

Chip Replacement

After fifteen years of service, ADW has begun to hear from some early clients with requests for second assistance dogs. Aging service dogs get to retire as well-loved pets and their "successor dogs" have a real challenge; learning a new job with a seasoned veteran watching. While it is unfortunate that dogs (and all of us) get older, it is exciting to have the opportunity to create successful new relationships for friends we have come to know and care about over the years.

John Chisholm decided at age 12 he wanted to know what it would be like to have a service dog. How better to get a feel for that than to do a "mock" placement for a week? ADW "placed" Abby with John for a week. After careful observation, John, his family, and ADW decided that he could work on leadership and wheelchair maneuvering skills while ADW started the search for the proper dog match.

ADW Founder, Jill Felice, looked almost a year until she found Chip, a mellow yellow lab that would fit John's teenage lifestyle. Chip then trained for two years to be John's wheelchair companion. After the intense two week Client Placement Training that tests both human partner and dog together, John and Chip went home, to school, traveled the road for doctors' appointments, grandparent visits, and had loads of fun for the next eight years. After 18 months, John and Chip learned to move through the world together almost non-verbally. Enhanced social interaction was the most significant contribution Chip offered in John's life, though retrieving items and pushing the door buttons to get into buildings helped a lot.

Years later and now a college student, John's lifestyle and needs have changed. Recognizing that Chip was older too and would soon need to retire, John approached ADW for a successor service dog. After interviewing three potential dogs for over a year, John, the ADW staff trainers, and Mimi decided that she would be the lucky dog to walk in Chip's "shoes."

Mimi, an ADW bred, golden/lab cross, is caring, concerned, comical, and affectionate. Her sweet face greets everyone who wants to interact with this new team. She happily retrieves, pushes door buttons, and wildly licks John's face when asked to do a "my lap" to put her vest on for work. Mimi and John have some hard work

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John and Mimi

George and CareBear

George Coleman had no intention of ever getting a dog. But when his doctor threatened to take away George's driver's license if he couldn't get his Type 1 Diabetes under control, George seriously considered the suggestion to look into a diabetes alert dog. George and a friend visited the Albuquerque Animal Shelter to see some yellow Labrador pups and thus began a beautiful friendship.

Diabetes alert dogs are a relatively new type of medical service dog, trained to alert diabetics to rising or falling blood glucose (BG). Although it is not well understood how dogs detect blood sugar changes, it is at least partly due to breath and skin scents the diabetic gives off. Dogs can detect blood glucose changes in Type 1 and Type 2 diabetics, and can be trained to alert their owners before blood sugars drop or rise to dangerous levels. This can be life-saving for diabetics like George, who no longer feels the symptoms when his blood sugar drops. Sufficiently low BG can quickly lead to mental impairment, coma, and even death. ADW is developing a diabetic alert dog training program, working with George and his dog as a test case.

"Her name from the Shelter was 'Bear,' and when I got her and she started taking care of me, I changed her name to 'CareBear,'" George remembers. After an initial obedience class in Albuquerque, George enrolled in the **ADW Owner/Self Training Program** to further service dog and hopefully diabetic detection training for CareBear. She was already a good companion, but would she be able to alert George to his blood sugar issues? As is true for many dogs owned by diabetics, careful observation of CareBear's behaviors revealed that she was sensitive to BG changes. She would lick George when his sugar levels were high or low, allowing **Instructor/Trainer Sue Barns** to train CareBear to alert George more distinctively so he would not miss the indication.

A lovely temperament and an owner's serious dedication to training, rapidly honed the pair's public access skills, and today they are a model service dog team: best of friends, going everywhere together. Since training began in April 2009, CareBear has had a dramatic effect on George's ability to control his diabetes. A recent comparison of CareBear's alerts to the results of a continuous glucose monitor showed that she alerted George to 100% of his low BG episodes, and over 90% of high BG events.



George and CareBear

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FROM THE DIRECTOR

People often ask "do you think ADW tries to do too much?" Yes, we do.

