



WHAT'S INSIDE:



Meet the newest members of the UDS Service Dog Program. They are cute as can be and ready to start their journeys.

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Learn about the difference between a search and rescue dog and a service dog. Both dogs serve very important purposes!

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Our most recent graduates that are now in service as facility dogs.

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Updating you with interesting information and the fun happenings with our service dogs

UDS Service Dogs'

Tails & Tales

Employee Highlight:

Jennifer King

(by Gina Melasecca)

Jenn and Nova at a PSU Mini-Thon

Jenn started with UDS as Administrative Assistant. She is still in administration, however, she is now also part of the Ambassador Team for the UDS Service Dogs Program with her trusty side kick, Nova.

- **How long have you worked for UDS?** 2.5 years, 3 years in November
- **What does your current role require you to do and why is this important for UDS?** The Admin assistant role allows me the opportunity to work with multiple departments, doing various things to help work-life at UDS run a little smoother. I also coordinate the UDS Challenger Football Cheerleading League, attending Saturday games, arranging for fun activities and guests to come join us during the 10 week season. I also set up the end of season awards banquet for the players / cheerleaders. I do everything from working with the church to setting up the room, menu, and putting together power point slide shows of the activities during the season. I also prepare the award certificates for each player / cheerleader /and our volunteers. I order all the trophies, medals, and special gifts for each of our amazing coaches. I also put together our monthly newsletter, and work with our office assistant Nancy Eledge to make sure supplies are taken care of for all of our locations including ILS Lancaster, Tamaqua, and the Williamsport office. We work together to print out business cards and provide extra support to various departments throughout the company.
- **What is an average day or week at UDS like for you?** I don't really have an average or typical workday / week as my days need to adapt and change but I can honestly say my days are filled with smiles from those I work with, camaraderie with my team members, joy in my work, and dog kisses. I honestly enjoy each facet of all my duties at UDS.

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ISSUE NO. 1

1ST QUARTER

UPDATE

2019



SERVICE DOG STARS! SULLY BUSH

(by Jen Beattie)

Service dog Sully H.W. Bush:

- Was trained by America's VetDogs
- Was named after heroic pilot Chelsey Sullenberger who landed a US Airlines Flight 1549 on the Hudson River after both engines were taken out, saving all passengers onboard
- Was assigned to President Bush when a request was received after the death of Former First Lady Barbara Bush
- Was chosen for Former President H.W. Bush based on his adaptability knowing the former president travelled often and received many visitors
- Performed tasks such as opening doors, object retrieval, notifying caregivers when assistance was needed, and comfort
- Was with president Bush for 6 months until his death on November 30, 2018
- On February 27, 2019 he was sworn into the U.S. Navy as a petty officer at Walter Reed medical center, joining the medical center's dog team
- Was awarded the "PAWS of courage award" by the AKC for his service with President H.W. Bush



Sully can be followed on Instagram @sullyhwbush

- **What role did you start in, and what role are you in now?** I started as Administrative assistant. I am still in Admin, but I am now so part of our Ambassador Team for the UDS Service Dogs Program with my trusty side kick Nova.
- **In what ways have you seen the company change?** We have moved to a new, bigger, brighter office location. We have also added new staff to help provide care for our new 2,000+ clients. I have seen UDS change to meet the ever-new challenges of the MCO system the state is implementing and serving those to the best of our abilities.
- **What do you love most about working for UDS?** The people I work with, the people I get to interact with through Challenger, and the Service Dog program, and having a new wonderful opportunity to share a long-time passion of our service dog program with those in our communities. Of course, one of the best things is taking my work home with me each night, with UDS Ambassador Dog Nova.



My name is Cooper. I was born on 5-13-19. I am a black Labrador retriever that has a very calm and soothing personality. I have huge ears and feet, I will be a big dog!

I came from the NEADS service dog facility in Princeton, MA. I am living with Hope and her family until mid-September.

I am a pup that has no fear and I am a good listener. Some of my favorite things already are sit, stay, down, tug, and carry. I also enjoy playing with my foster brothers (they are doodles).

I am attending UDS training classes and will be off to *Moshannon Valley*. I will be raised in their BARKS Pups in Prison program. I will come back to Lancaster when I turn 1 year old.

Applying and waiting for a service dog

(by Katherine Flood)

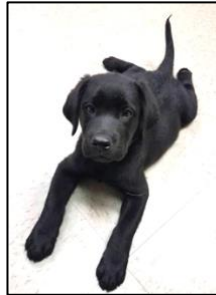
Waiting for a service dog can be a very long and frustrating process. Patience is more than necessary. Even the acceptance part of the process is a fairly complicated. Applicants should NOT expect a dog "presto-chango!"

While one waits, you should make people aware of your acceptance, your expectations, and possibly pursue fundraising. Also, it is very important to go to training classes. Begin to see and understand what a service dog will offer and the commands that must be learned. It is so important to follow all commands when your dog is assigned to you. However, do this with the understanding, it is just preparation and there is no guarantee of a dog upon completion.

