Meet America’s New Canine Disaster Search Teams
Andrea Sutcliffe & Skye, Michelle Whalen & Tom
First National Training Center Graduates

Back row L to R: Trainers - Lyz Gregory, Sonja Heritage, and Lee Culley
Front L to R: New Texas Search Teams - Andrea Sutcliffe & Skye, Michelle Whalen & Tom
Story on page 7

Photo: Lalita Segal
WE HAVE NOT FORGOTTEN

Recognizing Our Nation’s First Responders

“We Have Not Forgotten”

What does “We Have Not Forgotten” mean to you?

What went through your mind when you saw Search Dogs combing the rubble of this year’s deadly Midwest tornadoes, the Japan or Haiti earthquakes, Hurricane Katrina, or the World Trade Center tragedy in 2001?

How do you feel about the men, women, and canine heroes who dedicate themselves to your safety—to making sure that when an emergency unfolds, everything possible is done to save the lives of you, your family, and your community?

During the month of September, the Search Dog Foundation honored America’s First Responders—both two- and four-legged. This year, we set in motion a lively and heartfelt discussion on Facebook, asking our supporters what our nation’s firefighters, police, and rescue workers—and their canine partners—mean to them. We shared stories, photos and videos from our handlers and trainers, and from you, the people who make it possible for unwanted dogs to go from homeless...to fearless and create America’s top Search Teams.

“I would like to pay tribute to ALL of the first responders — police, firefighters, emergency medical people and backup crews—who risk their lives, and go into the danger that we try to flee from. The wildfires in the west, the tornados, hurricanes, collapsed structures... these men and women go forth where really, no one else dares to go. How important it is that we have people who WILL help in our time of need!”

— Pluis Davern, SDF Founding Lead Trainer

“Every day, thousands of emergency calls are answered by First Responders across America. These First Responders are the front-line defense to save lives and protect property in our communities. Whether they are firefighters, paramedics, police officers or volunteers, I can tell you first-hand that these men and women experience dangerous situations every day to save lives and protect property. They respond in minutes to your emergencies that find you at your greatest need and darkest hour.”

— Rick Lee, SDF Founding Handler

“While we are saying ‘we have not forgotten’ to the First Responders, there’s also the part that they are saying to us: ‘We haven’t forgotten that you may have lost someone, or you can’t find someone that you care about that you love.’ Because of them, we can make sure that no one is forgotten or left behind.”

— Lisa Gorski, SDF Lifetime Care Home

See what “We Have Not Forgotten” means to our handlers, trainers and supporters.

Visit www.WeHaveNotForgotten.org

The U.S. has about half the number of Search Teams needed to adequately respond to disasters in our country. SDF works to fill this gap in America’s disaster response network by recruiting rescued dogs and partnering them with first responders to save lives. Your gifts enable us to take extraordinary canines from homeless...to fearless.

Thank you for remembering America’s Heroes...

Thank you for being Part of the Search!
IN MEMORIAM

Robert Ford Peterson, Jr.
March 11, 1945 - September 13, 2013

On Friday, September 13, 2013, Robert Ford Peterson, Jr. passed away at the age of 68 in a Santa Barbara Hospice. With his passing, the National Disaster Search Dog Foundation lost a Founding Board member, an advisor, a friend.

A graduate of UC Berkeley, Robert practiced estate and probate law for 42 years in Ventura. He helped incorporate SDF as a nonprofit in 1996, volunteered to become our first Board Member, and served on the Board until 2005. It took a steady hand to lead us through those early years when the Board had to make complicated decisions about the direction of the organization that would affect our future, especially in 2001 when we gained national attention after our teams deployed to the World Trade Center.

Robert will be greatly missed, but his contribution to the early days of SDF will never be forgotten.

Tom McGrath
April 5, 1946 - October 13, 2013

It was a gift from the McGrath’s, one of Ventura’s pioneer farming families, that made it possible for the Search Dog Foundation to purchase the land for the National Training Center in 2006 and embark on the creation of America’s first home for Canine Disaster Search Teams. During the past seven years we have enjoyed getting to know Sean and Tom McGrath and Tom’s wife Brianne.

