



BARKALERT

FALL EDITION 2018

**PAWS ON THE GROUND:
YOUR SEARCH TEAMS IN
ACTION ACROSS
THE COUNTRY**

***An inside look: The training
of a Search Dog — defined***

**LEGACY OF HONOR:
SEARCH DOG TRIBUTES
TO HEROES GONE BUT
NOT FORGOTTEN**

4 / 2 / 14

DEPLOYMENT ALERT

AUGUST - OCTOBER 2018



KEEPING AN EYE ON THE STORMS: EIGHT SDF-TRAINED SEARCH TEAMS DEPLOYED TO FOUR HURRICANES IN EIGHT WEEKS

HAWAIIAN ISLAND QUARANTINE RULES: SAYING “ALOHA” TO SEARCH DOGS

In addition to packing their bags and ensuring they have everything they need for themselves, canine handlers must also pack food, bowls, leashes, and other items they will need for their canine partners prior to any deployment. The final stop every Search Team must make is at the veterinarian's office where the dogs are examined and confirmed to be physically ready for deployment and up-to-date on all shots.

When traveling to some parts of the world, there are strict entry rules, and Hawaii is no exception. As the only state in the U.S. that is rabies-free, Hawaii is known for having strict quarantine restrictions in place. The introduction of the disease, even on an official deployment, could have a devastating effect on the ecosystem there. All SDF Search Dogs are kept current on vaccinations at all times and their medical records go with the handler and dog as they board planes for deployment to ensure there are no technicalities that would prevent them from helping those in need at the disaster site.

Thankfully, during the August deployment for Hurricane Lane, Handlers Linda D'Orsi and Brent Brainard were part of the first group of Canine Disaster Search Teams to contact Hawaiian officials who expedited the inspection process and were able to get our Search Teams on the ground without any delay.

We are so grateful to Hawaii's state officials for their help in assisting all the Search Teams to be prepared and safe for both Hurricane Lane and Hurricane Olivia. It truly takes a village to recruit, train, care for and facilitate field operations for these amazing Search Dogs—sometimes even a village that spans state lines or the Pacific Ocean!

HURRICANE MICHAEL — SDF-trained Search Team Marshia Hall & Lilah (Florida Task Force 1 – Miami) deployed in response to Hurricane Michael on October 10 — only 11 days after returning from their mission in the wake of Hurricane Florence. Michael made landfall on the Florida panhandle northwest of Mexico Beach as a Category 4 hurricane with 155 mph sustained winds, narrowly missing classification as a Category 5 by one mile per hour. Since the storm traveled up through the Gulf of Mexico at an alarmingly quick rate, many people did not have time to evacuate and 30 people remained missing eight days after the storm, prompting Marshia and Lilah to respond alongside hundreds of other task force members from all over the country.

HURRICANE FLORENCE — On September 10, Search Teams Marshia Hall & Lilah along with Steve MacDonald & Lilly and Mark Schroeder & Noah (both of Nebraska Task Force 1 – Lincoln) deployed to the East Coast in anticipation of Hurricane Florence. At the time, Florence was expected to be the strongest, most devastating hurricane to hit the Eastern seaboard in decades. As the storm progressed, it was determined that the canines were not needed to search, but the task forces participated in numerous rescues and evacuations during their deployment. Eighteen days later, all SDF Search Teams had returned home safely.

“I can't recall a time when so many storms have threatened the U.S. in such a short timeframe. Between Olivia, Florence, and several other storms in both the Atlantic and Pacific, we all must do everything we can to be ready.”

– Brock Long, Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

HURRICANE OLIVIA — Arriving on Sunday, September 9, just over a week after our teams returned from the Hurricane Lane deployment, Search Teams Garreth Miller & Vita and Eli Thomas & Vader (California Task Force 3 – Menlo Park) staged in Hawaii ahead of Hurricane Olivia. The teams completed reconnaissance and met with local agencies to ensure everyone was ready to work together if they were called into action. During their down time, Vita and Vader enjoyed search training with task force members to keep their skills sharp and help them acclimate to the local weather and humidity. A week after their initial mobilization, the task force returned home to the Bay Area.

HURRICANE LANE — Governor of Hawaii, David Y. Ige, declared a state of emergency for the Aloha State on August 21 in preparation for Hurricane Lane. Late that evening, Brent Brainard & Decker, Linda D'Orsi & Haley (both of California Task Force 8 – San Diego), and Ed Martinez & Fritz (California Task Force 3 – Menlo Park) arrived on the islands ahead of Lane, working with local authorities to prepare for flooding in the wake of the hurricane. During the nine-day deployment, the teams were ready to help as needed and, thankfully, Lane dissipated into a tropical storm that did not cause as much damage as expected.



