off from their leadership at Los Angeles County Fire Department. Photo: Los Angeles County Fire Department

Below: SDF-trained search teams Nick Bartel & Six and Ed Ruiz & Harper during a brief break from searching in the aftermath of the deadly Maui fire. Photo: Robert Gauthier/Los Angeles Times via Getty Images



NEW SEARCH TEAMS PAIRED

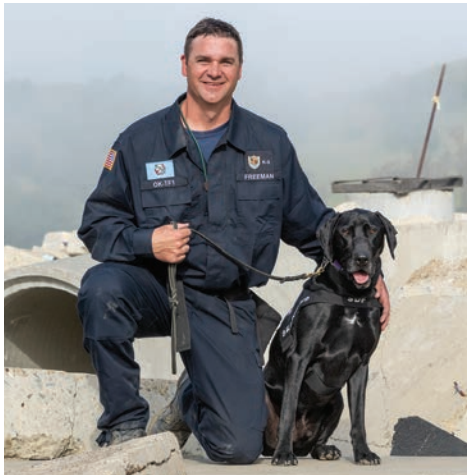
IN A YEAR WHERE WE'VE SEEN EARTHQUAKES, WILDFIRES, AND OTHER DISASTERS TAKE PLACE ON AN UNPRECEDENTED SCALE, WE'RE THANKFUL FOR THESE NEW PARTNERSHIPS FORMED IN THE SPIRIT OF PUBLIC SERVICE. THESE TEAMS, PAIRED BETWEEN JANUARY AND JUNE 2023, HAVE WORKED HARD TO CULTIVATE AN UNBREAKABLE BOND AND DEVELOP THE SKILLS NECESSARY TO THINK AND ACT AS ONE, EVEN UNDER THE MOST CHALLENGING CIRCUMSTANCES.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THESE RECENTLY PAIRED PARTNERS AND NEWEST MEMBERS OF SDF'S ROSTER:



EDWARD CHEA & NALA

Los Angeles Fire
California Task Force 1
Recruited from Southern California Golden Retriever
Rescue
Sponsor: The Joel and Dena Gambord Family



JAROD FREEMAN & ATLAS

Oklahoma City Fire
Oklahoma Task Force 1
Donated by Cory Miller
Sponsors: Atlas' Anonymous Cheerleaders



JACY HERNANDEZ & MASON

Los Angeles Fire
California Task Force 1
Recruited from Aberdeen Area Humane Society
Recruited by South Dakota Canine Center
Sponsors: Jill Bee and Loren Glasser



SEAN MONVILLE & NANCI

Orange County Fire Authority
California Task Force 5
Recruited from Bollinger County Stray Project
Sponsor: M. Lawrence Lallande, Nicole Lallande
Named in memory of Nanci Denney Bergin



PAUL REYES & NELLIE

California Task Force 8
Donated by Ann Whitney





SHEILA STERN & HUGO

Nebraska Task Force 1
Recruited from Kaiser K9, Inc.
Sponsors: Pat Snyder, Anonymous Donor



MARK STEVENSON & RUGER

Los Angeles Fire
California Task Force 1
Donated by a private owner
Recruited by Trevor Lawrence
Sponsor: Seline Karakaya



KEVIN TATRO & DEMPSEY

Nebraska Task Force 1
Recruited from Sioux Falls Area Humane Society
Recruited by South Dakota Canine Center
Sponsor: The Joel and Dena Gambord Family



JESSICA WHITE & ALDER

Oklahoma City Fire
Oklahoma Task Force 1
Recruited from Kaiser K9, Inc.
Sponsor: Julie Croker



SAMANTHA WILKINS & ARCHIE

Lincoln Fire-Rescue
Nebraska Task Force 1
Recruited from Next Step Service Dogs
Sponsor: Arc Aspicio

CERTIFICATIONS

TO BE ELIGIBLE TO DEPLOY WITH THEIR TASK FORCE, EACH TEAM MUST PASS AN EVALUATION EVERY THREE YEARS DEMONSTRATING THEIR SKILLS AND COMMUNICATION AS PARTNERS. WE ARE PROUD OF THESE TEAMS' DEDICATION TO THEIR TRAINING, COMMITMENT TO THEIR PARTNERSHIPS, AND DEVOTION TO THE COMMUNITIES THEY SERVE.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THESE TEAMS ON THEIR RECENT CERTIFICATIONS:



BRANDON ANDERSEN & WINNIE

Re-certification: March 2023
 Sacramento Metro Fire
 California Task Force 7
 Recruited from Herding Rescue Dogs of Wyoming, Inc.
 Recruited by South Dakota Canine Center
 Sponsor: The Lois and Al Friedman Family
 Named in memory of Winifred Freeman



BRADLEY BACON & DIANA

Certification: May 2023
 San Diego Fire-Rescue
 California Task Force 8
 Donated by Kaiser K9, Inc.
 Sponsor: The Joel and Dena Gambord Family



NICK BARTEL & SIX

Certification: March 2023
 Los Angeles County Fire
 California Task Force 2
 Donated by Dr. Claire Tousley Klatt
 Sponsor: The Joel and Dena Gambord Family



KRISTI BARTLETT & IVAN

Re-certification: April 2023
 Fairfax County Fire & Rescue
 Virginia Task Force 1
 Sponsors: GJ and Rebecca Pelissero, Lucy and Stephen Swartz, Oluv C. Joynor Foundation, Arc Aspicio, Julie Brandau Community Service Memorial Project
 Named in honor of Ivan Matesevac



MICHAEL BRUCE & COOPER

Re-certification: February 2023
 Orange County Fire Authority
 California Task Force 5
 Recruited from Golden Gate Labrador Retriever Rescue
 Sponsor: The Joel and Dena Gambord Family



CHRIS COOK & RIDGE

Certification: June 2023
 City of Suffolk Fire & Rescue
 Virginia Task Force 2
 Recruited from Tooele City Animal Shelter
 Recruited by Trevor Lawrence
 Sponsors: David and Barbara Barnhart



IMELDA CORDOVA & DIESEL

Re-certification: May 2023
Orange County Fire Authority
California Task Force 5
Recruited from Tony Robles
Sponsors: Linda Heizer Seaman, Karen B. Winnick



TYLER GREEN & MILA

Re-certification: May 2023
Orange County Fire Authority
California Task Force 5
Donated by a private owner
Recruited by Trevor Lawrence
Sponsor: The Joel and Dena Gambord Family



WADE HALLER & DALLAS

Re-certification: May 2023
Long Beach Fire
California Task Force 5
Recruited from John Thomas
Sponsor: The Joel and Dena Gambord Family



MIKE HARCOS & BUCK

Certification: March 2023
Sacramento Fire
California Task Force 7
Donated by Liz Paape
Sponsor: The Joel and Dena Gambord Family
Named by Wilma Melville



JUSTIN MONTGOMERY & STRYKER

Certification: April 2023
Tulsa Fire
Oklahoma Task Force 1
Recruited from Little Angels Service Dogs
Sponsor: B & B Foundation



JONATHON MUNGUIA & CLIFFORD

Certification: March 2023
Los Angeles County Fire
California Task Force 2
Donated by Dr. Claire Tousley Klatt



MICHAEL PATTERSON & KENDRI

Re-certification: March 2023
Orange County Fire Authority
California Task Force 5
Recruited from Sioux Falls Area Humane Society
Recruited by South Dakota Canine Center
Sponsors: Pat Snyder, Anonymous Donor



ADAM SCHAAF & DODGER

Certification: February 2023
Lincoln Fire-Rescue
Nebraska Task Force 1
Recruited from East Bay SPCA
Sponsors: Carol George and Roger Stewart



MANDY TISDALE & HOPE

Certification: March 2023
California Task Force 4
Sponsors: Carol Marengo, Kayann Stables