One of the most amazing things about Assistance Dogs of the West is the interest in continuous learning. Our teachers are students, our students are teachers, new dogs arrive and present unique training challenges and new clients offer opportunities for ADW to stretch goals. We have a great spirit of curiosity, teamwork and enthusiasm that just carries us away.

In the context of extremely limited resources we strive to use each moment and every question effectively though, with an eye to improved organizational knowledge and ability. For example, ADW works with dogs combining behavior awareness and scent training, so when a client asked if we could help him train his dog to assist him with his diabetes, we said "sure, let's see what we can do." That beta training has turned into another resource ADW will be able to offer.

With the wave of U.S. veterans from current conflicts returning home with high incidences of Traumatic Brain Injuries (TBI) and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), they became another population assistance dogs and psychiatric support dogs can help. ADW is active in communications with state and federal agencies and committed to provide dogs to U.S. Vets, as well as our other client groups.

How do we do so much? We move forward with the help and support of each and every one of you. From clients like Mayline Gonzalez who push us, dogs like Popeye that challenge us, volunteers like Donna Middleton and Eliot Stenzel who help ADW with pro-bono accounting support, staff members like Sue Barns who researched the heck out of diabetic BG fluctuations, donors like Roeliff Annon who send a check when payroll is tight and student trainers like Nico Cruz who give time and heart...we couldn't do it without you.

Thank you,



Executive Director

Bella's Story



Bella and Dewey

Hi, my name is **Bella Auger - Larsen**. I want to tell you the story of how I became a dog trainer. My first dog was named Candy. In 1997 I met Candy and **Jill Felice**, next door to where I lived with my Dad in Santa Fe. I was four years old. Jill was doing a placement interview to place Candy with my neighbor. The placement didn't work out but Candy and I fell in love then and there! At that time **Assistance Dogs of the West** trained dogs to help people in wheelchairs, but Candy just wasn't finding her special person. Jill understood how to have Candy help me and offered to have her placed with me. Candy was my best friend until she died of cancer in November 2008.

I was born with a rare condition called Pierre Robin syndrome that affected my soft palette and I needed to have surgery. I had difficulty breathing and eating. I especially had difficulty making words and being understood. And it took me a long time to learn how to talk. Also I had a feeding tube. I was very fragile and shy. Candy gave me confidence and taught me how to speak strongly and be understood.

When I was 11, I began to participate in a summer program called "Assistance Dog Training for Kids". Assistance Dogs of the West brings their best trainers together with kids and has them work with dogs in training. After two summers I became a Teaching Assistant and I now I teach younger children how to work with the service dogs. Every summer I learn a little bit more.

I have a wonderful ADW service dog named Dewey. I helped train him in the summer program and he was placed with us two years ago. Dewey is the happiest dog you will ever meet. He means the world to me.

I am also a photographer and have been taking pictures since I was 5. I am a staff photographer for Assistance Dogs of the West and my pictures have been published in magazines and used for brochures and advertisements. I always have my camera with me.

I love dogs; they are like my brothers and sisters. I am really good at training dogs, they love me and I love them. I want to teach other kids and adults with disabilities how to train dogs to be helpers. I especially want to help people with disabilities find the right dog to train to be their own helper. My dream is that I would help disabled people find their special dog and teach them to take care of them and train them to be a beautiful friend and helper. I want to be an assistance dog trainer my whole life, it is the best thing I can imagine doing.

Blog Queens

Chablis and her new partner **Judith Newton** have been blogging on the ADW website for months. They have been documenting the preliminary placement training preceding their participation in Fall '09 Client Placement (CPT) Training. Judith wanted EVERYONE to know that despite the fact Chablis will be her second service dog, CPT is a huge challenge and accomplishment for all human students.



Chablis prepares to press the "Push to Open" button for her partner, **Judith Newton**.

Bonnie, Liam and Me

This fall, my first ADW foster dog, Bonnie went to live with her new family to work with a happy, cheerful 9-year-old boy named Liam. People ask me if it was hard to let her go, and my answer is honestly "Yes"... and, then again "No". At ADW, trainers and puppy raisers like me devote enormous time and energy nurturing, training and socializing the dogs that come to live with us. We love them. Not exactly as if they were our own, but truly with that same care and attention we extend to our pets and companion animals. And so it was with Bonnie and me.