This ranching family shares a deep love of the land and of dogs, and in June of 2013, Sean became the Sponsor of one of the first canines trained at the NTC He named the dog Tom in honor of his brother.

We were all deeply saddened to learn that Tom McGrath passed away on October 13th after a six-month battle with cancer. Only five days before, Canine Tom had been paired with Texas Handler Michelle Whalen – one of the first teams trained entirely at the National Training Center.

Tom’s happy, generous nature lives on with his namesake, Search Dog Tom, whose life is now dedicated to helping those in need.

When I first met Robert SDF was housed in a one-room offic... Seventeen years later, we’re building a Training Center for all of America’s Search Teams—made possible by a gift from the McGrath family. Believe me, without Robert’s early guidance and Tom and Sean’s belief in our mission and tremendous support, we wouldn’t be in a position to provide this resource to the nation.”

— Wilma Melville
On September 16, 2013, Andrew Pitcher & Chief and Damon Wirth & George of Nebraska Task Force 1 were called out to search neighborhoods in the Boulder area ravaged by floods that claimed seven lives and left 140 people missing. Together with rescue workers from Colorado Task Force 1, Missouri Task Force 1, Nevada Task Force 1 and Utah Task Force 1, the teams combed 3,100 structures and covered a total of 250 miles to make sure no one had been left behind as National Guard helicopters flew rescue missions overhead. The canines made their handlers proud as they deftly searched in unfamiliar scenarios and helped keep survivors and search teams in good spirits. This was our 99th deployment since our inception in 1996.

In May of 2013, a series of tornadoes carved a wide and tortuous path of destruction through Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Illinois and Iowa, killing scores of people and tearing apart the lives of entire towns. The storms were so powerful they ripped the paint off houses and tossed trees through the air like toothpicks. The Moore, OK disaster was one of the worst tornadoes in recorded history, killing 24 and leveling entire neighborhoods.

A total of 11 SDF teams were deployed to Moore and Shawnee, OK and Granbury, TX, searching day and night to make sure no one was left behind. We are so grateful to these skilled, dedicated handlers and their faithful canine partners for all they do to prepare for and perform this difficult exhausting work:

**OKLAHOMA TASK FORCE 1**
Adrienne Seibel & Gunny
Brent Koeninger & Moxie
Chet Clark & Elvis
Dane Yaw & Salsa
Jason Smith & Jagger
Jeff Leon & Justice
Judy Zinn & Royce
Mark Edwards & Taz

**NEBRASKA TASK FORCE 1**
Andrew Pitcher & Chief
Damon Wirth & George
Steve MacDonald & Lilly

**TEXAS TASK FORCE 2**
Keri Grant & Tucker
Laurel Pitman & Sonic
Mike Hargrove & Hayden

We salute these dedicated first responders and their canine heroes: From Homeless... to Fearless!
Progress Report

While our teams were responding to the Midwest tornadoes and Colorado floods and our trainers were hard at work with our dogs and handlers, we were working hard to get the National Training Center up and running: creating a Transitional Kennel for the canine candidates, completing the infrastructure and Clean Water Delivery System, and finalizing plans for the Canine Pavilion.

Once the Center is complete, it will help ensure that all Canine Disaster Search Teams have the training needed for the most difficult deployments. This is possible thanks to 510 SDF stakeholders across the country who have made gifts to bring this one-of-a-kind resource to the country. Here is our October 2013 Project Update:

1. Canine Training Grounds: We completed the Wendy P. McCaw Foundation Training Grounds which includes the beautiful, spacious DeMartini Training Arena for agility and direction control, and built a 10,000 sq. ft. adjacent rubble pile. Our Training Program from Sundowners Kennel in Gilroy is now fully transitioned to the National Training Center.

2. On-site Transitional Kennel: In September we moved all of our Search Dogs-in-training from a private boarding kennel in Santa Paula to our new Transitional Kennel at the NTC. Here, our dogs can live, train, and play at the new facility while the Canine Pavilion is being built. For the first time, we can proudly say the dogs are now being housed, cared for, trained, and partnered with first responders…all at the NTC!