RETIREMENTS

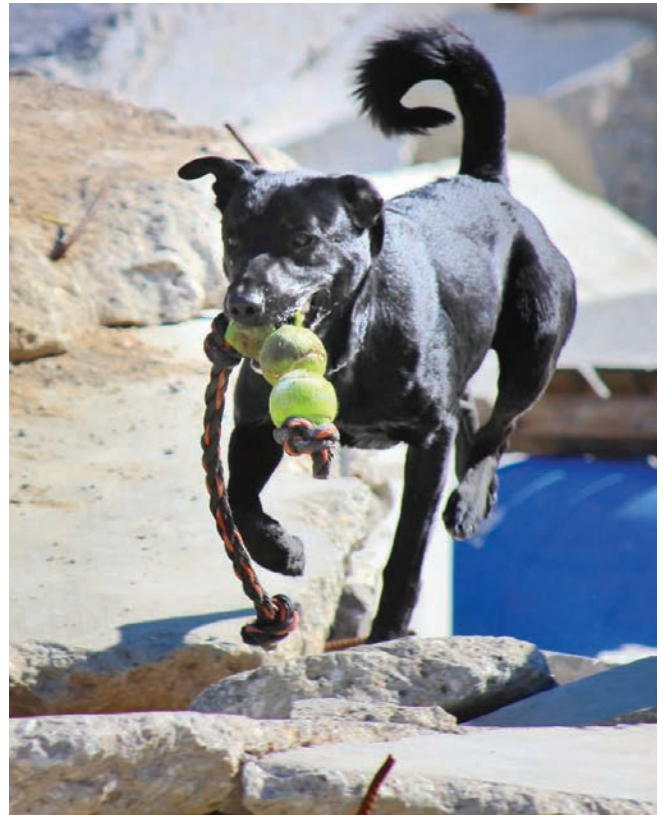
AS TEAMS WIND DOWN THEIR CAREERS IN SEARCH AND RESCUE, WE THANK THEM FOR THEIR YEARS OF SERVICE TO THEIR COMMUNITIES AND WISH THEM ALL THE BEST AS THEY ENJOY WELL-DESERVED QUALITY TIME WITH THEIR FAMILIES AT HOME.



PATTI KRAFFT & BILLY

Years of Service: 2014-2023

Handler: Patti Krafft
Dallas Fire-Rescue
Texas Task Force 1 and 2
Recruited from Humane Society of the South Platte Valley
Recruited by South Dakota Canine Center
Sponsors: Elinor Plumer,
Julie Brandau Community Service Memorial Project
Named in memory of William M. Sparuk



RAINBOW BRIDGE

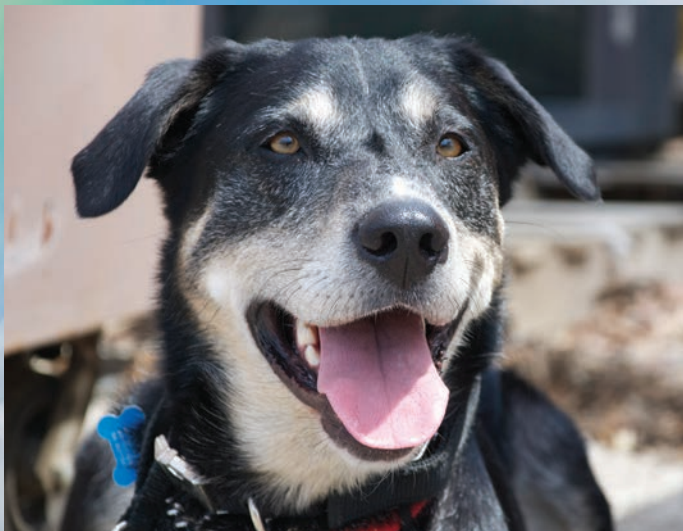
A LIFETIME IS NEVER LONG ENOUGH WITH OUR CHERISHED COMPANIONS AND PARTNERS, BUT WE'RE GRATEFUL FOR THE TIME WE SPENT AND THE LIVES THEY TOUCHED DURING THEIR YEARS OF SERVICE. THESE EXTRAORDINARY DOGS WILL EACH BE HONORED ON OUR CANINE MEMORIAL WALL TO COMMEMORATE THEIR LEGACIES AND THE SPECIAL PLACE THEY HOLD IN OUR HEARTS.



LILAH

January 14, 2010 – April 21, 2023

Handler: Marshia Hall
Temple Terrace Fire
Florida Task Force 1
Recruited from Sacramento SPCA
Sponsors: Danielle and Jason Connor



RAIDER

May 4, 2008 – June 2, 2023

Handler: Sara Rathbun
Los Angeles County Fire
California Task Force 2
Recruited from Southern Oregon Humane Society
Sponsor: Martha V. De la Hoya



RUGBY

July 1, 2009 – May 25, 2023

Handler: Dennis Clark
Los Angeles County Fire
California Task Force 2
Donated by a private owner
Recruited by Penny Woodruff
Sponsor: B & B Foundation



6800 Wheeler Canyon Road
Santa Paula | CA 93060
888.459.4376
www.searchdogfoundation.org

Thank you for being *Part of the Search!*



New York Task Force 2 teams assist in the search for a missing person in upstate New York. Photo: NY-TF2