2018 DEPLOYMENTS

AS OF OCTOBER 20

MONTECITO MUDSLIDES

January 8-17 — Montecito, CA

Jake Armendariz & Clancy, Brent Brainard & Decker, Dennis Clark & Rugby, Dennis DiMarzio & Ty, Jason Dobbins & Diva, Davis Doty & Jester, Josh Flores & Cajun, Donovan George & Ollie, Eric Gray & Riley, Wade Haller & Rex, Sonja Heritage & Asta, Eric Ingstad & Java, Matthew Kirk & Stella, Eric Lieuwen & Jake, Manny Sampang & Eva, Cynthia Sato & Roxy, Mike Stornetta & Rocket, Doug Van Iwaarden & Sadie

MISSING PERSON SEARCH

January 17 — Delaware County, PA

Eric Darling & Ben

FLOOD PRESTAGING

February 21-23 — Malone, NY

Greg Gould & Dax

BRIDGE COLLAPSE

March 15 — Miami, FL

Julie Padelford-Jansen & Ricochet

MUDSLIDE PRESTAGING

March 20-23 — Santa Barbara, CA

Dennis Clark & Rugby, Davis Doty & Jester, Eric Gray & Riley, Wade Haller & Rex, Mike Toepfer & Deacon, Doug Van Iwaarden & Sadie

BUILDING COLLAPSE

June 18 — Poughkeepsie, NY

Brian Girard & Keila, Greg Gould & Dax

MISSING PERSON SEARCH

July 4 — Glendale, UT

Madison Warner & Tanner

PARKING GARAGE COLLAPSE

July 31 — Irving, TX

Derek Chaky & Scout, Laurel Pitman & Sonic

MISSING PERSON SEARCH

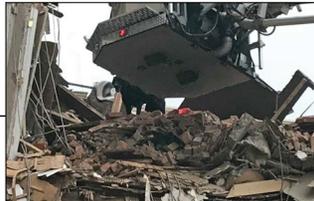
August 9 — Waterford, NY

Brian Girard & Keila, Greg Gould & Dax

UPSTATE NY FLOODING

August 14-15 — Lodi, NY

Brian Girard & Keila, Greg Gould & Dax



HURRICANE LANE

August 22-30 — Hawaiian Islands, HI

Brent Brainard & Decker, Linda D'Orsi & Haley, Ed Martinez & Fritz

HURRICANE OLIVIA

September 8-14 — Hawaiian Islands, HI

Garreth Miller & Vita, Eli Thomas & Vader

MISSING PERSON SEARCH

September 9 — Schenectady, NY

Brian Girard & Keila, Greg Gould & Dax

HURRICANE FLORENCE

September 10-28 — North Carolina

Marshia Hall & Lilah, Steve MacDonald & Lily, Mark Schroeder & Noah

MISSING PERSON SEARCH

September 19 — South El Monte, CA

Dennis Clark & Rugby, Wade Haller & Rex

STRUCTURE COLLAPSE

October 8 — West Dallas, TX

Derek Chaky & Scout, Robert Grant & Rocky, Patti Krafft & Billy

HURRICANE MICHAEL

October 10-18 — Mexico Beach, Florida

Marshia Hall & Lilah

ALL IN THE FAMILY: INSPIRING GENERATIONS OF CANINE HANDLERS

Firefighter Jason Jasgur of the Los Angeles Fire Department grew up surrounded by heroes—his uncle was a firefighter/engineer with Running Springs Fire Department in San Bernardino and his dad was a volunteer with Los Angeles County Search and Rescue. Jason was determined to become a first responder himself.

Watching his dad and uncle through the years inspired him to become a firefighter, but there was one hero in particular who inspired him to become a canine handler: his father's Search Dog Lucky.

Jason has many fond memories of Lucky—a 130-pound Alaskan Malamute trained to find missing persons in large wilderness areas—who was three years old when Jason was born. A bond grew between Jason and Lucky through the years as he helped his dad work on Lucky's obedience and served as a "victim" with his sister in training simulations. The two also bonded over their shared love of ice cream, which they would enjoy on the back patio after accomplishing a united mission to reach the freezer when no one was looking.

Jason was Lucky's most important find—when Jason was around four years old, he decided to try his luck as an escape artist. But Lucky was

dedicated to his partner-in-mischief and found young Jason, leading him back to the front doorstep, much to his father's surprise.

Growing up in a "dog family," Jason learned what it takes to be a canine handler at a young age and now shares what he learns with his father, as he trains to be a certified FEMA handler with SDF-trained Search Dog Ruffy, whom he was paired with on July 27, 2018.

"It's been an awesome learning experience going through the Search Dog Foundation," said Jason, "I'm able to share techniques and lessons with my dad and we continue to bond over our passion for working professionally with dogs to help those in need."

