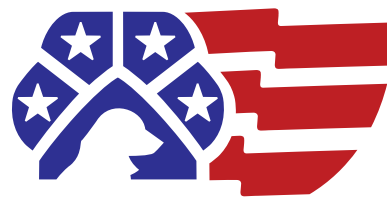


PATRIOTPAWS

SERVICE DOGS



SERVICE DOGS...ONE OF THE FAMILY

When a service dog is brought into a family, everyone's life changes. The disabled person's life is made better, and the dog has found his forever home, but what about the rest of the family?

Karen Sears, wife of Aaron Sears who received service dog Lane in May 2009, agreed to share her perspective in her own words: "We had no idea how Lane would change our lives. Going grocery shopping now takes twice as long, because curious people want to know, 'What does she do?' Going out to dinner usually ends with other patrons saying, 'I didn't even know there was a dog under the table!' Aaron has always referred to me as 'Babe'. At some point, I noticed that he started calling Lane that nickname. I tease Aaron all the time about it. Apparently, I have another female competitor for my husband's attention! Receiving Lane was a blessing in so many ways: she calms Aaron, takes the focus off of him while in public, and I know that he's safe when they're together."

The children of a service dog family must understand that the dog isn't a pet. Every service dog is given "dog time" when he can be without his vest and interact with the rest of the family, but the children must accept that he is primarily a working dog who is there to assist their parent. John Oldham, who received service dog Duchess in November 2012 and was featured in our Spring 2013 newsletter, has four children: Tanyon, Caleb, Rachel and Sarah. All of them expressed that bringing Duchess into their family has enabled their

dad to spend more time with them. They understand that Duchess is there to see to dad's needs when mom, Tyla, is away and tell people that she's "daddy's war buddy".



KAREN AND AARON SEARS WITH LANE



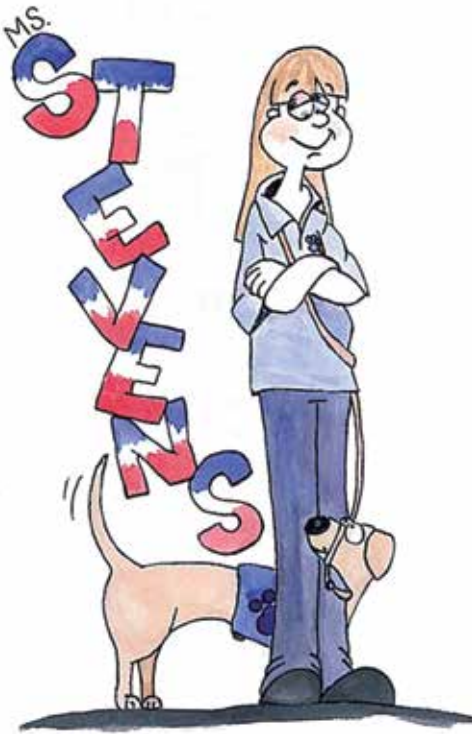
THE OLDHAM KIDS AND DUCHESS



ALICE LENICH, DAVID SCOTT AND CAPTAIN

Service dogs also impact extended family. Alice Lenich, twin sister of David Scott who received service dog Captain in March 2012 and was featured in our Winter 2012 newsletter, says that she worries less about her brother now that he no longer lives alone. David frequently falls, and Captain is always there to help him up or go get help. Alice says that even David's speech has gotten better since he's had Captain, and that Captain makes David feel special, as if he's more than just another disabled person. "David is living with a real friend."

Every service dog family has their own stories, but most would agree that they can't imagine life without their service dog because he is truly one of the family.



LETTER FROM LORI

I love my family...

both of them. I have a husband, three sons and four grandchildren, but I also have a whole other family...Patriot PAWS.

Families can be lots of things, not just the group of people you're related to by blood or by law. A family can also be those people whom you've come to know and grown so close to that you can't imagine your life without them. That's how I think of Patriot PAWS.

I've had others tell me that they think of Patriot PAWS as their extended family, too. This is especially touching to me when one of our veterans tells me this. They've given so much for all of us and sadly often not gotten much or anything in return, so if one of our service dogs and the continuing support and friendship of our organization can help to make up for that even a little, then we are both honored and privileged to be here for them.

They say that friends are the family we choose. With each placement of a service dog, our family grows in number, so here's to increasing our numbers as long as we're needed, until one day, perhaps, there won't be any need left, only family.

SPOTLIGHT ON KAREN PRYOR GRADUATES

Far more goes into dog training than most people realize, and becoming a certified dog trainer is no easy task. Lori Stevens and staff trainers Valerie Fry and Bonnie Hoard are all graduates of The Karen Pryor Academy.