Bonnie is an amazingly intelligent and soulful Labrador retriever, whose fine work ethic and analytical mind make her a perfect match for this young boy with a severe hearing impairment and multiple learning disabilities. It took more than two years for her to find her human partner, because she was looking for someone who was entirely present. She often put herself into her crate during interviews if she didn't find the person she was working with worthy of her attention...now that's a real working dog.

Liam on the other hand picked Bonnie out at his very first dog interview. No matter what other dog was presented to him, he would politely comment, "Jack's nice (or whatever other dog we would try). Where's Bonnie?" He never wavered. He never forgot her; even when he had taken a break from interviewing for several months.

The very first time I saw Bonnie with Liam, she held him steadfast in her gaze and I knew the miracle had happened. He put his little arms around her neck and said, "I love you Bonnie," to which she responded by lavishing kisses all over his face. We were told it was the first time Liam ever let a dog kiss him.

I know I will hold Bonnie in my memory and heart forever. I'm proud that I came to know her so well, that she returned the care and attention I gave her and became the incredible canine citizen she is today. She will help Liam and encourage him to become more independent and creative. Time will tell what amazing things he will accomplish with the inspiration she provides to him.

Liam's dad Peter learned how to help Bonnie work with Liam and the entire Donahue family are wonderful ambassadors for ADW and the good work assistance dogs do. They explain to people throughout our community whenever they go what Bonnie does for Liam and we thank them for telling the story.

~Linda Milanesi



Linda and "Cowgirl Bonnie"

Congrats to Recent Graduating Teams

Karen and Gabe Rau and AJ	Los Alamos, NM
Ruthie and Julie Thillen and ANGEL	Proctor, TX
The Ehlers Family and CHACO Owner/Self Trainer	Santa Fe, NM
Liam and Peter Donohue and BONNIE	Santa Fe, NM
John Chisholm and MIMI	Albuquerque, NM
Judith Newton and CHABLIS	Santa Fe, NM
Kathleen Lesitikow and TOBY	Rio Rancho, NM

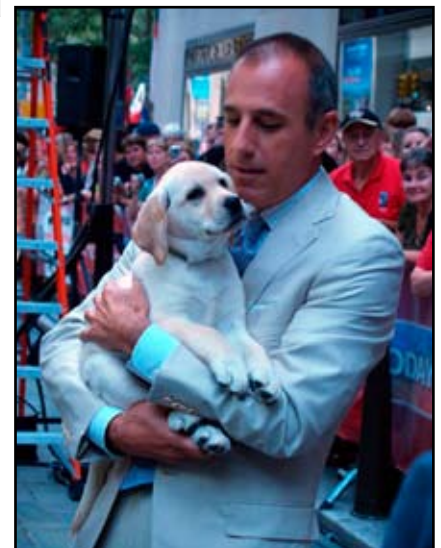


The Donohue family with Bonnie

Starting Life Right

ADW Advisory Council member **Linda Berkeley** is an all-star. She not only is the breeder of extraordinary Labrador Retrievers that win major shows and awards, she also knows lots of the right people and shares them. So far through Linda and her connections, ADW has received five stellar pups with charm, looks and delightful work ethics. Most recently, lovely Eileen joined the team...after her appearance on the TODAY Show. Linda donated Eileen from her breeding and \$5,000 towards her "schooling" at ADW. And Jack Black came to us from **Nancy Brandow**.

Thank you to Linda, her friend **Andrew Weiss**, breeding partner **Nancy Brandow** of **Cedarwood Kennels** (www.cedarwoodkennels.com) and **Tami Wilson** at **HySpire** (www.hyspire.com) for support and gifts that help others get more "right" in their lives.