Jason has expanded his own "pack" too—marrying his high school sweetheart, Melanie, and becoming a father. His son, Jacob, is five years old and is already interested in working with a canine in the future. Jason has found that having Ruffy has brought his family even closer together—both his wife and son are happy to help and reinforce training at every interaction.

"Jacob is constantly asking, 'Daddy, can we go train Ruffy?' and begs to hold the leash," said Jason with a smile. "Jacob's desire and interest are what make it so much fun."

Jason and Melanie have been enjoying every

minute with Ruffy in their home, and soon they will be welcoming another addition to their family—a baby girl due in December.

Just as Lucky anticipated Jason's arrival in the 1980's, Ruffy has already shown admiration for Jason's daughter. Jason shared that Ruffy rests his head on Melanie's belly while she lays on the couch, staring up at her adoringly, seeming to listen to the baby's heartbeat.

"I'm lucky my Dad [was a handler] because it opened my eyes to the fact that my job doesn't have to separate me from my family. Instead, I can include them," said Jason. "It's exciting for everyone, both Jacob and Melanie. We train together, and Jacob gets to be involved."

As Jacob aspires to follow in his Dad's footsteps, wanting to be a canine handler when he grows up, Jason will continue to do what his father did for him—keep him involved and always encourage his interest while taking the time to teach, listen to and support his son.

"My son's enthusiasm to participate in this lifestyle and with Ruffy fills me with pride and excitement. I'm sure my father felt the same way with me at such a young age," Jason shared. "I want him to look back one day and remember the fun times we had together, just as I do with my father."



Top left: Jason and Craig Jasgur play with Search Dog Lucky in the late 1980's.

Above: Jacob Jasgur and Ruffy enjoy a quiet moment on the beach during a break from training as a family.

Left: Jason and his family pose after the SDF Graduation Ceremony on July 27 when Jason was officially paired with Ruffy.



In May, SDF hosted its first Canine Wellness Workshop for working dog handlers with instructors Dr. Cynthia Otto, of the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine, SDF Director of Canine Operations Tracy Darling, and Dr. Erin Perry, a professor at the College of Agricultural Sciences of Southern Illinois University. Handlers participated in hands-on and classroom work that focused on fitness, conditioning and nutrition to ensure their canine athletes are exercised and properly fueled for the crucial work they do. The final subject of the workshop covered canine decontamination in the field, ensuring both human and canine have been appropriately cleaned after being in a disaster zone.

Three months later, SDF welcomed instructors and veteran canine handlers Deborah Burnett (Tennessee Task Force 1), Teresa MacPherson (Virginia Task Force 1) and Peter Sellas (California Task Force 6) to the NTC to teach a course designed for Human Remains Detection (HRD) canines and their handlers. Though SDF does

SDF HOSTS TRAINING WORKSHOPS FOR CANINE DISASTER SEARCH TEAMS FROM ACROSS THE COUNTRY

not train HRD canines for our program, these dogs are a vital part of the recovery aspect of deployments, working together with live find Search Dog teams to ensure no one is left behind. With 11 teams from all over the country traveling to Santa Paula to participate, the workshop utilized the entire NTC campus, providing a variety of search scenarios for the teams, from beginner to advanced levels.

We are grateful to the instructors leading these courses and look forward to more workshops and seminars at the NTC to help keep Canine Disaster Search Teams across the country at the cutting edge of deployment readiness!

FROM THE ASHES: REBUILDING OUR CAMPUS AFTER THE THOMAS FIRE

Less than a year after the devastating Thomas Fire raged through our National Training Center in December 2017, SDF is thrilled to share that the rebuilding of Search City has begun to take shape.

Training of our canine candidates has continued on the rubble piles, under the covered training arena and in other areas of the campus, but advanced dogs have had to make do with building searches in our office areas until Search City could be rebuilt.

After extensive cleanup and re-permitting, the reconstruction of Search City is currently underway and will include upgraded training features such as an improved scent tubing system throughout the buildings, additional hides and added

lighting in the area. These new designs are based on feedback from teams during the years they were able to train in Search City before the fire and enable SDF trainers to better challenge both Search Dogs and handlers alike.

In addition to Search City being rebuilt in early 2019, we are also replacing the train car that was burned and removed. When completed, this disaster simulation prop will once again allow veteran Search Teams to prepare for a Train Wreck or similar urban catastrophe in future deployments.

We will continue to share the progress of the rebuild via email updates and social media as our campus is reconstructed over the next few months—stay tuned!



RECONNECTING SHELTER DOGS WITH HUMANS THROUGH TLC: TRAINING, LOVE AND CARE



The transformation from shelter dog to Search Dog is not an easy one. Dogs who may have been neglected or abused by humans must learn to trust again and form an inseparable bond that will carry them through training and their new lives as Search Dogs.

