



Bark All About It

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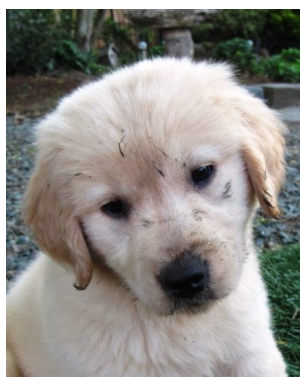
Dogs for the Deaf
Foster Puppy Program

Thank you letter



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"A dog is the only thing on earth that loves you more than he loves himself."
- Josh Billings

Such an exciting holiday issue that we have in store for you! There is so much going on here at Dogs For The Deaf and I am glad I get to share it with you. We have a new addition to our team of foster puppy raisers, who we are excited for you to meet. There are some holiday safety tips, as well as training tips from one of our very own Certified Trainers, along with some of the latest news of what we have been up to here at Dogs for the Deaf. As you read this newsletter, whether you're sitting by a warm cozy fire, frantically trying to wrap presents, or waiting for puppy class to start, I want you to know that you have given us the best gift of all, taking the time from your hectic schedules to help raise a Future Assistance Dog. We couldn't have asked for a better group of foster puppy raisers! So stay safe and warm this holiday season and look out for Santa (I put in a good word for all of you). Happy Holidays!



Cheers,

Hannah Crane

Hannah Crane

Foster Puppy Program Coordinator

Meet Belle!



Our new addition to the puppy program has arrived! Meet Belle, a beautiful 9-week-old black lab puppy. She was so graciously given to us by Guide Dogs for the Blind in San Rafael, California. After a long drive, Belle arrived at Dogs for the Deaf on November 30th and was placed in her new foster home with Vanessa. Together, Vanessa and Belle have started off on their new journey and have attended their first training class! While Belle was fascinated by all the Christmas trees and lights, their first class was a success. We have high hopes for this team and are so glad that Vanessa has joined our team of puppy raisers. Paula and I are so lucky that we get to watch all of you raisers on your journey with these foster puppies. Each one of you has become such a strong team and it has been such a great pleasure to get to know each one of you. Thank you for all your hard work!



So Long, Farewell, and Good Luck

It is with a heavy heart that I announce that one of our Obedience Trainers, Cameron, has left the Dogs for the Deaf team. As some of you may know, Cameron is a bright young trainer who is passionate and enjoys the work she does and continues to do with Assistance Dogs. Although she is grateful for the opportunity and time she spent at Dogs for the Deaf, she was given the chance of a lifetime to follow her dreams in becoming a Guide Dog Trainer. Cameron wanted to leave some parting words for all of our foster puppy raisers:

“When it comes to dog training, and keeping outings positive, if people aren’t looking at you crazy then you aren’t doing it right. It was such a privilege to work with this wonderful group of foster homes. Each of you are sacrificing a lot of yourself to drastically improve the life of another individual— that is amazing! I hope you will always be as proud of the hard work and time you have put into your foster puppy as I am in all of you. Keep up the good work!”

Even though we are all sad to see her go, we wish her the best of luck on her new adventure and encourage her to continue to follow her dreams.



The Most Wonderful Time of the Year



The holidays have finally arrived! The frost glitters in the morning while twinkly multi-colored lights set these long nights aglow, and the fresh smell of Christmas trees lingers in the brisk winter air. It's no wonder that this is considered the most magical season for people of all ages. While you are out building those snowmen and celebrating all that this time of year has to offer, I only ask that you keep your foster puppy's well-being in

mind. Although celebrating traditions long-held by your family may not be new to you, your foster puppy is going to be experiencing all of these things for the first time.

Here in southern Oregon, winter can be down right cold! First general rule of winter; if it is too cold for you, it is too cold for your foster puppy to be outside, so keep walks short and wipe their paws off when you go back inside. Snow and rock salt can gather in between their paw pads and cause irritations. Also, even though rock salt is not poisonous, it can cause an upset stomach or vomiting if your foster puppy decides to ingest it. Antifreeze can also collect in parking lots or anywhere cars are and is extremely toxic to dogs but is also enticing to them because of its sweet smell. Never leave your foster puppy alone in the car when it is cold. If there is snow on the ground and your foster puppy is refusing to go potty outside, shovel a patch clear for them to use. If the air is drying out your dogs skin, try not to bathe them often, and if you do, make sure they are completely dry afterwards. You can use a hair dryer on a low setting; if you use it on high you can potentially burn your foster puppy's skin. Brushing your dog often can also help with circulation and distribute their body's oils, preventing dry skin.

Christmas trees, plants, ornaments, and presents can also be hazardous to your foster puppy. Be sure to block off access to the tree to prevent the puppy from knocking it over or trying to eat it. The stagnant water in the basin can contain harmful fertilizers and also breed bacteria. Ornaments can cause choking or be broken. Tinsel can be swallowed and cause intestinal blockages. Pine needles can puncture the intestines if digested. Wrapping paper, ribbon or string used on presents can cause internal blockages. Holly, mistletoe, and poinsettias are poisonous to dogs and plastic plants can cause blockages if swallowed. Be sure to place any wiring or battery packs out of reach of puppies. If bitten, they can cause a shock and batteries will leak acid that causes burns. Also keep any leftover food, alcohol, and candles out of reach.