Matt Lauer from TODAY with Eileen

Program News

CITIZEN SCHOOLS programs at **De Vargas Middle School in Santa Fe** and **Grant Middle School in Albuquerque** (new this semester) are successful after school programs. The student trainers are extremely attentive and find the Assistance Dog Student Trainer class really exciting; De Vargas students even voted it the best after school class. ADW Instructor/trainer **Anna Wilder** won the **GOLD STANDARD AWARD** "for continually creating meaningful apprenticeship sessions with the smallest amount of support from Citizen Schools". Congratulations to Anna and to all the committed student trainers.

Santa Fe **Capitol High School Special Education** students are now in their second year as student trainers. **ADW** waived the customary fee again this year for their educational/vocational program. As Disability Program Student Trainers, they are instructed in dog training, grooming, management, responsibility, building relationships, personal health, confidence, and elementary math/money skills. **CVS Caremark, Wells Fargo** and **LANL** have joined the support team with financial resources for this "at-risk" educational program that has fun every week.



**LOS ALAMOS
NATIONAL LABORATORY
FOUNDATION**

Desert Academy High School class begged ADW to allow extra students in the 3 day a week in school course this year. These student trainers work with the core curriculum and are vital contributors.

Santa Maria El Mirador, Alcalde students are training in the ADW offices while **SMEM** builds out some new space. This will give the student trainers additional resources in this ever popular "class". The **SMEM students** continue to be some of the more enthusiastic trainers ADW has ever had.

Rio Grande Elementary after school student trainers continue to meet every Monday afternoon in Santa Fe. The class is always full, hard working and fun for everyone involved.

Six **Owner/Self Trainers** work each week with Instructor/trainer **Sue Barns** to train their dogs in assistance work and public access skills, with many more applicants in the wings. These dogs and their owners work diligently in the weekly one-on-one classes which result in public access certification and skills specific to the owners needs. Congratulations to **recent grads the Ehlers Family and Golden Retriever Chaco**, who started the class as a puppy and has grown to be a handsome and accomplished service dog.



Recent grad tires out

Santa Fe and Chimayo Boys & Girls Clubs student trainers generously supported by the **Banfield Charitable Trust** and **Planet Dog Foundation** grants are back at work this fall. These devoted youth make time each week to learn more skills helping to train ADW dogs.



Summer and Fall 09 Client Placement Training (CPT) graduated 6 handler/dog teams. It cannot be said often enough how much effort our clients put in to learning how to work with their dogs. The mental, physical and emotional energy they spend is truly amazing. Many thanks to the **Hotel Santa Fe, Courtyard by Marriott, Casas de Santa Fe, Sage Inn and The Inn of the Governors** for the generous room accommodations for our clients. The comfort and

relaxation provided reduce stress and allow everyone to focus on the learning process.

New Santa Fe Prep TAP community service program student trainers do a bang up job on Thursday afternoons.

After School student trainers at the **Ronald Gardenswartz Jewish Community Center and Dogwood Therapy After School Programs in Albuquerque** work with Instructor/trainers **Jodie Backensto, Kristy Anderson and Melissa Winkle, OTR/L**. The inclusive design of the programs mixes students with occupational therapy goals and mainstream after school students in the learning process.

Kaune Elementary School student trainers are back for a full year of training, supported by the **United Way of Santa Fe**. This program is focused on student knowledge and skill development that increases excitement and interest in staying in school. Kaune Elementary student trainers are thrilled to learn how to "teach" dogs!

There are nearly 35 **ADW dogs in training**. Our most recent addition, **Jack Black**, flew out with Instructor/trainer **Linda Milanesi** and made friends in every airport he visited. He came to ADW as a donation from a wonderful breeder in **Maine, Cedarwood Kennels**. **Nancy Brandow** and good friend **Linda Berkeley** keep their eyes open constantly for potential ADW candidates...we can't say thank you enough!



This "dog sized" thank you card came from the Summer '09 Kaune's student trainers.