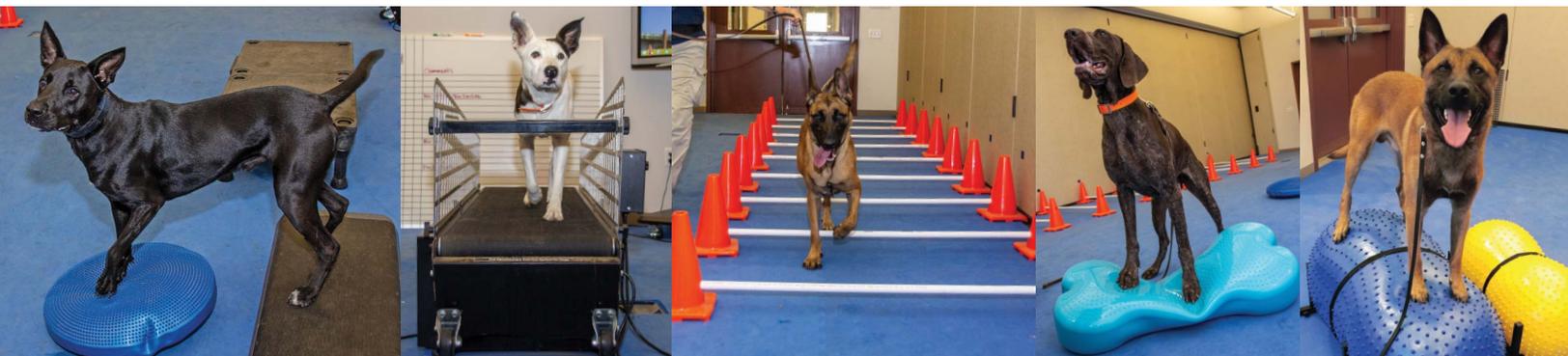
At SDF, we believe that every interaction we have with our canines is an opportunity to build stronger connections and enhance the lives of our candidates, while reinforcing lessons learned on the training fields. When dealing with a kennel full of rescued dogs who were recruited because of their high energy and drive, SDF relies on our Canine Care Specialists (CCS) to keep up with their activity around the clock. These dedicated staff members ensure the dogs are exercised, fed and tended to, in a manner consistent with SDF's mission. In addition to the daily care they provide, SDF has also begun to incorporate our CCS in obedience training—enhancing each dog's

experience and giving all the candidates more time with some of their favorite people here at the NTC!

Each day, CCS are assigned to a group of Search Dogs in-training. SDF Trainer Mandy Tisdale has the dogs and staff work together, teaching them basic obedience and helping them build their relationship in the process.

"It's so important that these dogs feel a connection with our staff, and the CCS are integral to each candidate's time here at the NTC," shares Mandy. "As the first people to interact with the dogs when they enter our program, they can incorporate aspects of training every step of the way. We've seen a noticeable difference using this model—the dogs are trusting us so much faster and they are progressing in their training more seamlessly because they have this consistent reinforcement of what we do out in the field each day."

IT'S ALL ABOUT THE BARC — INTRODUCING SDF'S NEW BALANCE AND ATHLETIC REHABILITATION CENTER



Disaster Search Dogs are considered elite athletes in the canine world. To give these amazing dogs the support they need to achieve the peak performance required to be deployment ready at all times, SDF created the Balance and Athletic Rehabilitation Center (BARC) at our NTC. The BARC focuses on developing core strength and balance to help prevent injuries that could occur in training or on deployment, as well as aids in the rehabilitation of dogs who experience injuries in the field—much like human Olympic competitors use specialized training centers. Complete with treadmills, balancing equipment

and agility obstacles, the BARC provides a space for SDF Trainers and Canine Care Specialists to work with each canine on a specialized training regimen tailored to their individual needs. This added workout supplements each dog's formal search training to create a stronger, more confident athlete on the rubble.

"The canines that are accepted into our program are naturally athletic, but some of the work we're asking them to do doesn't come naturally and is often a challenge for dogs," Tracy Darling, a certified Canine Rehabilitation Practitioner/Canine Fitness Trainer and SDF's Director of Canine Operations shares. "Through

daily conditioning workouts, we're seeing an improvement in the overall quality of each dog's movement and confidence over the rubble as well as enhanced performance when navigating agility elements. And we're keeping them in the best possible shape and having fun!"

The BARC is already being used each day to condition our canine candidates for the work they will do as Search Dogs. SDF will also integrate this new space into future workshops and continue to use the facility to prepare dogs in training and paired Search Dogs for deployment through proper fitness, strength training and conditioning.