This time of year can be very exciting, yet stressful for your foster puppy, so be sure to keep a safe, warm, and quiet space set up. Arrange for quiet times throughout the day. This will be especially helpful when you have high volumes of guests over or when the fireworks are going off on New Year's Eve. Have fun and stay safe this holiday season.



Training Tips By Jenny

Fostering a future Assistance Dog as a puppy is no easy task, so props for whomever takes this challenge on. There are many pieces to training an Assistance Dog, but as the foster parent there are a few key elements to keep in mind:

- **Basic Obedience**— Reward the puppy with a yummy treat for doing “good” things like sitting, lying down, not jumping, making eye contact, and walking nicely on a leash. The more a dog is reinforced for a certain behavior, the more they will offer that behavior. This helps to eliminate any bad behaviors that may otherwise start if they aren't rewarded for the good ones.
- **Socialize**— Expose a puppy to anything and everything. It is important that puppies experience a wide variety of people, places, animals, things, surfaces, and textures in a positive way during his or her young years. This helps the puppy to cope with life and the various stressors that may come up in the best way possible as he ages.
- **Calming Effect**— Autism Assistance Dogs will be a major calming factor in the lives of the children they will be working with. One way to get your foster puppy used to this is to get them used to lying calmly on their sides and just relax. Reward with a treat for lying down wherever you go, whether it be in public, the park, or at home.
- **De-sensitization**— Since these future Autism Assistance Dogs will be working with children, they need to be handled in a variety of places on their bodies such as their heads, tails, paws, teeth, and ears. A great way to do this is to pair a touch of the ear with a treat. Then touch their paw and reward with a treat. Do the same thing with different places on their body. The puppy will soon associate handling with a treat and be much more willing to accept this from a child.
- **Focus**— Autism Assistance Dogs are trained to act as an anchor for a child on the Autism Spectrum to prevent bolting, so this means that they need to be extremely stable despite the situation. One great thing to do while you are fostering a puppy is to reward the puppy when he or she remains calm around various distractions like screaming children, loud trucks, wheelchairs, a variety of people, etc. Let the puppy look at the distraction and encourage puppy to make eye contact with you. In the future, when this puppy becomes an Assistance Dog, they need to be able to ignore all the madness and focus on their handler.



Latest News from Dogs for the Deaf



Our latest graduate is a handsome boy named Dallas. He graduated as a Program Assistance Dog and is now helping children in the classroom! His presence in the classroom helps children who have a difficult time learning to relax and focus on their work. Dallas has only been on the job for a few days and has already made a tremendous difference!

These children now have a brighter educational future all thanks to a little help from their new friend Dallas. It is stories like this that help fuel us here at Dogs for the Deaf, because we love what we do and we are working to make a difference.



Building the Community

My goal with the Foster Puppy Program is to build a sense of community between Dogs for the Deaf and our beautiful southern Oregon. I envision a community that is aware and knowledgeable of the work we do for families all over the U.S. and encourage people to get involved! I believe there is no better way to bond than to bond over puppies! If you are ever out and about socializing your foster puppy and people spot you, don't be shy about having a conversation with them about what you are doing and why. We want people to know we are here trying to help improve lives and you, our foster families, are a huge part of that and also a part of the Dogs for the Deaf family.

FUN FACT

GEORGE LUCAS
MODELED THE
EWOKS FROM THE
MOVIE STAR WARS
AFTER HIS FAMILY
DOG

Toys For Joy

As the holidays are rapidly approaching, now is the time to find those perfect gifts for your loved ones. When shopping this holiday season we humbly ask you to keep Dogs for the Deaf in mind. It takes two minutes to add us as your charity for AmazonSmile and it is at no cost to you. For every eligible item purchased on AmazonSmile, Amazon donates a percentage of your purchase. These donations will go straight to our Toys for Joy fund so that Santa may visit the hard working Assistance Dogs in our kennels. Donations can also be made on our website: www.dogsforthe deaf.org.



Dogs for the Deaf Foster Puppy Program

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Professionally training dogs to assist people, enhance lives & provide greater independence is what Dogs for the Deaf is all about.

Our Mission

Dogs for the Deaf's mission is to professionally train dogs to help people and enhance lives while maintaining a lifelong commitment to all dogs we rescue or breed and the people we serve.

Our Vision

Dogs for the Deaf's vision is to be a premier national provider of professionally trained Assistance Dogs.

History

Dogs for the Deaf, Inc., a 501(c)(3) non-profit, "for impact" organization, was founded in 1977 by the late Roy G. Kabat. Roy worked with exotic and domestic



Dogs for the Deaf founder, Roy Kabat, with Jeremiah.

animals for movies and television and had a small traveling circus. After retiring to the Applegate Valley in southern Oregon,

he was contacted by the American Humane Association and their headquarters in Denver, Colorado. A deaf woman in Minnesota had a dog that trained itself to let her know when things were going on. As she lost more and more hearing, the dog alerted her to more and more things. After her dog died, the woman realized how much she had come to depend on the dog and began a search for someone to train a new dog for her. The American Humane Association began some experimental work trying to train dogs

to help people who were deaf, and they wanted Roy's advice. After spending two weeks in Denver, Roy came back to Oregon and began Dogs for the Deaf.

Dogs for the Deaf was first housed outside Jacksonville, Oregon, then moved in 1989 to our current 40 acre site at the base of lower Table Rock in Central Point, Oregon.

Dogs for the Deaf maintains a life-time commitment to every dog rescued from shelters and every client helped.