Youth Board Profile

My name is **Alex Johansen** and I have been working with Assistance Dogs of The West for six years. In those six years I have learned many things, among those are: leadership, patience, how to train dogs, and the meaning of dedication. ADW has given me the ability to find a passion and stick with it. This dedication not only enables me to stay with ADW, but also any extracurricular activity that I do. Besides just learning how to dedicate myself to something, I have gained the strength within myself to lead and help lead classes. I have only recently become an ADW Teaching Assistant, but in a short time I have found a side of myself that I never knew I had. I can no longer sit by and just listen to directions in class, now I have to take an active role within the classes I participate.

Even though dedication and leadership are important, I cannot ignore my time spent training dogs. Every dog I have trained has been a unique dog and has added to who I am as a trainer and a person. The dog that I will never forget is Melvin. He is by far the favorite dog that I have trained. Melvin was the first dog that I really could see the change my training made. He was the first dog that I ever trained from a puppy 'til he was placed.

My passion for dogs started before I joined dog class. I always loved dogs, but I never had the ability to train a dog, and that was the reason I chose to go to **Desert Academy**. I wanted to train dogs for people that have disabilities and Desert offered Assistance Dogs as a class.

My six years with ADW have had a large impact on my life. I say that the dogs and the classes changed and improved me, but those are not the only things that contributed to my change. I am a member of the ADW Youth Board; I work with other kids to help ADW grow. **Jill Felice**, our **Program Director** and my instructor has an impact on my life from how I see the world to how I feel towards the world. Jill is more than an instructor of dog training to me, she is a mentor, a leader and a role model.



The third installment of Nito & Chloe is now available. Call the office or visit the webstore.

Congrats and Thanks to all our Puppy Raisers

We count on some stalwart volunteers who give enormous time and energy with a pretty remarkable payback. Puppy Raisers learn to reinforce the skills and behaviors of dogs in training and then open their homes for weekend adventures. Some extremely dedicated friends learn all the required behaviors and pass the Public Access Test.



Bill, Patty, Cooper & friend at Halloween

After lots of hard work, Liz Napieralski and Popeye, Cissy Moore and Walker, and Dara McKinney and Mimi all passed the PAT and received cards, vests and the right to go anywhere in public together. These new relationships are going well, and three lucky pups now have new "weekend resort destinations" to enjoy.

Many thanks from ADW to all our Puppy Raisers past, present and future, and look forward to more news about these folks.

ADW Board President, Karen Freeman

I became involved with ADW because Carolyn Clark Beedle is an amazing woman. I was at a party, minding my own business, when I made the mistake of asking her what she did for a living. Twenty minutes later, I was hooked.

I have long been involved in volunteering, including thirteen years on the Board of a domestic violence agency in Connecticut, and five years in various capacities with the Museum of Indian Arts and Culture in Santa Fe. I helped found and still co-chair Native Treasures: Indian Arts Festival, which raises money for MIAC's exhibits and educational programs.

But . . . dogs. I love dogs. Thanks to Carolyn's description, I became intrigued with ADW's unique approach to training and realized that kids were an integral part of the success of ADW's training program. Who doesn't love kids and dogs? Not to mention the clients and how much they need, appreciate, and benefit from all this hard work. Add to that the way that ADW is willing to look at training assistance dogs for people whose needs are not only physical: veterans returning from war, autistic children, and now diabetics.

I am truly honored to be a part of this organization and especially honored to have been elected President of the Board.

My skill set includes thirty years in consumer marketing, past experience as a Board President, and a growing passion for an organization that has developed a highly successful and professional program. One goal in 2010 is to help ADW stay on a solid financial footing during these difficult times; another is to be a spokesperson for the agency in the community; a third is to learn to be as persuasive as Carolyn.

Thank You from Assistance Dogs of the West

We want to take this opportunity to recognize our generous donors and supporters who helped us from April 4, 2009 to October 15, 2009. (Later gifts will be recognized in next newsletter).

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Major Donor Thanks

ADW Board members continue to open their hearts and their wallets in support of our programming. Each and every one of them makes financial contributions and some make major gifts. When the foundation grant support was identified as a real challenge this year, the Board stepped up to help find the difference. **Dr. Larry Tilley** and his wife **Jeri Leeds** and **Peggy McDowell** and her husband **Doug McDowell** both made donations of \$10,000 for which we offer profound thanks. Each Board member has also taken on the challenge of finding additional gifts from friends and colleagues this year. **Derek Saunders** underwrote an entire dog A.J. (\$15,000) who was placed with young Gabe Rau in Los Alamos, and new President **Karen Freeman** contributed \$5,000 and raised another \$5,000 through friends and family.