3. Grading and Infrastructure: The storm drains and hydro-seeding of slopes are complete and the grading of the entire site is 90% finished in preparation for further construction.

4. Canine Pavilion: Work is scheduled to begin in early November on the 13,256 sq. ft. Pavilion, a beautiful kennel and state-of-the-art learning center for humans and canines. The Pavilion is the heart of the Center, accommodating 40 dogs complete with indoor/outdoor runs. It will also house offices for our Program staff, lodging for overnight canine caregivers, a veterinary area where we can provide basic medical care for our canines, and classrooms where our teams can learn and share information to be better prepared for the next time disaster strikes. The ETA for completion: October 2014.

5. Water Treatment System: Wheeler Canyon, where the NTC is located, is a dry canyon with limited water resources, so the production of ample, clean water is key. Fortunately, SDF has found a new water source on site and successfully sank a well to access it, but the mineral content is high and the water must be treated to make it potable. We have chosen to use a Reverse Osmosis (RO) “Zero Liquid Discharge” (ZLD) system which will be the first system of its kind used in Ventura County for a commercial business operation. This will allow us to take care of the brine on site vs. transporting it daily to the landfill which puts a strain on the environment. The ETA for completion: February 2014.

6. Newman’s Own Foundation Search Team Showgrounds: We installed artificial turf to save water. Happily, the dogs love it, it’s a great spot for obedience training and play, and serves as a beautiful entrance to the facility.

7. Capital Campaign: In late December of 2012 we surpassed our Base Goal of $14.5 million. We are now close to $15.8 million (95%) against our Mid Goal of $16.5 million. After we achieve the Mid Goal, we’ll push on to our High Goal of $18.5 million which will pay off the note on the land and fund the Maintenance Endowment.

How much will the NTC cost to run?

We are focused on completing the capital campaign and making sure construction stays on budget and on schedule. We know the costs of running the NTC will increase our operational budget. We will be saving money by shifting costs away from leasing our current offices to consolidating our program elements at the NTC, but this won’t be enough to cover all of the new costs. Fortunately, in 2004 SDF created a Guardian Endowment Fund from estate gifts and there are now 217 Guardian donors. The investment income from this Fund will be restricted 100% to NTC maintenance to take care of our new home and honor our donors’ commitment to this project.

Progress as Promised

We’re working hard to meet our campaign Mid and High Goals so we can accelerate construction and complete the Canine Pavilion and Disaster Training Zone by Fall 2014. Thank you for believing in our mission and our vision enough to support this pioneering effort on behalf of America’s first responders and their extraordinary canine partners.
**Crockett**

In the fall of 1995, SDF Founder Wilma Melville teamed up with Pluis Davern, master canine trainer and owner of Sundowners Kennel in Gilroy, CA, to begin a new training program for America’s Search Dogs and handlers. Over the past 17 years, Pluis, her daughter Kate, Sharon Hanzelka, and their team, trained a total of 144 Search Teams and created a training program that set the gold standard in the field.

With our Training Center under construction in Southern California, closer to SDF’s home office and Program staff, on July 1, 2012 Pluis officially passed the leash to SDF’s new Lead Trainer, Sonja Heritage. Sonja and her team, Lyz Gregory and Lee Culley, are out at the National Training Center every day, transforming unruly, high-strung bundles of canine energy into focused, skilled, Disaster Search Dogs.

July 30, 2013 was a momentous occasion for the Search Dog Foundation, marking the graduation of Crockett, the first dog trained from start to finish at the NTC. He was partnered with veteran handler Tim Robertson of Sacramento Task Force 7, ushering in a new era for SDF.

Crockett had been picked up as a stray in Virginia in the spring of 2012 and was transported to the Animal Welfare Association of Voorhees, NJ, where trainer Phil Guida noticed Crockett’s drive and focus and contacted SDF. Crockett’s x-rays showed a serious amount of bird-shot spattered over one side of his body, so we assume he was the victim of an assault by his former owner. Together we worked to bring Crockett to the West Coast to begin his new career.

For the last several months SDF’s training teams have been perfecting Crockett’s search skills, bark alert, response to hand and whistle signals, and obedience commands. They transformed a dog who had been abandoned on a roadside to an athlete and finely tuned search machine. Crockett made it from rescued to rescuer!