The training of a Search Dog

Each element of SDF's training program is vital in completing the journey from rescued to rescuer, different and requires a unique training schedule consistent with their personality and abilities, ev



THE BARK ALERT: EARNING THE TOY

The crucial first step in the training process is when dogs are taught through engagement and play to bark for their toy. This establishes the critical Bark Alert—the signal that indicates when a Search Dog has located a victim on a deployment—which is the most fundamental skill a dog needs to develop in disaster search.



AGILITY: STAYING THE COURSE ON UNEVEN GROUND

To traverse a debris field on deployment, dogs need to be able to execute each movement with purpose, carefully placing their paws as they navigate through treacherous areas. Using a thoughtfully designed composition of teeter totters, high planks, low planks, ladders, tubes and fences, trainers work with our canines to establish confidence and strength while teaching them to use all four paws to safely get where they need to go.

Our training process equips dogs with the skills to search an area independently, figure out challenging search problems and, perhaps most importantly, trust their noses, no matter what...

— defined

and in establishing the skills and confidence needed for disaster search. While each dog is every canine candidate must master the skills that define a Search Dog:



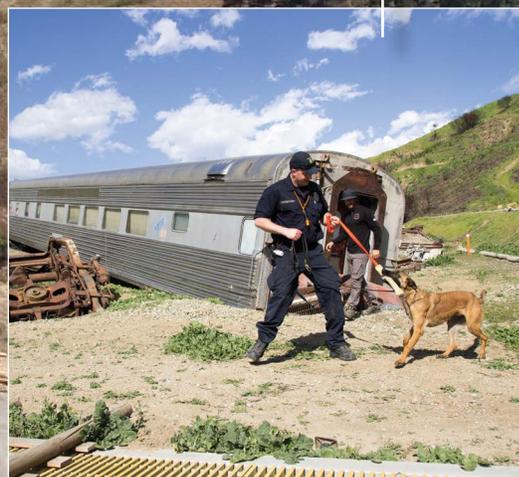
RUBBLE: PREPARING FOR DISASTER

Using their newly acquired Agility skills, canine candidates begin their search training by climbing over carefully placed concrete slabs and alerting when they detect human scent — all to receive their coveted prize: a tug session with their favorite toy as a reward for a job well done! Eventually, SDF trainers increase the difficulty of the pile to challenge more veteran candidates and prepare them for real world scenarios.



DIRECTION & CONTROL: SAFELY GIVING SEARCH DOGS INDEPENDENCE TO DO THEIR JOB

On a deployment, handlers need to direct and control their canine partner at a distance. Based on the environment or wind direction, they may need to stop the dog and send them in a different direction to safely reach an area that needs to be searched. To learn this valuable skill set, a dog is directed, through hand signals and verbal commands, to different platforms laid out in a field resembling a baseball diamond.



ADVANCED TRAINING: READY FOR ANYTHING

To prepare for real-life rescue efforts, SDF uses simulated disaster areas throughout our NTC campus —everything from challenging interior building searches, to a multi-car train wreck, to a collapsed freeway and surrounding debris field. Each of these scenarios mimic situations our Search Teams could encounter on deployment, and the strategies they learn and skills they develop from this training will prove invaluable when they are called upon to respond to a real disaster.



HONORING FELLOW HEROES: THE NAMING OF SEARCH DOGS LUKA AND VICTOR

In the summer of 2017, SDF was contacted by Haven Humane Society in Redding, CA about an energetic Lab-mix named Manny, who was surrendered to the shelter after his owner was given a life-term prison sentence for criminal charges. During the shelter's assessment of Manny, staff realized he possessed an intense drive for a ball and immediately contacted SDF to evaluate him for our program.

Meanwhile, a Belgian Malinois was picked up as a stray by the Tracy Police Department Animal Control a few hundred miles south. Named Gator while at the shelter, he was adopted on several occasions but was returned to the shelter each time because he was "too much dog" for the average family to handle.

Both canines were evaluated for our program, passed their screenings, and were happily given new "leashes on life" as Search Dog candidates in training.

Since SDF had previously trained Search Dogs named Manny and Gator, the decision was made to give both candidates new names to match their heroic personalities and future career paths. The month prior, SDF had begun communicating with Lieutenant Colonel Powers of the United States Marine Corps. He had worked alongside six SDF-trained Canine Disaster Search Teams in 2015 when U.S. task forces were mobilized to assist after a deadly 8.1 magnitude earthquake struck Nepal.

Tragically, during the rescue mission, a U.S. helicopter crashed in the Himalayas on May 12, 2015. Lt. Col. Powers and SDF staff decided it would be a fitting tribute to rename our new canine heroes in remembrance of those who lost their lives during that relief mission.

Manny was renamed Victor, in honor of the call sign of the Marine UH-1Y Huey helicopter that crashed. Gator was renamed Luka, in honor of Captain Dustin R. Lukasiewicz, one of the six Marines who lost his life that day.

