Top Dog, Inc
9420 E Golf Links Rd Ste 108-355
Tucson, Arizona 85730-1317
(520) 323-6677
Email: topdogusa1987@gmail.com

Board of Directors
Helen Mendelsohn President
Samir Madden Vice President
Leo Enfield Treasurer
Beth Madden Secretary
Judy Mendelsohn Director
Josh Beal Director
Deb Bettis Training Director
Bette Immel Director
RC Smith Director

Newsletter
Bette Rose Immel Editor

Mission Statement
Top Dog’s mission is to teach people with physical disabilities to train their own service dogs. Top Dog also educates the public about the diversity and ability of all people.

Top Dog is a nonprofit public charity founded in 1987. All training is humanely and lovingly performed. Top Dog also offers educational presentations to schools, service groups, churches, service groups, clubs, and businesses. If you’d like to have Top Dog speak to your organization, please call the Top Dog office.

Message from the President

Well, summer certainly has arrived with some uncommon sweltering heat even for Tucson’s summer season. Humans and dogs alike are suffering. A reminder that it is very important for both to stay hydrated with plenty of water.

I’m pleased to announce that our new training center is working out quite well. Our upcoming TD class is scheduled to begin September 2016, and applications are available through the website or office. Please let any friends or acquaintances, looking to train a would-be service dog, of the available openings.

A huge vote of thanks to Smokie, his wife Casey, and everyone involved in the Water Plant Sale for their successful hard work resulting in a donation of $1,250 to TD. It is very appreciated (See group photo on page 4).

I’d like to congratulate and thank Deb Bettis for agreeing to take on the position of Training Director. It also gives me great pleasure to welcome Frosty as a new Training Assistant (TA) and instructor. Still another welcome and thank you to Kaylee for joining us as a TD volunteer. An additional thank you goes to Karen for all the hard work she has done as a TA. And we can’t forget Anita. Thank you for all you’ve done for TD. We wish you the best of luck on your new endeavors.

There is still an opportunity to win yourself a 2016 Shelby GT350 contributed by Jim Click Ford in their ongoing effort to raise millions of dollars to benefit non-profit Tucson organizations. Tickets are $25 each or five for $100. Please contact Helen Mendelsohn at the office to purchase tickets.

Your retail shopping therapy, via Amazon Smile (see http://smile.amazon.com/ch/86-071103) and Fry’s market’s Fry’s Community Partners (go to www.fryscommunityrewards.com) can benefit TD, too, by visiting those sites and signing up. It doesn’t cost you anything, but assists the TD organization with monetary donations. In fact, our first check from Fry’s will be arriving in about 30 days. More info in ‘boxes’ on a following page.

Last, but not least, TD training materials are now available on our website www.topdogusa.org. Check out our store for manuals, DVD’s, Polo and T-Shirts. We’re currently offering an introductory sale price on everything at the new site.
looking at those big brown eyes down, continue to get worse. I gazed opened a disease that would only er.

sion, which brought us clos-
together, such as food aggres-
all her fears and doggie issues with her. We worked through her owners, I decided to keep After endlessly searching for while I was returning home. ran in front of my car one night during flooding and very destructive fires. Thankfully, the American Kennel Club set up a program for Disaster Trail-
ers that could be purchased for the of use of protecting animals against natural disasters. We’re very lucky to have one of those here in Southern Arizona. Four all-breed clubs in Southern Arizona (Canada del Oro, Madera Canyon, Tucson & Greater Sierra Vista), along with some breed specialty clubs, made dona-
tions to purchase one of these Disaster Trailers for this area. It has been delivered to the Humane Society of Southern Arizona. They plan to keep it stocked with supplies, and ready to go at all times just in case of a disaster locally. The Humane Society will also staff it. They received a single donation of $25,000.00, that was used to purchase crates and other state of the art equipment. Mom told me there is another one of these trailers in the Phoenix area, purchased by the all-breed clubs in the Phoenix and Northern Arizona areas. Both trailers will be used anywhere in the state that they are needed.