Remember through it all that you will be receiving a wonderful treasure. Owning a service dog is more than a gift. It is a responsibility. Just as you will learn to rely on your dog; so, he or she will rely on you.

This, I share while still awaiting my dog. I must remind myself of the words I've shared and also any service dog is fitted (like a wedding gown) to fit the owner.

NEW PUPS JOIN THE UDS FAMILY



My name is Dugan (Do-gan) and I was born on June 9, 2019. I am a Black Labrador Retriever. My dad is Winston and my mom is Crystal from YBR.

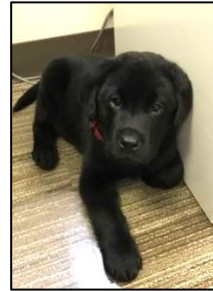
I am living with Kristy until I go to train in our BARKS, Pups in Prison program at Moshannon Valley!

You might see me around at UDS until I leave, everyone likes to pick me up and squeeze me.

I don't think I like to be chased but if I come to you, I would enjoy petting and kisses.

I look forward to my training and learning how to become a Service Dog.

Before I go, you may be seeing lots of information about a new fundraiser to benefit our program, it's called The Great Pup-kin Virtual 5K – please share with your friends and family on Facebook and maybe they will share with their friends and family making this a super successful 1st time event!



Hi, my name is Murphy!

I may have already met you ☺

I wanted to tell you a little about me before I go to prison! I haven't really done anything wrong, This is how they do things in our program. They tell me I am going to Moshannon Valley and I will be raised in their BARKS Pups in Prison program. I will come back to Lancaster when I turn 1 year old.

I am a Black Labrador Retriever and my birthday is March 2, 2019 and I was born at YBR Farms.

My sponsor has decided to remain anonymous. I was named in memory of Jerry Murphy a radio personality for WIOV who died unexpectedly last year.

I get to meet all the great people at the radio station, it should be lots of fun!

I can't wait to meet you!



My name is *Harper* and I am a female Yellow Labrador Retriever.

I was born on June 3rd from a litter through the ABC Breeding Program. My father was with Southeastern Guide Dogs and my Mom is with SSD.

I am living with Kayleigh and her family for a couple of months and then I will head to SCI Houtzdale and train in our RUFF Pups in Prison Program!

I have started coming to UDS trainings. They want me to get comfortable before having too many people snuggle and hug me! She is sweet, calm and confident but can definitely hang with the big dogs.

I look forward to meeting everyone and starting my training to become a Service Dog or maybe a Facility Dog!

Search and Rescue: A career change!

(by IdaMae Devers)



One of our very own UDS Service Dogs, Hazel, left the program to become a search and rescue dog out West. Her skills from UDS training were a great start. Here are some highlights of what Hazel may embark on in the future.

Search and rescue dogs remain one of the best tools for search and rescue despite all of the advances in technology. Search and rescue dogs are a valuable component in wilderness tracking, natural disasters, mass casualty events, and locating missing people. Law enforcement agencies, fire departments,

and rescue organizations depend on such dogs to locate missing people. These dogs not only have superior abilities to hear and track scents, they also display impressive strength, endurance, and mental stability. Dogs trained for these highly specialized tasks receive very focused professional training for the specific area of search and rescue they will eventually work. The areas in which these dogs are trained are air scent, trailing, tracking, disaster, cadaver, water search, and avalanche. Training is rigorous, time consuming, and comprehensive for both the dog and the handler. Training is begun early in life for the puppy normally beginning at 8-10 weeks, deployment of the dog with his/her handler is 12-18 months of age, and retirement is normally between 5-10 years for the dogs.

Not all rescue dogs participate in the same missions, these dogs are highly trained for specific areas such as; dead or living people, scents carried by the air, or follow trails. They are trained to pick up specific scents and smells which make them invaluable at disaster sites.

Search and rescue dogs work tirelessly to reach the person/people they are tasked with finding. Although this is a very stressful situation for those involved these dogs see it as a game. They are trained with positive reinforcement which means, treats and toys are utilized as rewards. Although the dogs might see this as a game, search and rescue dogs work extremely hard. This early retirement is due to physical fatigue and damage caused to them during this time of working as a search and rescue dog.

There is no single breed utilized in search and rescue, however not all dogs are suitable for this type of work. Search and Rescue dogs must be agile and resilient to withstand the difficulties of the work. Search and rescue dogs must not be too small or too large. Giant breeds such as Great Danes and St. Bernard are usually not used. With that being said some rescue dogs must be strong enough to hold or drag people, in these cases, large breeds such as Newfoundland's, which has enough strength to swim while a human is attached to its harness are used.

Search and rescue dogs are referred to as working dogs (not service dogs). Both search and rescue dogs and their handler deserve the utmost respect and care. If you see a team take a moment to give them your thanks.