Victor and Luka graduated from our program in April 2018 and were partnered with their new firefighter-handlers. At the graduation ceremony, SDF was honored to host representatives of Joint Task Force 505 United States Marine Corps – Major Danny Byrd, Sergeant Robert Brown and Captain Charles Kuhnmuench – who served with the fallen soldiers in Nepal.

Victor was paired with Handler Billy Walkenhorst of the City of Santee Fire Department and member of California Task Force 8. Luka was partnered with firefighter Adam Leckonby of the New York State Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Services Office of Fire Prevention and Control and member of New York Task Force 2, based in Albany.

We are proud that Search Dogs Victor and Luka will carry on the legacy of the six fallen Marines, bravely and selflessly serving communities in need when disaster strikes.



MEET WYLIE

One of the newest rescued dogs to join the SDF family, Wylie was discovered locked in a hot vehicle in South Dakota, along with another dog. It is estimated that eight hours had passed by the time concerned citizens noticed and called the police to break the windows and free the two young pups.

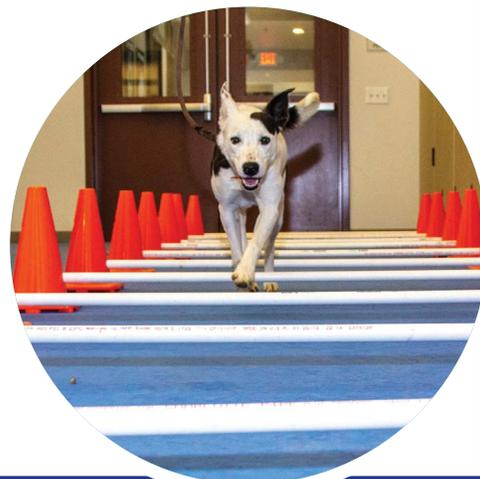
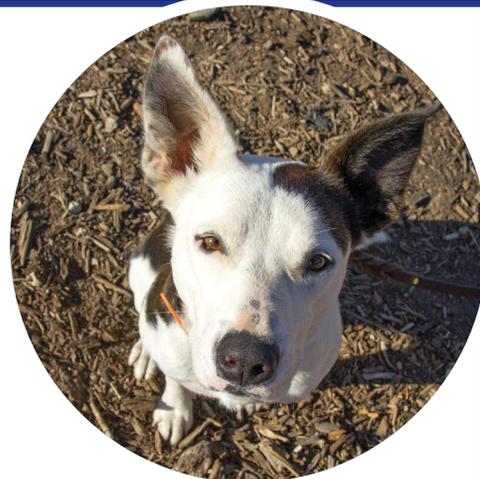
Sadly, the other dog passed away due to heat stroke from the extreme temperature inside the vehicle. When the owner was discovered in a nearby bar, he was arrested for animal neglect, along with other outstanding legal issues, and forced to surrender ownership of Wylie to the local shelter.

Soon after she arrived at the Western Hills Humane Society in Spearfish, South Dakota, Wylie was discovered by longtime SDF Recruiters Kellee and Tim Matthews of the South Dakota Canine Center.

Kellee and Tim noticed a video posted on Facebook of Wylie playing fetch and saw a spark in her eye. She clearly had the toy obsession and energy needed for disaster search, so the Matthews brought her home for further evaluation.

While at their home, this Border Collie mix was well mannered with a natural, focused drive. During evaluation, nothing was able to distract her—she was all business and made each task look easy. The Matthews shared that Wylie was quite possibly the most athletic and agile dog they had ever met!

Once in desperate need of saving herself, Wylie is now learning what it takes to help others in their time of greatest need. Her story underscores the transformative power of giving dogs a new “leash on life” as Search Dogs and the positive impact that people working together for a bigger purpose can make in the lives of our four-legged companions. This dedicated rescue dog is on to bigger adventures as she begins her career as a rescuer, but her journey to become a canine hero is only paw-sible thanks to the collective efforts of our SDF Family across the country—from our recruiters in South Dakota, to our Trainers and Canine Care Specialists in California, to her future handler who could be anywhere in America, to YOU who believe in the profound human-canine bond. We know you join us in rooting for Wylie’s success, along with all the other Wylies out there who still need our help.



SEARCH DOG AMBER: CARRYING ON A LEGACY OF PUBLIC SERVICE

Previously named Charlee, Search Dog Amber was renamed in honor of a Ventura County woman named Amber Skall, who lost her battle with cancer at the age of 33 on February 10, 2016. Amber grew up in a family of public servants and was very

proud to serve her community as a 911 Public Safety Dispatcher for the Ventura Police Department (VPD) and as a Tactical Dispatcher for the VPD SWAT Team. A dog lover and “mom” to her three rescued pups, Amber’s smile, courage and sense of humor never wavered despite the challenges she faced.