Sacramento has special significance as the city where SDF placed our first Search Dogs, Ana, Dusty, and Harley with Firefighters Rick Lee, Randy Gross, and Rob Cima. We have begun this new era with the same Task Force that SDF partnered with to give America this new resource.

Crockett and the new generation of SDF Search Dogs have very big paws to fill as they carry on the legacy of all the extraordinary canines trained in Pluis’ expert hands.

“It’s an honor to know that Crockett is following in Ana’s footsteps. He and Tim can now train to the highest level and will be an asset to Sacramento City Fire, our community, our state and our nation.” — Rick Lee

“Crockett is a people pleaser; he just wants to make sure that everyone is happy. He’s a big lovey guy but he works hard and makes all the hard work that goes into being a handler worth it. I can’t even find the words to express how awesome a partner he is. I am honored to carry on the legacy of the original SDF handlers from Sacramento and know that Crockett will make them proud.” — Tim Robertson

“The National Training Center has not even opened its doors to the public and already we have a milestone to be proud of! Crockett, from a shelter in my home state of New Jersey, is the first of many dogs making the difficult a amazing journey from rescued to rescuer.” — Wilma Melville, SDF Founder
Meet Our New Texas Teams!
The first teams trained entirely at the NATIONAL TRAINING CENTER.
The new pairings are a gift to the United States, made possible by SDF supporters nationwide.
Thank you for helping SDF bring this gift to the Nation.

On Tuesday, October 8, 2013, after two weeks of rigorous training at SDF’s National Training Center, Texas handlers ANDREA SUTCLIFFE and MICHELLE WHALEN were partnered with their new Canine Disaster Search Partners, SKYE and TOM. The two handlers had been training with our existing Dallas teams as part of TEXAS TASK FORCE 2 while SDF was busy visiting shelters throughout the Western states to find rescued dogs with the potential for Disaster Search, and giving them 10 months of intensive daily training to prepare them for the extraordinary demands of emergency response.

Once the new candidates were ready to be partnered with a handler, we invited Andrea and Michelle to our National Training Center in Santa Paula, CA, to work with some of our 2013 Canine Candidates. While at the NTC, the new handlers learned how to care for the dogs, communicate using verbal and whistle commands and hand signals, and direct them over agility props and rubble. After watching the handlers and dogs work together for a week, the trainers determined the best matches. The exciting, life-changing moment came when Andrea was given Skye, a beautiful Border Collie, and Michelle was given a handsome Lab named Tom. During the next few days, the handlers worked with their new partners, creating the canine-human bond that will one day save lives.

Skye and Tom are both rescued dogs turned rescuers. SKYE was picked up as a stray by a shelter in Spearfish SD – but it’s a mystery how he got there since he was wearing a Nebraska ID tag! Labeled an “escape artist,” this energetic Border Collie had all the earmarks of a great Search Dog and was quickly recruited by SDF. TOM, a Yellow Lab, was found wandering the streets and taken in by a Central CA shelter. He impressed Lead Trainer Sonja Heritage with his intense drive, focus, and strong tug, and was immediately recruited into our Class of 2013!

Michelle Whalen & Tom
I am a Senior Officer with the Fire Prevention and Investigations Bureau of Dallas Fire Rescue and a member of Texas Task Force 2. When I was in the Army I was part of a rapid deployment unit and I always liked having boots on the ground when needed. When I joined Texas Task Force 2 it reminded me of being in the military—the need to be ready to deploy at any time, understanding that seconds count and the sooner you get there the quicker you can help.

I’ve always been an animal lover, so when I heard the Task Force was looking for Canine Handlers it seemed like a good fit for me. I believe God put us on this earth to help each other. The more I found out about the Search Dogs and how extraordinary they are, the more I wanted to be a part of the team. I knew that for a human to look through rubble for survivors would take hours, compared to the minutes it takes a Search Dog. I knew I wanted to be able to work with one of these amazing animals. I looked into SDF and thought it was remarkable how one woman, with a desire to make a difference, could create this unbelievable resource.