All us Service Dogs, Therapy Dogs and Family Pets owe a big THANK YOU to all the dog clubs that made this possible, and the Humane Society for stocking and staffing our trailer, and for making all of us feel safe, cared for, and loved.

Roving Reporter by Charlie Mendelsohn

Today is one of my favorite days. It is July 7th. Finally, everyone has stopped shooting off fireworks and it is safe for me to go outside and play in the yard again. Mom tells me everyone in our neighborhood lights fireworks to celebrate “America’s Independence Day.” Now, I’m all for celebrating, but I wish there was a nice quieter way to celebrate this holiday. The noise from fireworks hurts my ears. Fireworks can also start fires because the ground and plants are very dry. I worry about this. It is, after all, fire season in the western part of the United States. Mom and I have seen many fires on the news. I am a brave dog, but I am very afraid of fires. I think just about all animals are. Mom also told me that people have lost their homes to forest fires. They have lost their livestock, and their pets, who run off because they’re scared, yet they don’t always know in which direction to run that is safe. I really worry that if Mom lost me, she wouldn’t be able to get along without my help. Who would pick up all the stuff that mom drops everyday? Mom could go to a shelter, but what would I do? Is a people shelter like the animal shelter I came from?

Mom had me come up on her bed, and gave me a belly rub. While she was rubbing my belly and making me feel loved she told me the following.

The hurricane, Katrina, Mom said, caused some major flooding and very destructive fires. Thankfully, the American Kennel and a strong team.

Kristin & Karma Team #147

Karma was a stray that ran in front of my car one night while I was returning home. After endlessly searching for her owners, I decided to keep her. I had already fallen in love with her. We worked through all her fears and doggie issues together, such as food aggression, which brought us closer. Two years later I had developed a disease that would only continue to get worse. I gazed down, looking at those big brown eyes and the wagging tail, and I knew Karma was up for the challenge of becoming my service dog.

We read the Top Dog books, which were great at describing each necessary task, then gave examples for each of them, while demonstrating what each task should look like. Slowly, but surely, Karma made her way through her training book, as I made my way through college. The staff were great with answering questions along the way and helping with any hiccups we encountered. Although Karma finished her training a year ago, we finally got to graduate and meet the Top Dog crew, which was great and a lot of fun. We are always training, each and every day, as together we strive to always be a stronger and stronger team. Thanks Top Dog!

Congratulations To Our Recently Certified Teams!

David & Riley Team #148

Riley, my Top-Dog service dog is a Basenji-Lab mix. When my wife and I moved to Tucson, I was looking for my 4th canine partner. I wanted a confident, ready to tackle anything, responsive dog. Two years later, I have one. Riley was a rescue, who had as much to unlearn, as he did to learn.

Before he was abandoned on the streets of Tucson, by his previous owners, he was taught to leap in the air, and box new acquaintances. Now he uses the same skills in a different vocation. He can open doors by punching buttons at distances much higher than himself. He can retrieve dropped objects with panache. He is a problem solver, and a near-perfect partner, who is always looking to make new friends. With an ever ready grin, and an irrepressible spirit he truly is a “Top-Dog.” I can say, I am grateful for those who gave him up, grateful to those who helped train him and very grateful that we have him. He is a gift from God to us.
**Announcements**

---

**Need a little retail therapy?**

Here’s the Rx to accomplish the therapy, and help TOP DOG.

http://smile.amazon.com/ch/86-0711039

This is a perfectly painless way to have fun and, donate to TOP DOG. Simply enroll and select TOP DOG as your preferred charity. Then when you purchase your Amazon favorites through site a charitable donation will go to TOP DOG. We’ll receive a donation from Amazon every quarter, and best yet? It won’t cost you ANY additional money. So please be sure to Bookmark this webpage.

