

#### Team Members

**Sandy Mays**Executive Director,

Dog Trainer

## Cathy Davalos Instructor

Sheila Kolby

Puppy Raiser Coordinator

**Kelly Stack** 

Southern California Outreach Coordinator

Kerri Van Pelt

Breeding Coordinator

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Sandy Mays President

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Secretary Development Program Mgr -Retired

#### Richard Johnstone

Aerospace Sr. Manager - Retired

**Terri Lewis** *Real Estate Broker* 

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**Kara Karsten**Software
Professional

# **Canine Angels Courier**

www.Canine-Angels.org

(888)K9-ANGLS

July 2009

#### **Canine Commentary**

by Director Sandy Mays

2008 was a wonderful year for Canine Angels and that has continued into 2009. Powered by incredible volunteers, generous donors and a fantastic staff, Canine Angels Service Teams (CAST) made great progress towards achieving its goals. Filing our 501 (c)(3) non-profit application and receiving a determination letter from the IRS stating our tax exempt status signaled our first milestone. But hosting Team Training and graduating our first Canine Angels Service Team was the real highlight!



We all fell head over heels for 12 year old Elina Hughes. Born with cerebral palsy, this incredibly determined young lady from Pasadena gave us her ALL as she worked towards her goal of graduating with a Service Dog. On October 17th, 2008, Elina graduated with Assisted Service Dog Zoe, a one year old, fun-loving Goldendoodle. These two learned to work as teammates with the help of Elina's Tango voice box, which allows Elina to transmit pre-recorded words and phrases to Zoe. Thanks Elina for working so hard and becoming our first official graduate. Congratulations to your terrific team.

Other dogs that have been placed since Zoe include Abba-Zaba with Jordi (see p 2), and Pals Candy with Andrew Lucas, Cinder with Carl and Avis Berglund, and Zion with Taryn Hayes.

I am so grateful to all of the outstanding people who have helped get us to this point. A cause such as ours requires the cooperation of many dedicated individuals committed to great teamwork. I am proud of our accomplishments and grateful to every one of you. Let's continue our mission and work together towards completing a second successful year.

#### Games Litter Report

Sandy got a special birthday present in May this year - 8 puppies born to our yellow lab Annie. The 4 male chocolate labs, 2 female yellow labs, and one female and one male black lab will be distributed to their puppy raisers in late summer.

After approximately one year with their puppy raisers, the Games Litter will return to the kennel in Oregon for advanced training, with placement in 2011. You can see from this timetable that each litter is a very long term commitment for CAST, offering sponsorship opportunities for vet bills and food, our most substantial on-going needs.

Thanks to Sandy & Sheila for whelping this litter, to Sue & Bill Colisch, breeder caretakers for Annie, and to Harry Richter and Beth Kemp for regular visits to the kennel to weigh, socialize, and photograph the puppies.



Pictured: Sandy Mays and Beth Kemp

#### Peanuts Litter Report

As 2008 drew to a close, Canine Angels proudly announced the arrival of a healthy litter of ten Goldendoodles. The sire is Rojo, a red standard poodle, and the dam is Bella, a Golden Retriever.

Thanks to Kerri and Henry Van Pelt, Bella's breeder caretakers, and to the puppy raisers below for opening their homes and hearts this year to give the adorable teddy bears of the Peanuts litter a good start at life:

Snoopy - Sandy Mays
Spike - Evelyn Paz
Violet - Alexis Keppler
Lucy - Kerri and Henry Van Pelt
Molly - Cathy and Joey Davalos
Belle - Nicki Lucas and Darlene Melendres
Peppermint Pattie - Debbie Perry



Ask us how you can sponsor one of our Peanuts Goldendoodles in Advanced Training in 2010!



#### Elina and Zoe's First Year as an Assisted Service Team

WOW! It's been quite an amazing year for Elina and her service dog, Zoe. They have become an inseparable, devoted and loving team since their initial Canine Angels training sessions last October. Here are some highlights from their first year together:

Zoe eased Elina's fears at airport security when coming home from the Canine Angels Team Training. Elina's mom had to go through a different section and Zoe proudly stayed right with Elina.

Zoe has become a friendship magnet for just about everyone that Elina meets. It has been wonderful for us to see the whole room light up when they arrive together for youth group meetings. Elina used to be known as the girl with the pink wheelchair. Now she is known as the girl with the really cool, irresistible curly Goldendoodle dog!