That was three years ago. Now it’s my turn to be ‘part of the search.’ I was recently paired with Tom, an incredible two-year-old Yellow Lab. I’m so proud to have such a highly trained partner. The Handlers Course was amazing because we were in a small class and had all the attention of three incredible trainers. Tom was the first dog I clicked with. He knew exactly what I wanted him to do and succeeded at it. It’s a wonderful feeling when the communication is really there. I am so thankful for the support of my Fire Chief and for the opportunity SDF has provided. — Michelle Whalen, Dallas Fire-Rescue

Andrea Sutcliffe & Skye
I’m the wife of a firefighter, mother of two grown children, and Executive Director of Executives In Action. It’s been a dream of mine to be paired with a Canine Search Partner. When I learned that Texas Task Force 2 was going to be awarded four new dogs, I immediately took the necessary steps to be a part of the SDF program. With the great demand for highly skilled search and rescue canines, I knew that I was in for the long haul, so I dug in and trained with the Task Force for three years, acting as a “victim” for the searches. Once the opportunity came to be paired with my own dog, I was beyond excited! I packed my bags and headed to California for SDF’s intensive Handlers Course.

My experience at the course was exceptional. The opportunity to learn from a highly skilled team of trainers and work with the SDF staff was the experience of a lifetime. The most magical part was the day that I was paired with Skye. Ultimately it was the trainers’ decision, but I think that Skye chose me as well. As a team, we will continually train and hopefully one day deploy and rescue a victim, just as Skye was rescued. Every day with this dog is a gift. I can never thank the Foundation and its supporters enough for this amazing opportunity.

With the special gift—a canine partner—that I am receiving from the Foundation, I hope to one day preserve the gift of life for a fellow human being in need. Without the Foundation and its donors, I wouldn’t be living my dream. “Skye’s the limit!” — Andrea Sutcliffe, Texas Task Force 2
Certifications

Certification marks a critical milestone for every Canine Disaster Search Team, testing their search and obedience skills, victim loyalty, and stamina as they comb up to 30,000 sq. ft. of debris in two 20-minute timed searches. In rain or shine, extreme heat or cold, these teams must be prepared to find the hidden “victims,” ignoring every distraction put in their way. We congratulate our teams who Certified or Re-Certified with FEMA or SUSAR (State Urban Search and Rescue Alliance) in 2013:

Shani Cornell & Annie, Re-Certification
Ron Horetski & Pearl, Re-Certification

**February 23 & 24, 2013 – CASTAIC, CA – FEMA**
Eric Gray & Riley, Re-Certification
Wade Haller & Rex, Re-Certification
Deresa Teller & Huck, Certification
Scott Zins & Callie, Re-Certification

**June 9, 2013 – VIRGINIA BEACH, VA – FEMA**
Brent Brainard & Fletch, Re-Certification
Matthew Kirk & Stella, Re-Certification

**June 22, 2013 – TULSA, OK – SUSAR**
Chet Clark & Elvis, Re-Certification
Mark Edwards & Taz, Re-Certification
Adrienne Seibel & Gunny, Certification
Jason Smith & Jagger, Re-Certification
Vincent Stoops & Magnum, Certification
Dane Yaw & Salsa, Re-Certification

**July 26 & 27, 2013 – WINDSOR LOCKS, CT – SUSAR**
Greg Gould & Dax, Certification
Bill Simmes & Bonnie, Re-Certification

**September 15, 2013 – WINDSOR LOCKS, CT – SUSAR**
Jason Geary & Marsi, Re-Certification
Brent Koeninger & Moxie, Certification
John Stewart & Sadie, Certification

**September 21, 2013 – WEST JORDAN, UT – FEMA**
Cynthia Sato & Roxy, Certification
Mark Schroeder & Noah, Certification
Marc Valentine & Rico, Re-Certification

**October 5, 2013 - DAYTON, OH – FEMA**
Richard Smith & Bella, Re-Certification

“*My big Chocolate Lab has found a special place in my heart. I hope to be deployed with Huck someday and see him follow in the paw steps of my two previous Search Dogs. That would be the ultimate for me! My tips for rookies: Prior to Certification just stick with the basics. Victims should be hidden well and not too close together. Practice on MANY types of surfaces with multiple types of distractions.*”  — Deresa Teller