Blake Emerson who continues her great friendship with ADW through participation in the Puppy Raiser group, also makes her annual \$10,000 gift and we thank her so very much.

Procter and Gamble gave \$15,000 for student programs, **Garfield Street Foundation** provided \$10,000 in annual support, **Laura J. Niles Foundation** has awarded ADW \$10,000 in support of the education programs, **Bettina Baruch Foundation** generously contributed \$10,000 towards operations...an ongoing challenge in today's economic environment. **The Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation** awarded \$8,250 towards client placement fees for people with paralysis and spinal cord injuries, **Planet Dog Foundation** gave a \$7,000 grant towards educational programs and the **Messengers of the Healing Winds** awarded ADW \$5,000 in recognition of leadership.

We offer humble thanks and great gratitude to all.



sit. speak. act:



Chip Replacement

continued from page 1

to do before that astounding non-verbal relationship is formed, but after this Fall '09 Client Placement Training class, they are well on their way. They will continue to learn together.

Chip is happily retired in Ruidoso, NM, with his "grandparents," and is living a cherished "dog's life" after working and loving diligently for eight years.

Students Say

Hello, I am a 19 year old male in the Juvenile Justice System. For the past 5 ½ months I have been an active participant in the Assistance Dogs of the West program. I ran into ADW during my stay with the Albuquerque Boy's Center. The program was completely optional, and so I decided to volunteer.

I've never really worked with dogs due to my severe allergies. That is what made ADW one of my biggest challenges while at ABC (Albuquerque Boy's Center). The best part of my volunteering though was the chance to work with a somewhat "hypo-allergenic" labradoodle named Benny. It is a pleasure being able to work with such an exciting and awesome dog. Even through the itching, sneezing, stinging eyes and runny noses, I stayed the course.

Working with Assistance Dogs of the West has opened my eyes. I was oblivious to the fact that there are so many different disabilities and so many ways to help people with disabilities. Some of the ways that we help are by teaching our dogs to perform everyday tasks. Tasks like "Get it," "Give," "Push," and "Tug" may seem small, but they are actually vital cues for those who cannot grab things, open doors, or push things.

One of the greatest pleasures I get out of the Assistance Dogs of the West program is knowing that providing these dogs to people with disabilities is a form of finding beauty in negative spaces.

George and CareBear

continued from page 1

CareBear is ever vigilant in helping George, alerting him to BG problems all day, all night, at home, in the car, and out in public. She has even alerted friends and relatives, some of whom are also diabetic, when their BG was off! In addition to her life-saving work as diabetes alert dog, CareBear and George also work as "greeters" at their church, welcoming about 1,000 people per week. George is an accomplished chainsaw carving artist, and recently donated a statue (at right) of CareBear to ADW ("CareBear Too", which took 1st Prize at the New Mexico State Fair). Some of the dogs in training are startled when they first "meet" it! Stop by and see our new "mascot," a most remarkable dog!



ADW News Barks

ADW Program and Service

Dog Access presentations and demonstrations have been done by staff, Board and student trainers for the Cancer Society, Lovelace Rehab Hospital Spinal Cord Injury Health Fair, the Association of Rehabilitation Nurses, NM Center for Development and Disability, Kaune Elementary, De Vargas Middle and Grant Middle Schools and more.

Student Trainer Devyn Evans will be the **Scholastic Magazine December** cover story. She came to us through **De Vargas After School program** and has continued on as a scholarship student. **Exciting!**

De Vargas Center in Santa Fe will host **Pet Photos with Santa** again this year **Saturday, December 5** (see below). Bring your pet or borrow an ADW dog for these fun photo ops and get some holiday shopping done.