We are honored to pay tribute to Amber Skall’s legacy by naming one of our own after her.

Entering SDF’s training program in October



2017, Search Dog Amber excelled as she progressed from beginner to graduate in just eight months. Always ready with a strong Bark Alert when she finds a “victim” in the rubble, Amber’s favorite toy is a fire hose tug, which she enjoys tugging with boundless enthusiasm.

When she was partnered with Handler Scott Hofstetter of Nebraska Task Force 1 in July, Search Dog Amber had quite a support network cheering her on, as the Skall Family and her Sponsor Julie Croker came to celebrate her at SDF’s graduation ceremony.



“As a dispatcher, Amber was a lifeline for many in the midst of a crisis, just as Amber the Search Dog will be. Thank you again...words could never convey how touching and special this is.” – Karen Skall, Amber Skall’s mother

MEET OUR CURRENT CANDIDATES IN TRAINING!



Cooper

Recruited by Kirsten Fulk from Golden Gate Labrador Retriever Rescue in San Francisco, CA
Sponsor: The Joel and Dena Gambord Family



Corvin

Rescued by Santa Ynez Valley Humane Society in Santa Ynez, CA



Dallas

Donated by a Private Donor in Manifee, CA
Sponsor: The Joel and Dena Gambord Family
Named in honor of the Dallas police officers who lost their lives on July 7, 2016



Diesel

Donated by a Private Donor in New Prague, MN
Sponsor: Karen B. Winnick; Linda Heizer Seaman



Klaus

Recruited by Greg Strickland from Canine Pet Rescue in Dacula, GA



Knox

Recruited by Greg Strickland from Animal Welfare League of Alexandria in Alexandria, VA
Sponsor: The Frances and John Wahl Foundation; Westlake Women's Club-CFWC
Guardian: Sandra Sanders



Koda

Rescued by Lab Rescue OK, Inc. in Broken Arrow, OK
Sponsor: The Joel and Dena Gambord Family



Loki

Recruited by Kirsten Fulk from German Shorthaired Pointer Club of Oregon Rescue in Sherwood, OR
Guardian: Janice Hong



Luke

Recruited by Kirsten Fulk from Van Der Linden K9 in Grants Pass, OR



Paul

Recruited by Charlie Freeman from Charleston Animal Society in Charleston, SC Named in honor of Paul Jolly of the Petco Foundation



Sage

Recruited by Kirsten Fulk from Mussel Dogs in Oakdale, CA Sponsor: Marilyn Benande & Jackie Emerson; Jill Bee



Sonny

Donated by a Private Donor in Malibu, CA Sponsor: Nanci Denney Bergin; The Joel and Dena Gambord Family



Wylie

Recruited by Kellee and Tim Matthews from Western Hills Humane Society in Spearfish, SD

BY NEVER GIVING UP ON THEM, WE HELP THESE DOGS GIVE BACK SO MUCH MORE

Rescued vs. donated dogs: what is the difference?

Recruiting rescued dogs has and always will be fundamental to our program. In fact, transforming shelter dogs into Search Dogs is our primary focus in scouting for new candidates.

From time to time, in the best interest of dogs deemed "too much to handle" and to satisfy our increasing obligation to state and federal task forces around the country, we do accept donated canines from individuals.

Typically, dogs donated to our program are too destructive or restless to live comfortably with an average family, and anyone is welcome to contact SDF directly if they feel they are in this position. In this way, SDF accepts dogs before they enter the shelter system.



In other instances, trainers who work in disciplines like agility, hunt trial, or another working dog field will identify a dog with the characteristics needed for disaster search and will donate the dog to SDF if the canine's drive and personality are indeed a fit.

If you or someone you know has a young dog who is deemed "too much to handle" and is contemplating the difficult decision to surrender him or her to a shelter, please encourage them to email our Director of Canine Recruitment, Sylvia Stoney, at Sylvia@SearchDogFoundation.org, to assess whether the dog has the intense toy drive and right characteristics needed for our program.