Oklahoma Task Force 1 (left to right): Vincent Stoops, Chet Clark & Elvis, Mark Edwards & Taz, Dane Yaw & Salsa, Jason Smith & Jagger, Adrienne Seibel & Gunny. Photo: Denise Sanders

Deresa Teller & Huck and Scott Zins & Callie pose proudly after certifying at Del Valle Regional Training Center. Photo: Kate Horwick

Wade watches as Rex searches the restricted access pile during their Re-Certification test in Castaic, CA. Photo: Kate Horwick

Adrienne Seibel & Gunny traverse rubble during their SUSAR Certification in Tulsa. Photo: Denise Sanders

Callie searches for victims hidden in rubble during the Castaic Certification test. Photo: Denise Sanders
WELCOME NEW SDF TRAINERS

Lyz Gregory

Lyz’s path to SDF began with her first job at the Magic Mountain Animal Farm in Valencia, CA in 1997, working with the barnyard animals and exotics. She learned the rudiments of training while handling sheep, goats, coatis, servals and wolves. She received a degree in Exotic Animal Care and went on to work with many different species.

Prior to joining SDF, Lyz was an oncology technician at Veterinary Medical and Surgical Group in Ventura, CA. It was while working there that she started wanting to do more. As Lyz explains, “My job at VMSG required me to work closely with the clients as well as their canines. The relationship between the dog and the owner was so deep and intricate that it changed my view on what a bond like that could accomplish.” A chance read about Search Dogs led her to SDF. “Right then I KNEW that was it! I needed to work with SDF so I could do more and give back to society.”

Lyz’s first job with SDF was as a Canine Recruiter, visiting shelters for SDF. Within two years she joined our training team, and she loves it! “It means long hours and hard work, but I truly cannot imagine anything more rewarding. Here with SDF and at the NTC, I am home.”

Lee Culley

Lee joined SDF as a handler in 2004, paired with Brutus, a big beautiful German Shepherd. Within 13 months the team achieved FEMA Certification. They then participated in SDF’s IronDog competition (which she and her team won!), and were deployed to New Orleans after Hurricane Rita struck in September of 2005 and then on a missing person search in Neff Canyon, UT in 2009.

“After the September 11th tragedy I was inspired to help others, and Search and Rescue was my way to give back to my community and the nation.” She and Brutus served first with Orange County Task Force 5 and then Utah Task Force 1, where she was promoted to Canine Coordinator, coordinating training sites, setting up training scenarios, and making sure every team maintained deployment readiness.

When a training position opened up at SDF, Lee moved home to California and has been training daily at the NTC with Sonja, Lyz and the Canine Class of 2013. “I’m really excited about how the NTC is growing. It’s more than a training site for the dogs; it’s going to provide the training opportunities to keep our handlers deployment-ready.”

“It took me 34 years to figure out what I wanted to do with my life, and I feel like I am finally hom. My animal career has been incredible and filled with so much but nothing compares to the connection you make with these Search Dogs. I am excited to be able to share these dogs with the world and to be a part of SDF’s future.”

— Lyz Gregory

“My training with SDF gave me excellent preparation for deployment and work with the Task Force. I look forward to working with new teams and imparting onto new generations of handlers the knowledge I’ve gained over the past decade. I’m excited to have the opportunity to be a part of history in the next chapter of Search and Rescue.”

— Lee Culley
When she began her longtime partnership with SDF in 2000, Kellee Matthews was working for Guide Dogs of America (GDA) in Sylmar, CA as their Animal Health Director. GDA breeds calm companion animals. When Kellee got word of a hyperactive, driven dog, she helped guide them to a career in Search and Rescue.

For several years, Kellee and her husband Tim ran SDF’s Prep Kennel, where new canine recruits received basic training before entering SDF’s formal training program at Sundowners Kennel. In 2012 the Matthews relocated to Tim’s home state of South Dakota and continued their work of giving shelter dogs a second chance by creating the South Dakota Canine Center. Since then they have been recruiting dogs for SDF, and have a stellar record: the Canine Class of 2013 is comprised of a staggering NINE recruits from the Matthews, and they’re all doing wonderfully!

