TOP DOG, INC
9420 E Golf Links Rd Ste 108-355
Tucson, Arizona 85730-1317
(520) 323-6677 Toll Free (888) 257-6790
contact-us@topdogusa.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Helen Mendelsohn    President
Vacant              Vice President
RC Smith            Secretary
Leo Enfield         Treasurer
Judy Mendelsohn     Director
Bette Immel         Director
Tim O’Leary         Director
Deb Bettis          Training 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

Happy Holidays to All.

First, I would like to thank both Beth and Sami Madden for their many years of service on the TOP DOG Board, and for everything they have done for our program. Beth and Sami decided it was time to shift their endeavors to new opportunity’s and we wish them well on their passage.

Moving on, we are excited to have Tim O’Leary back on the Board of Directors for TD. I’d also like to take this opportunity to welcome two new training assistants, Jaz and Lori. They are doing a fantastic job. As are Team #102, Morris (& Cheyenne), who have also returned to TD’s program as training assistants. Happily, it seems that once you’re a part of TOP DOG it just seems to keep calling you back. The Board and I are certainly grateful for those occurrences.

Moreover, I’m pleased to announce that Frosty is now an instructor and will be following along with the beginning students into the intermediate session. In more news, RC has accepted, and is now head, of the online program for TD’s out of area students.

In the new year, January 7, 2017, TOP DOG will have both Intermediate and Advance program classes. The Intermediate class is excelling due to all of the hard work from the students, dogs, and entire staff. The Advanced class has also been working hard and will be looking forward to the day they become Certified TD teams.

I’d also like to mention two more items. First, for those of you who are looking, or need, another tax deduction, you can find it through donations to TOP DOG, which needless to say, would be greatly appreciated. Also the Fry’s Market and Amazon’s Smiles program are great ways to raise money for your favorite charity (see page 2 for more information). Second, I’m delighted to say how extremely well the use of the Direct Center building is working out for our staff and our students.

Please note, those of you who purchased a Click Raffle ticket for the 2016 Ford Shelby GT350, the drawing for the new automobile will be held on December 15th. Fingers crossed folks!

Hope you all have a great holiday season and a happy and healthy New Year.
Roving Reporter by Charlie Mendelsohn

Once again, I am very unhappy for the holiday season. For the last few years I have tried to kiss Mom under the mistletoe in the store and she will not let me. She says the little white berries might fall off the funny looking thing up on the ceiling and they are poisonous. I don’t know what poisonous is, but I do know it is a very bad word. All the pretty things I want to smell and check out are either poisonous or dangerous. I know Mom is always telling me I cannot go near the trees with the big shining balls. If the store did not want me to play with them, why did they put them right in my path. I only want to swat one or two of them to see how they bounce and I promise not to lift my leg on the tree because it is an inside tree and not outside where it is my tree.

I can’t smell the potted plants with the big red flowers and I can’t eat the red berries on the holly. How come all these good things are for people only? Speaking of things for people only, Mom told me chocolate is poisonous too. I can’t have any…but I love to kiss her when she has chocolate breath.

It smells so good. I can’t have eggnog, nuts or fruitcake either. And I can’t have any poultry bones.

Life is just not fair. I do get some toys and stuffed animals that I love to un-stuff. What I like best, everyone throws away. People just do not know what the good stuff is. They throw away the wrapping paper and boxes and keep what is inside. If they were like me they would know how good it is playing and tearing all the fancy paper. It comes in different textures and what Mon calls tissue paper is fun to roll in. I never get the ribbons, but that is ok they are too skinny to do anything with and Mom is afraid I might chew on them or even try to eat them. I know better than that, but it is good to know Mom is looking out for me.

Mom and I look out for each other. I help her and she takes care of me. Later we will both curl up in her bed and watch old movies on TV. I offered to let her curl up in my bed with me, but she says she can’t get off the floor. I just think she likes her bed better.

Charlie, Mom and all the Top Dog people wish you a Happy Holiday and a Happy, Healthy New Year.

Still Have Shopping to Do?

Holiday’s or not go to: http://smile.amazon.com/ch/86-0711039

Shopping at that site is a perfectly painless way for you and your friends to donate to TOP DOG. If you purchase your Amazon favorites through this site, and designate ‘TOP DOG’ as the organization which you want your charitable donation to go, TOP DOG will receive a donation from Amazon every quarter. Easy peasy! Please Note: This does not cost the shopper any additional funds. So please be sure to Bookmark this webpage.

Another effortless way to help TOP DOG is by shopping at Fry’s Marketplace, then registering through their Fry’s Community Partners (www.fryscommunityrewards.com) you can sign in to your account, or enroll by clicking the ‘next’ button on the Orange Enroll Now bar, search for and click on TOP DOG (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. And it only takes a minute to accomplish.

Have Fun and Do Some Good, Too.

Thank You One and All!
TOP DOG’s combined class picnic was a huge success. A good time was had by all attendees. This picnic down time provided an opportunity for everyone to simply kick back, eat some *gooood* food, have interesting conversations, and even demonstrate our working dog’s talents, all while meeting everyone else’s family members, too. This gathering, while fun indeed, also provided everyone an occasion to illustrate their dog’s good behavior around strangers, food, and anything else that just happened to occur in the area. A big *THANK YOU* to Frosty for barbecuing for all of us.

Here are a few pic’s for the picnic:
What a wonderful stroke of luck to have met Blake and Banjo last year. I needed a service dog but could not afford the two-year wait or the expense of a fully trained service dog. Blake referred me to a local breeder and told me about the Top Dog. I purchased a beautiful 9-month old golden retriever and joined the Top Dog online program. Now, a year later, after measured, progressive and patient training, we passed the certification test and became a Top Dog certified team. We would like to thank Blake and Banjo for their support and encouragement. And, we would like to thank Top Dog for their inspiring training books and videos. We could not have done it without you.