Hazel being taught how to be air lifted. She has a cool ride too!



Hazel's main squeeze & handler, Jonathan



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Important definitions to help you with training

Arousal

Arousal can be caused by excitement, fun, confusion, uncertainty, fear, anxiety, relief or any strong emotion. Arousal is not necessarily bad unless it interferes with the pup's ability to think and learn. If this occurs, the pup's arousal level must be lowered before training continues.

Excitable:

An increase in energy and arousal levels without observed stress signals in response to stimuli such as, but not limited to, greeting a person, seeing another animal, being petted, anticipating going outside or for a walk or car ride; may whine in response to stimulus.

Activated:

Copes with stress poorly, evidenced by becoming more active such as faster movements, taking treats harder, more distracted or other.

Productive emotional state:

A dog is able to respond to handler appropriately. If not able to, make note how long does it take them to return to a (working) productive emotional state.

Unproductive emotional state:

A dog is unable to respond to handler appropriately due to their level of arousal.

Facility dog spotlight - Recent grads

Recently some dogs have graduated and gone off to assist students in schools. They include: Wrangler, Carson, Duncan, Rory, and Gideon! The kids love them. They are doing great things by making school a very special place. Soon to take the Public Access Test are Sawyer and Samson, also placed in schools.



Sawyer



Carson



Samson



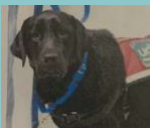
Duncan



Rory



Wrangler



Gideon

*Meet more facility dogs next issue!



There are many opportunities to volunteer with the UDS Service Dog Program. Consider donating some of your time today.

***Puppy Homes** – Give us a few months of your time, patience and love to raise and help train a puppy.

***Dog Sitters** – Provide a short respite for Puppy Home people by keeping their pups while they're away from home.

***Puppy Pals** – Assist a Puppy Home by playing with, exercising and training a puppy.

***Special Events Volunteers** – Help out at Service Dog special events, shows and fundraisers.

***Volunteers in training classes-** Assist with training one time per week

***High School Senior Projects-** The perfect community service senior volunteer project for dog-loving high schoolers – raising a UDS Service Dog puppy! This rewarding project can actually be started in your Junior year.

***Kennel Care Program-** Help exercise our dogs; take them for a walk, throw ball with them or brush them. Parents and children are invited and encouraged to get involved. Complete an application and then attend our next scheduled Volunteer Orientation.

Contact: Marlise Mellinger

Marlisem@udservices.org(717) 397-1841

***Charitable Giving-** Contact Lori Breece, Program Manager, UDS Service Dogs Office (717)715-8753

Caring for aging pets: KEEP THEM ACTIVE!

Old age is not a valid reason to stop exercising your pet. Sure, an older dog might not be able to do the same things that they could when they were younger, but there are many ways to ensure that your dog remains active and healthy throughout their senior years. Here are 4 tips to keep your older dog in shape. This applies to all ages as well.

- **Cross train.** Providing your pet with a variety of exercises is a smart way to keep their bodies strong, mobile, and healthy. Mix in core work, strength, and balance training, which are low impact.
- **When possible, cut back but don't cut out.** Maybe your dog can no longer run the 5 miles with you that they used to. This does not necessarily mean they shouldn't run! Before stopping an activity all together, try cutting back. Reduce the intensity level (e.g., the distance or speed, or both of your run). Your dog will still enjoy the benefits of the activity without it causing them discomfort or overuse.
- **Focus on weak points.** In older dogs, the hind legs tend to lose strength before the front legs do. Incorporating specific exercises that target the hind legs, like hill work and squats, can mitigate this issue and keep your pet active longer.
- **Feed your pet well.** Appropriate portions of appropriate food. Overfeeding can put undue stress on an older pet's body. The last thing they need is to be carrying around excess fat. Furthermore, choose high quality dog foods that are full of healthy, natural ingredients that can help your older dog's body regenerate and resist the aging process. And watch out for the so called "senior" foods, which tend to be much higher in carbohydrates and lower calorie fillers, when in fact, your older dog needs more protein and fat to help their bodies function at their best.

Of course, always check with your veterinarian when contemplating changes in your dog's exercise routines. Assuming that your dog is generally healthy, there is really no reason that they can't exercise for their entire life. Excerpt taken from PetNet: <https://www.petnet.io/blogs/food/tips-for-exercising-senior-dogs>

Play with your dog: MAINTAIN THAT BOND!

One of the best reasons to play with your dog is because of the bond it forges.

Additionally, dogs need mental stimulation in order to not get bored and to help with good behavior. Dogs start to learn manners during play as a puppy. If they are too rough they will get redirected by the other dogs.

Of course, play also gives dogs the exercise that they need to stay healthy.

Don't forget: YOUR HEALTH!

There is no better way than to relieve the stress of the day by coming home and playing with your dog! That is a win-win for both of you!