Thank you to **POP Gallery SF** and **Sharla and Peter McDowell** for the annual summer Art Show with ADW as a beneficiary. Staff and dogs rub elbows with artists and collectors.

Thank you again to artist **Isabella Gonzales and SF Community College for the Project Known Quantity** installation and exhibit. Thus far we have raised \$5,000 for service dogs for U.S. Veterans. Stay tuned for more news soon.

The **ADW Youth Board** continues to work on building awareness and support for ADW among their friends and family. Look for the **2010 Calendar** as well as another upcoming dog training raffle. **Kaila Matthews, Alex Johansen and Isaac Green** are this year's officers.



Alex Johansen, new ADW Youth Board Officer, "working" with one of the dogs in training. See his story on page 5.

ADW made appearances on radio (KSFR, KRSN and KBAC) television (SF Mayor Coss's television program) and in a number of newspapers (SF

New Mexican, NM Business Weekly, Albuquerque Journal, Journal North and more.) We appreciate the local and regional interest.

Thank you as always to **Advisory Council member Dr. Brent Parker who spends time each Client Placement Training** talking about dog health maintenance with our clients.

Beginner Puppy Raiser classes continue in Santa Fe on Thursdays from 3:30-5:00 pm and on Tuesdays from 5:30-7:00 in Albuquerque.

Intermediate Puppy Raisers are taking advanced skill classes this fall and **Experienced Puppy Raiser** meetings continue in Santa Fe on Thursdays from 5:45-6:45 pm. Contact the office with interest. The next classes will begin in January 2010.

ADW staff and dogs attended the **Assistance Dogs International National Trainer's** conference in Colorado this fall, sharing best practices and participating in educational workshops. PTSD and autism were among the many topics addressed.

Thanks to the **Grand Prix de Santa Fe** for the event booth and opportunity to share ADW stories with attendees.

ADW Board Member Walt Borton ran a **Traditional Flea Market** this summer in Santa Fe's Oshara Village. ADW had a booth and sold "the good, the bad and the ugly" donated by many of our dear supporters. We made a little bit of money and a lot of new friends.

Regular **ADW Staff In-Service** meetings raise the professional development levels for Program Staff about training and disability issues as well as organizational development.

ADW has been a full member of **Assistance Dogs International** for more than ten years. We have just this year applied for **full accreditation**...a herculean task that reminded us of what our clients face in those Client Placement Training sessions! When the process is complete, ADW will have demonstrated organizational process and strength **AND** be eligible for additional funding.

Holiday Stroll

Saturday, December 5th, 3-6p

Santa Paws

Pet Photos with Santa and a free goodie for the best friend in your life. \$5 suggested donation with all proceeds benefiting Assistance Dogs of the West.

A Taste of the Holidays at DeVargas

Complimentary refreshments and drinks provided by the Restaurants at DeVargas.

Free Gift with Purchase

Every \$75 you spend the night of the Stroll, you will receive a \$25 gift card to a favorite DeVargas Center Merchant.

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Trainer's Tip

Teaching yourself (and your dog) clicker training is fun and easy. You will need: a clicker—available at most pet stores for under \$2, a supply of yummy but small treats, and your dog. Remember, one click = one treat ALWAYS. Even an accidental click still means one treat. Timing is key, you must click at the exact split second your dog is doing what you like.



Jill Felice training Seymour and Zumi to wait

“Shaping” is a style of clicker training that rewards the dog for taking the initiative and offering a behavior, while allowing you to channel that behavior in a direction of your choosing. First, “load” the clicker tool by teaching your dog that the click means a treat is coming. Click the clicker and feed Fluffy a treat. Repeat. Continue to click and treat at random intervals until Fluffy eagerly looks at you, clearly expecting a reward anytime she hears the click. Your clicker is now a useful and powerful tool.

To play “101 things to do with a box,” a shaping game, put an open-topped box of any size and material in the center of the room and wait for Fluffy to interact with it. Click and treat any interactions you see. Start small. Did she look at the box? Click/Treat. Did she take one step closer to it? Click/Treat. As Fluffy gets the idea that the box is a cool thing to be around, click for bigger and bigger behavior. Did she touch the box with her nose? Click/Treat. Did she

put a foot in the box? Click/Treat. Remember to keep it fun—reward Fluffy as often as possible. If you get stuck, try going back a few steps. Also, keep it short; 5-10 minute sessions will allow you to take a break while Fluffy is still enthusiastic; ending on a positive note will make your next session a breeze.

