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NEWSLETTER
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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 is definitely here folks with the usual scalding temperatures and less than usual amounts of rain. But for TOP DOG it’s no sweat! Nor does it dampen our spirits. We have new people to welcome and a few thanks to extend to some people for whom we are grateful.

First, I’d like to congratulate and welcome Tom Young to the TD Board of Directors. As Training Director, Tom’s experience has enabled TD to introduce both Diabetic alert and PTSD training into our curriculum.

We would also like to send thanks to and for Abounding Grace Church for the use of their building for evening classes, which permits us to accommodate more student’s schedules.

I’d also like to acknowledge Sherri Wirth for her past service on the Board of Directors. TD owes a huge thank you to Keri Foreman for getting our new website up and running. Check it out!

Please spread the word that TOP DOG is currently accepting applications for new students for service training including: mobility, diabetic alert and PTSD training.

And finally, on Saturday and Sunday November 10th and 11th from 9a.m. to 3 p.m., TOP DOG will be hosting a raffle at Canada del Oro and Madera Canyon dog clubs. Both clubs have kindly donated the space for the raffle.

We are looking for volunteers who can man the booth for at least a two (2) hour window, please contact me. Since I will be working the dog show in exchange for the space, I’m unable to man the booth this year. Your assistance will be greatly appreciated.

We’re also looking for new items or gift cards which can be raffled off. If you have anything to contribute or know of a business that would be willing to donate for the event, please send an email to me at the office. Thank you for your cooperation.
I’m Lori and Bamie is my newly certified service dog. She is a two year old yellow Labrador. Bamie was born in Surprise, Arizona and she is our second TOP DOG. Her brother, Theodore, was certified a few years ago. Both enjoy bringing me things, picking up dropped items, and helping me walk. Bamie especially likes helping me go to be a volunteer for Hospice. She loves going to work with me as a hospital clinical social worker.

Congratulations to Lori and Bamie!

Team #158 Lori and Bamie

Many pet owner’s biggest fear is losing their partner; Fido digs under a fence, or jumps over one, or just gets out some way to go exploring. That’s why microchipping your dog is so very important. However, a microchip is only good if it is registered. https://www.foundanimals.org/microchip-registry/owners/ is a FREE Microchip Registry that accepts all brands of chips. This non-profit is also a great resource for information on a variety of topics. Check it out!

https://www.rover.com/blog/dog-enrichment-z/ is another great expedient resource with tips on making your dog happier and smarter via enrichment ideas. It has a section devoted to ‘dog people’ and categories that include: Dog Data — breed lists, breed spotlights, etc., a grouping of dog names, health and safety tips, and a ‘how-to’ guide that delivers pertinent info, and much more.

http://pin.it/DwgBOx provides ten “Must Know” great tips about cold weather and your dog. Whether you live in a warm climate like here in Arizona or a colder climate, this information helps you winterize your pet and protect him or her from inclement weather. Tips include: dog walks, poisons, grooming, food and water, and more.

A reminder about two easy ways to help TD. If you shop at Amazon you can go to: http://smile.amazon.com/ch/86-0711039 and designate TOP DOG as a charity to which Amazon donation should. TD will then receive a donation each quarter from Amazon. Shopping at Fry’s Marketplace? Register/enroll through “Fry’s Community Partners — www.fryscommunityrewards.com — look for TOP DOG and click (acc’t #51693), or mark the circle beside TOP DOG. TD will then receive donations from the Kroger Company. Easy, simple ways in only a few minutes to assist TD financially.
This is my story. It is the tale of how I came to where I am now.

When I was a puppy, I led a very hard life. I don’t like to remember that time. I do know that when I was still young I was brought to a big building with lots of cages and other dogs. And I also know I wasn’t happy there.

One day a lady came to visit me. She told me she was involved in rescue work, and she was going to take me home and find someone who would love me. That was the start of my new life.

My first stop was to a veterinarian to be sure I was healthy and all my vaccines were up to date. I was also microchipped and neutered. Next, she brought me to her house where I first met my new mom, Helen, and her service dog Hope. It was love at first sight with Hope. She let me sniff her and kiss her, and she didn’t try to do anything bad to me.

The people were nice too, but I did not know, yet, if I could trust them. We visited for a bit before I was put in a cage in a car for a long ride home. Hope stayed next to the cage and kept telling me I was doing very well and I would love my new home. She promised to help me settle in and show me how to behave in a house. I did not know what a house was, but if Hope said so then I was sure I would like it. Hope was just about my size and her coat was shining. She looked at me with love in her eyes. It made me feel safe.

Home was what I had always dreamed about. I had my own space and there was a dog bed in almost every room. It took me no time at all to learn how to use the “doggy door.” I was fed good stuff two times a day and could drink water any time I wanted. Not only did I begin to trust these two people, but I began to love them. This was the first time in my life I had these feelings and I did my best to let the people know it.

It wasn’t long before my mom took me to TOP DOG to learn how to be a service dog. I was very unsure of myself. Nevertheless, I learned my lessons very quickly; but, I still wasn’t sure of the other dogs in class. However, I would do anything to make my mom proud of me, so with her assuring me the other dogs would not harm me, I finally accepted them as classmates. My Mom was so very proud of me. Mom and I became TOP DOG team #127. For a long time the four of us were happy and lived together in the house.

Then tragedy struck. Hope got sick. My best friend was having trouble and I could not help her. One day Hope just left; I never saw her again. For me things were never the same. Mom & Helen both loved me, but they could not replace my love for Hope.

One day Helen received a phone call from Diane at TOP DOG. She knew of a dog that needed a home, her owner had died and although a neighbor was feeding the dog, she had no one to love. We met with Diane and she introduced us to Ruby. I really had to look at her for a few minutes because she looked just like Hope. She was the same size and color. Once I sniffed her, I knew she was going to be my new best friend. Now it was my turn to teach her the rules of the house and make her comfortable. Mom says it’s my turn to “pay it forward.” I say there is always room in your heart for another love.
If you’re making a purchase at Amazon a perfectly painless way for you and your friends to donate to TOP DOG is by going to: http://smile.amazon.com/ch/86-0711039.

By making your purchase through this Amazon site, and designating ‘TOP DOG’ as the organization where you want your charitable donation to go, TOP DOG will receive a donation from Amazon every quarter. This doesn’t cost the shopper any additional funds. So please be sure to Bookmark this webpage and spread the word.

Another painless way to help TOP DOG is by shopping at Fry’s Marketplace and 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, then scroll down to TOP DOG (our account number is # 51693) and select us when our name comes up by marking the circle beside it, then simply click Enroll Now. This, too, is free to you and your family, however each time you do your regular shopping TD receives a donation.

It only takes a minute to accomplish both of these and TOP DOG reaps the benefits.

THANK YOU!!!