**Decker**
- Breed: Labrador Mix
- Recruited from: Sioux Falls Area Humane Society – Sioux Falls, SD
- Graduates: Fall 2013

**Emmett**
- Breed: Black Lab
- Recruited from: Sioux City Animal Adoption & Rescue Center – Sioux City, IA
- Graduates: Winter 2014

**Koah**
- Breed: Yellow Lab
- Donated by a private home
- Graduates: Winter 2014

**Ollie**
- Breed: Labrador Mix
- Recruited from: Western Hills Humane Society – Spearfish, SD
- Graduates: Winter 2013

**Ripley**
- Breed: Yellow Lab
- Recruited from: Sioux City Animal Adoption & Rescue Center – Sioux City, IA
- Graduates: Winter 2013

**Scout**
- Breed: Black Lab
- Recruited from: James River Humane Society – Jamestown, ND
- Graduates: Winter 2014

**Skye**
- Breed: Border Collie
- Recruited from: Western Hills Humane Society – Spearfish, SD
- Graduated: Fall 2013

**Taylor**
- Breed: Yellow Lab Mix
- Recruited from: Aberdeen Area Humane Society – Aberdeen, SD
- Graduates: Winter 2013

**Winnie**
- Breed: Australian Shepherd Mix
- Recruited from: Herding Dog Rescue of Wyoming – Sheridan, WY
- Graduates: Winter 2014

Photos by Susan Bollinger, Brian Cahm, Lee Culley, Sonja Heritage, Kate Honick, Karyn Newboll, and Tony Panzica
FROM HOMELESS TO FEARLESS - OUR YEAREND CHALLENGE

From Homeless... to Fearless™

Your support helped us train Blitz, Cole, Tanner, and their fellow 2013 candidates. Be part of the Yearend Challenge to train our future Search Dogs: The Canine Class of 2014.

The $50,000 Yearend Challenge

All gifts made by December 31st will be matched dollar for dollar; a win-win for you and America’s future Search Dogs!

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Blitz

Recruited from Guide Dogs of America (GDA) in Sylmar, CA, in March of 2013, Blitz simply had too much energy for GDA’s companion program. He has wonderful drive and an eagerness to please but has also shown symptoms of Panoarthritis (growing pains) and has been training at a slower pace than his classmates. Blitz’s puppy raiser, Naomi Jost, happily agreed to give him some R&R in her home until he gets back to his usual, lively self. Everyone at the NTC was eagerly awaiting his return and while this has caused some delay, Blitz is now back on track with his training program and will graduate in 2014!

Cole

In January of 2013, a beautiful Black Lab was added to our pack of Canine Candidates at the NTC. Cole was recruited from El Dorado County Animal Services in Placerville, CA, when he demonstrated his natural search skills to SDF volunteer Penny Woodruff who saw a future Search Dog in this athletic boy. Cole was named by his Sponsors, Carol & John Marengo. Trainer Lyz Gregory gushes, “Cole is doing great in the program! He has a wonderful tug and really enjoys all the training we toss at him.” Cole will be partnered with a handler in December of 2013 and begin the next stage of his journey.

Tanner

Discovered on a golf course in Salinas, CA, every rib visible under his coat, a local woman nursed Tanner back to health before taking him to the Golden Gate Labrador Retriever Rescue (GGLRR) in San Francisco. Tanner was adopted out to three different families but always returned because he was just “too much dog” for the average pet owner to handle. GGLRR staff member Judy Kreger recalls, “He was just desperate to be loved but he also wanted a job, even from the very start.” Thankfully they called SDF so that we could teach Tanner to channel his intensity towards a job with great purpose! Tanner has breezed through training with fervor and will graduate in December, 2013.

Your support helped us train Blitz, Cole, Tanner, and their fellow 2013 candidates. Be part of the Yearend Challenge to train our future Search Dogs: The Canine Class of 2014.

All gifts made by December 31st will be matched dollar for dollar; a win-win for you and America’s future Search Dogs!
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