When you start training again, choose which of Fluffy's interactions with the box you like and reward only those. For instance, if she sometimes paws the box and sometimes nibbles the box, reward only the nibbles. Look for and reward slightly more behavior each time. From nibbling to tugging the box with her teeth, from tugging to picking the box up, from picking it up to walking with it in her mouth, from walking randomly to following you.

What started as a game is now well on its way to being a useful training skill. Congratulations!

~Anna Wilder, Instructor/Trainer

How You Can Help

Your tax-exempt gifts can be used to help with the following needs and expenses:

For Students

Single Student Session	\$30
After School Student Scholarship	\$350
School Program Student Sponsor	\$2,500
After School Program Location Sponsor	\$15,000
Annual School Program Sponsor	\$35,000

For Dogs

Dog Treats Monthly Sponsor	\$25
Dog Food Monthly Sponsor	\$50
Equipment/Supply Sponsor (Dog Harness)	\$500
Buy a New Dog	\$1,500
Annual Vet Care Sponsor	\$1,500
Dog Training Sponsor (You Name the Dog)	\$15,000
Emergency Vet Fund	any amount

For Clients

Client Placement Training (CPT) Sponsor	\$3,500
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Any contribution to CPT can help our clients

Administrative Needs

Laptops(s) donate one or the cost	\$500/ea
Office Color Copier sponsor	\$500/mo
Program Vehicle Sponsor	\$25,000
(donate an SUV or truck and get a tax write off)	
Instructor/Trainer Salary Sponsor	\$28,000
Operations Manager Salary Sponsor	\$35,000
ADW Training Facility Sponsors	\$3.5M Total Need
ADW Training Facility Single Room Sponsor	\$50,000 each
(Room Names in Memory of)	

Any Amount is Truly Appreciated!

Assistance Dogs of the West is a 501(c) 3 tax exempt charity.

All contributions are 100% tax deductible.

ADW Webstore for the Perfect Gift

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www.assisteddogsofthewest.org

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Benefit Raffle for ADW

January 9, 2010, 1 to 4 PM Dr. Jamie McManus, Chairman, Medical Affairs, Health Sciences & Education for Shaklee Corporation and author comes to the James A. Little Theater. Dr. Jamie will share her years of experience in helping people live healthier, prevent common ailments, unlock the secrets of anti-aging, and achieve and maintain optimum health. Shaklee Corporation is donating a gift basket filled with sports nutrition, weight loss, vitamins and nontoxic household cleaning products and **ALL RAFFLE PROCEEDS BENEFIT ADW**. We'll be on hand with our wonderful dogs. Come join us!



Training break

2010 ADW Calendar

Youth Board members enlisted the resources of **John Romero** this year to lay out the 2010 ADW Calendar. Talented designer and SF High School student John has a disability that keeps him in a wheelchair but doesn't have a bit of impact on his creativity. The son of ADW Board member **Dr. John Romero DVM**, our John did a spectacular job. Calendars are flying out the door...get yours soon while they last.



PLEASE SAVE THE DATE!

'Tis the Giving Season: Victoria Price Art & Design is proud to host our 3rd Annual Charity Holiday Party benefiting Assistance Dogs of the West, Girls Inc, The National Dance Institute, and The Santa Fe Mountain Center.

Please join us for a festive evening of food, fun, and libations to support these wonderful organizations.

WHEN: Friday, December 4, 2009 5 - 7:30 PM

WHERE: Victoria Price Art & Design, 1512 Pacheco Street in the Pacheco Design Business Park

HOW: Enjoy a fun evening of holiday cheer – and let your Christmas shopping benefit your favorite Santa Fe charitable organization. 20% off every purchase will benefit whichever of these fine organizations that you designate.



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