Elina enjoys playing the role of the alpha dog pack leader and her speech articulations have improved as a result. So have her aim and distance when throwing the ball for Zoe.

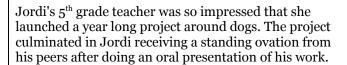
There have been many positive experiences now that Elina and Zoe are a Canine Angels Service Team – too many to list them all here. Thank you so much, Canine Angels, for being such a supportive organization for Elina and our family.

#### Jordi and Abba-Zaba's First Year Highlights

Hats off to Sandy and her matching abilities! My son Jordi and his dog Abba-Zaba could not be more alike if they had been born in the same litter. Zaba knows and follows Jordi's routine to the minute. Their likes and dislikes are so similar – jumping on the trampoline or laying around together, both a little shy, both groaning when it's time to go out.

There have been changes too, good changes. It was established from the beginning that Jordi would take care of his dog, and having this responsibility has increased his overall awareness of the surrounding environment, not only regarding Zaba, but also his little brother and the world in general.

In September, our school's crossing guard could not quite believe the sight of a smiling Jordi saying "Hello" and "Thank you", then walking away with his dog, a spring in their step. After three years, he had finally acknowledged her existence. Now Zaba is an all-time favorite with her, and she's been successful at having small conversations with Jordi while they wait at the crossing.



At age 11, Jordi is finally wearing me out with "w" questions. It is wonderful to be overwhelmed by questions from my extremely quiet child. Thank you Abba-Zaba and Canine Angels Service Teams!

To read the rest of Jordi's and Elina's stories, go to the Success Stories link on our web page www.Canine-Angels.org.



#### In Memory of Anthony Pitts

"Pop was there to support me in every way, with or without dogs. He loved them and would help puppy-sit and to socialize the little pups whenever I had a litter. I love and miss my dad. Many thanks to the Weatherly families for your support of CAST in Tony's memory."



Cathy Davalos CAST Co-founder

#### **Upcoming Events**

#### July 25 - Pet Nutrition Center Raffle for CAST

Join us at our summer fundraiser in Carlsbad, CA. We will have booths, entertainment, demonstrations, and a HUGE raffle. Dine at Daphne's Greek Cafe during the event and 20% will be donated to Canine Angels.

#### August 1 – Grants Pass Courier Garage Sale

We will have a booth at this event which is for non-profits only. In the Courier parking lot, 8am-2pm. Come shop!

## August 30 - Shane's Inspiration Annual 5K/10K Walk & Roll, Griffith Park, Los Angeles

Volunteers are needed to work in our booth.

### September 19 - Canine Angels Dog Walk and Kids Faire, Grants Pass, OR

JD Platt's K9 Kings Flying Dog Show will be headlining once again. There will be also be a bounce house, live music and a scavenger hunt. 8:30am-1:30pm. <u>Watch our website for the location</u>.

#### October 18 – CHOC/Disneyland Walk in the Park

#### YOU ARE INVITED!!

#### Mark your calendar and join us for graduation.

Canine Angels Service Teams 2009 Graduation Saturday, August 22 11:00 am

Schmidt Family Vineyards Kubli Road Grants Pass, OR (888) K9-ANGLS

Graduation is the exciting culmination of Team Training, which will be held in Grants Pass from August 11 - 22. During the two weeks of class, applicants will be matched with their dogs and trained for successful teamwork, through a combination of classroom time and field trips.

The public is invited to participate by providing lunches for about 10 people. To find out how else you can help with Team Training or Graduation, contact Sandy at 888-K9-ANGLS.



\*CAST would like to thank Pet Nutrition Center of Carlsbad (pcnpets.net) for their continued support of our program. Owner Kelly Bates is preparing her store's second fundraiser for us. Kelly has also donated many raffle prizes for other events, as well as food and supplies for our dogs in Advanced Training.

\*Thank you to Julie Bergen for helping produce our first newsletter.

\*We extend a very humble thank you to the many volunteers who gave the precious gift of their time. We couldn't have done it without you.

\*Many thanks to our 2008 donors. (2009 donors will be recognized in the next newsletter.)

#### 2008 Donors

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#### Canine Angels Service Teams is 100% donor funded.

This summer our biggest need is financial support for the Team Training and Graduation events in August. Our web site also has a wish list of other support opportunities.

To donate by PayPal or credit card, visit <a href="www.Canine-Angels.org">www.Canine-Angels.org</a>.

To donate by check, simply return the donation slip below. We hope you don't mind supplying the envelope so we can put your donations to better use.

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