To find out more about the requirements for potential Search Dogs, please visit: searchdogfoundation.org/canine-recruitment



Aide Barbat & Delta

San Diego Fire-Rescue
California Task Force 8

Sponsor: The Joel & Dena Gambord Family



Mike Brice & Blake

San Diego Fire-Rescue
California Task Force 8

Sponsor: Red Oak Foundation



Laura Denison & Flyer

Civilian
Nebraska Task Force 1

Sponsor: The Joel and Dena Gambord Family



Gary Durian & Frisco

Los Angeles County Fire
California Task Force 2

Sponsor: Mary and Jeff Kroll



Scott Hofstetter & Amber

Civilian
Nebraska Task Force 1

Sponsor: Julie Croker
Named in memory of Amber Skall



Paul Januario & Bear

Sacramento Fire
California Task Force 7

Sponsor: The Joel and Dena Gambord Family



Jason Jasgur & Ruffy

Los Angeles Fire
California Task Force 1

Sponsor: Patricia Snyder



Adam Leckonby & Luka

New York State Division of Homeland Security &
Emergency Services Office of Fire Prevention and
Control (NYS DHSES)
New York Task Force 2

Sponsor: The Joel and Dena Gambord Family
Named in memory of Captain Dustin R. Lukasiewicz,
Aircraft Commander, USMC



Brook Rowley & Echo

New York State Division of Homeland Security
& Emergency Services Office of Fire Prevention
and Control (NYS DHSES)
New York Task Force 2

Sponsor: Mike Johnson, Arc Aspicio
Named by Miller Hill Elementary in New York

SEARCH TEAMS PAIRED IN 2018

STRAIGHT FROM THE RUBBLE

SDF TRAINERS IN THE FIELD WITH OUR NEWEST NEBRASKA TEAMS

SDF is proud to have provided seven canines to Nebraska Task Force 1 (NE-TF1) over the last eight years, beginning with the pairing of five Search Teams between 2010 and 2012. Given such an established canine program, and geographic placement in the center of the country, veteran Search Dogs Chief, George, Lilly, Jerry, and Noah quickly became FEMA Certified and have never gone long without a deployment, training weekly in between.

With support from veteran handlers Steve MacDonald, Andrew Pitcher, Mark Schroeder, and Damon Wirth, two new SDF Search Teams joined the NE-TF1 roster in July 2018. Scott Hofstetter and Laura Denison, both seasoned handlers themselves, were paired with Search Dogs Amber and Flyer.

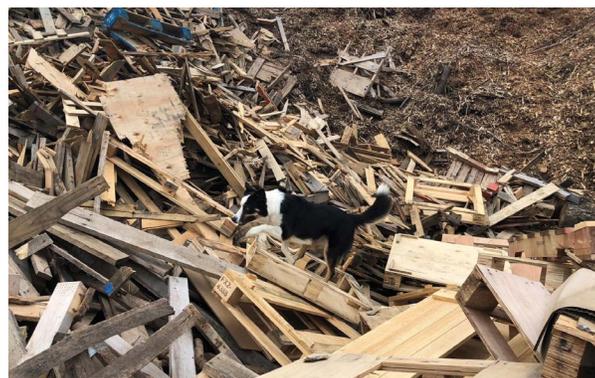
Since graduation, our training staff has been in regular contact with the new teams and has visited their home training sites in Lincoln, Nebraska,



several times to help them progress and address any challenges as they prepare for FEMA Certification. Recent training trips have allowed SDF to work with our veteran teams, as well as help transition Flyer and Amber to their new homes and training grounds. Flyer and Amber are getting up to speed quickly and recently passed their Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA) test. The FSA is a basic requirement search teams much achieve to be eligible to take the Certification Evaluation, which allows them to deploy to disaster zones with their task force.



"Amber and Flyer fit in very well with the other Nebraska Search Dogs and I was very pleased when I watched their first time on the new rubble pile—they transitioned very smoothly and are already doing multiple-victim, diffuse scent hides and covering the pile!" said Trainer Emily Hodges.



"The dogs are all fast, focused and very skilled at what they do."

"It's clear that Amber and Flyer have both adjusted very well into their new lives. Prior to starting training, they each gave me a very quick greeting and then were focused back on their handlers and their work! I am proud of these teams and how well they have bonded."



Billy Walkenhorst & Victor

City of Santee Fire
California Task Force 8
Sponsor: Patricia Snyder

Named in memory of the six U.S. Marines who lost their lives during earthquake relief efforts in Nepal on May 12, 2015

YOU are my purpose.

YOU are the reason
I trained so hard.

YOU were there when
I needed you most.

YOU did not leave
me behind.

YOU saved my life.

The profound human-canine bond includes every person who has a positive impact on a Search Dog's journey – from the shelter staff to the victims, these dogs gain so much from each person who makes a significant difference in their lives.

Finding, training, and supporting these incredible canines in their careers as Search Dogs has been and always will be our mission.

But we can't do it alone.

By making a gift to the Search Dog Foundation today, you can help us save the lives of these amazing shelter dogs who will go on to serve communities around the world when the unthinkable occurs—maybe even your own.

YOU can make a difference.

YOU can help save lives.

YOU are the impact.

Visit SearchDogFoundation.org/donate to be Part of the Search today.

Save Paper!

Send your email address to Rescue@SearchDogFoundation.org
and let us know you want to be updated electronically —
we never sell or share your contact information!

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