Everybody eats. Shop Fry’s? Well, Fry’s provides another way to remedy the your shopping urges through their Fry’s Community Partners. Go to [www.fryscommunityrewards.com](http://www.fryscommunityrewards.com) and sign in to your account, or register with the ‘next’ click on the Orange Enroll Now bar, search for TOP DOG, Inc. Our account number is # 51693. Our name will come up, and all you do is mark the circle beside it, then click Enroll Now. This, too, is free to you and your family, but creates donations to TD just for doing your regular shopping. PLEASE, share this with your friends and family. And it bears repeating to check out our webpage — [www.topdogusa.org](http://www.topdogusa.org) — for your training needs, DVD’s, and TOP DOG Polo and T-Shirts.

---

You might be asking yourself what is Direct? Well, DIRECT Center for Independence, Inc. is a consumer-directed, community-based advocacy organization that promotes independent living, and offers a variety of programs for all people with disabilities, which encourages them to achieve their full potential and to participate in the community.

Direct is located at 1001 N. Alvernon Way Tucson, AZ 85711. And can be reached at 1-800-342-1853 or [direct@directilc.org](mailto:direct@directilc.org).

You can find more information on their website [www.directilc.org](http://www.directilc.org).

---

**A Word From the Training Director**

It is my absolute pleasure to accept the position as TOP DOG’s Training Director. I look forward to working with the variety of dogs and their people, and to helping with any innovative modulations to our program that might ensue.

I would like to extend thanks and appreciation to the following volunteers, without whom we would not be able to provide the outstanding training that we do for our community.

- JoAnn — Intermediate Trainer/TA
- Anita — Intermediate Assistant Trainer/TA
- Frosty — Advanced Trainer/TA
- Diane — Training Committee and Pre-Certification Evaluator
- Smokie — TA
- Nancy — TA
- Kaylee — TOP DOG Assistant

---

**Announcements**

---

**Need a little retail therapy?**

Here’s the Rx to accomplish the therapy, and help TOP DOG.

http://smile.amazon.com/ch/86-0711039

This is a perfectly painless way to have fun and, donate to TOP DOG. Simply enroll and select TOP DOG as your preferred charity. Then when you purchase your Amazon favorites through site a charitable donation will go to TOP DOG. We’ll receive a donation from Amazon every quarter, and best yet? It won’t cost you ANY additional money. So please be sure to Bookmark this webpage.

Everybody eats. Shop Fry’s? Well, Fry’s provides another way to remedy the your shopping urges through their Fry’s Community Partners. Go to [www.fryscommunityrewards.com](http://www.fryscommunityrewards.com) and sign in to your account, or register with the ‘next’ click on the Orange Enroll Now bar, search for TOP DOG, Inc. Our account number is # 51693. Our name will come up, and all you do is mark the circle beside it, then click Enroll Now. This, too, is free to you and your family, but creates donations to TD just for doing your regular shopping. PLEASE, share this with your friends and family. And it bears repeating to check out our webpage — [www.topdogusa.org](http://www.topdogusa.org) — for your training needs, DVD’s, and TOP DOG Polo and T-Shirts.

---

You might be asking yourself what is Direct? Well, DIRECT Center for Independence, Inc. is a consumer-directed, community-based advocacy organization that promotes independent living, and offers a variety of programs for all people with disabilities, which encourages them to achieve their full potential and to participate in the community.

Direct is located at 1001 N. Alvernon Way Tucson, AZ 85711. And can be reached at 1-800-342-1853 or [direct@directilc.org](mailto:direct@directilc.org).

You can find more information on their website [www.directilc.org](http://www.directilc.org).

---

**A Word From the Training Director**

It is my absolute pleasure to accept the position as TOP DOG’s Training Director. I look forward to working with the variety of dogs and their people, and to helping with any innovative modulations to our program that might ensue.

I would like to extend thanks and appreciation to the following volunteers, without whom we would not be able to provide the outstanding training that we do for our community.

- JoAnn — Intermediate Trainer/TA
- Anita — Intermediate Assistant Trainer/TA
- Frosty — Advanced Trainer/TA
- Diane — Training Committee and Pre-Certification Evaluator
- Smokie — TA
- Nancy — TA
- Kaylee — TOP DOG Assistant
The Water Plant Sale Gang—Thank you!