The academy's curriculum includes a six-month online course as well as four live weekend workshops with a Karen Pryor certified instructor for hands-on assessment. Extensive knowledge of dog behavior and physiology is required in addition to mastering training techniques including the training of a second species. Our own Eli has served as a second species subject twice. The course is pass/fail with a score of 90 or above required to pass, and the final assessment includes a 10-part behavior chain in which the dog must correctly perform 10 different behaviors in succession. Awesome trainers and awesome dogs...Patriot PAWS has both!



ELI'S CORNER

Even though I have a natural talent where training dogs is concerned, the more dogs I help to train, the more I realize that there is always something new to learn. It's true that each breed has certain characteristics, but every dog has his own unique personality with both strengths and weaknesses. Just as with people and cats, no two dogs are exactly alike, nor will they necessarily learn from standard training methods. Even our staff trainers certified through The Karen Pryor Academy will tell you that training dogs is a lifelong learning experience.

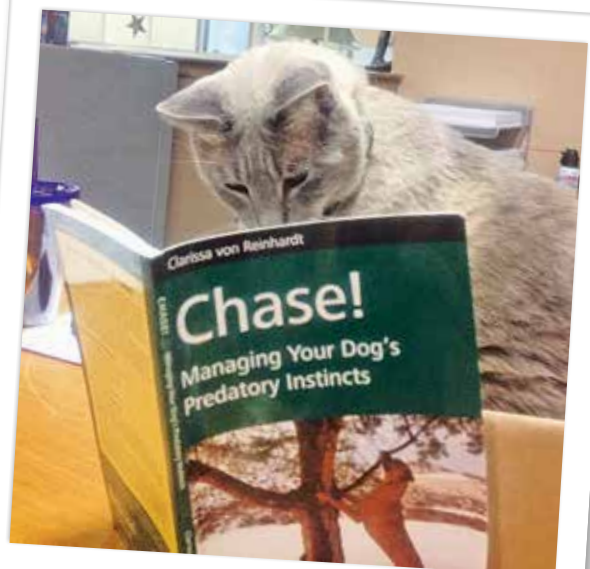
I've attended two Karen Pryor workshops myself and learned a great deal from them, but sometimes, it becomes necessary to delve into our library of dog training publications to address a particularly difficult or unusual problem. It takes more than book knowledge, though, to overcome the challenges that we trainers face in the extensive training that goes into producing a top quality service dog. It also takes a whole lot of patience and understanding and love...

love of what we do, for whom we do it and love of... (Dare I admit this?)...dogs. There, I've said it...I love dogs! I just broke Catti-tude Rule #9 (never admit you like a dog, even if you do), but then, I've always been a bit of a rebel.

So to all of you who are struggling to train your own beloved canine, just remember this...love him first, and the rest you can learn together.

Until next time, dear friends.

Eli



AS DONORS EXPAND OUR REACH OUR FAMILY GROWS



Represents states with
Patriot PAWS recipients.
Not every recipient is
pictured.

OUR FAMILY TREE IS SPROUTING NEW PUPPY BRANCHES!

YOU CAN ALSO READ OUR NEWSLETTERS ONLINE



WHO IS PATRIOT PAWS SERVICE DOGS?

Patriot PAWS Service Dogs is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Through our program disabled veterans, who receive service dogs **free of charge**, regain lost independence and emotional stability. Prison inmates, who have an active part in training the service dogs, have the opportunity to learn a new vocation and give back to society while incarcerated. Rescue and shelter dogs are given a new lease on life and will help to change people's lives. Caring for one of our dogs-in-training can cost up to \$30,000. **Only through tax-deductible donations are we able continue our mission of helping disabled veterans.**

DONATE TODAY AT: WWW.PATRIOTPAWS.ORG

We accept all major credit cards (online or over the phone), cash, checks and money orders. A return envelope is enclosed in this newsletter for your convenience.

ALSO CONSIDER:

- Setting up a recurring donation
- Honoring or memorializing someone with a donation (remember to send us information so an acknowledgment can be sent)
- Matching your employee's donation
- Pledging for a 3-year period
- Becoming an ambassador
- Conducting a fundraiser
- Volunteering or becoming a puppy raiser

TOP LEFT TO BOTTOM RIGHT: ANGEL, CAMY, FOSSIL, DUSTY, PILOT, GRANT, MURPHY, HOFFY, PATTON.

PATRIOT PAWS SERVICE DOGS IS LOCATED AT 254 RANCH TRAIL, ROCKWALL, TEXAS 75032
FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT PATRIOTPAWS.ORG
OR CALL **972-772-3282** • **CFC# 35710**

