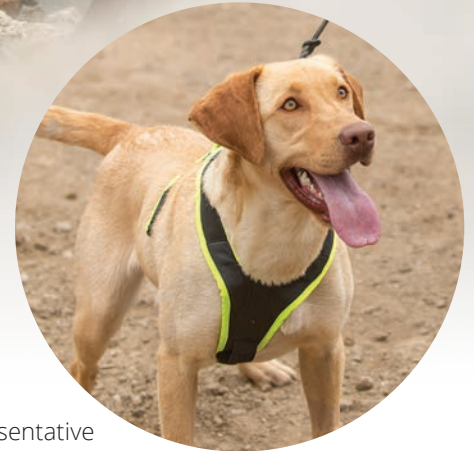




# BARKALERT

FALL 2022





## GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY: SDF RECRUITERS COLLABORATE WITH A LOCAL BREED RESCUE TO HELP NALA REACH HER SEARCH DOG POTENTIAL

Nala was surrendered to a shelter in Palmdale, CA, by her owners, who were relocating and were not in a position to take Nala with them. Luckily, Southern California Golden Retriever Rescue (SCGRR) saw Nala in the shelter and placed her with a foster family.

The first order of business for Nala was to get her healthy again as she was extremely underweight. As they got to know Nala, the rescue team noticed this friendly girl's toy obsession and her tail's non-stop wagging when she searched for the ball during playtime.

When Nala was healthy enough, SCGRR posted Nala on their Facebook page and specifically remarked on her ball obsession. Our SDF recruiters saw the post and immediately reached out to the rescue.

To their credit, SCGRR strives to find the best possible fit for their dogs and place them in loving homes that will set them up for success. Unfamiliar with SDF, SCGRR's president, Nedra Woodard, wanted to see where Nala would reside and better understand our mission and how we care for our dogs, so our Canine Recruitment team set up a virtual tour of our campus. Following the tour, Woodard said: *"The work and ethics of Search Dog Foundation look amazing. Thank you for all you do for dogs and people alike!"*

Cleared to start our evaluation process and with guidance from SDF, Nala's foster family performed the test protocols and recorded the results—the entire family even took part in one of Nala's field hunt tests!

Nala looked good in the video demonstrations and was invited to our National Training Center for a final evaluation. She arrived

with an SCGRR representative and her foster mom to cheer her on and did not disappoint! Nala showed off her talents to our canine trainers and even demonstrated her potential to first responders during their handler training!

As one of the newest trainees in our program, Nala continued to impress her instructors. After only one session of drive work, she understood the barking criteria and began work on her bark alert. It quickly became apparent that this striking little Labrador lives for alert work because she kicks into high gear when she finds her hidden person—her barks are intense and rapid-fire!

After nailing her alert, Nala moved from single barrel searches to searching for victims in three barrels and buildings. SDF trainers have been consistently pleased with her quick progress (even describing her as a "freight train" on barrels) and impressed with her incredibly robust alert.

Now in the sophomore class, Nala excels at agility, and her direction-and-control is progressing beautifully. She's also working on mastering obedience elements such as heeling and is a sight to behold on the rubble!

Nala is the whole package with her beauty, brains, and just the right amount of brawn. Thanks to our rescue, foster, and volunteer friends at SCGRR, whose collaboration brought her to SDF, the future looks bright for this sweet girl. We're so happy that Nala loves her new career and can't wait to see all her successes as a member of our SDF canine family!

***Nala is sponsored by the Joel and Dena Gambord Family.***

# HANDLER TRAINING PROGRAM

## BUILDING THE BONDS OF SUCCESS THAT SAVE LIVES

A successful canine search team doesn't happen by accident or good luck. It takes time, commitment, and trust to form the bond that produces an effective team. This relationship between search dog and handler is built upon countless hours of training as they learn to communicate through body language and toy play, which provides the crucial foundation for their lifesaving partnership.

As humans learn more about canine behavior, we've also discovered more effective ways to communicate with our four-legged partners. In the fall of 2021, SDF applied this knowledge, creating new components for our Handler Training Program to better prepare first responders who will one day be handlers.

We have expanded our "classroom" instruction to include online learning modules that facilitate more in-depth study of key subject areas such as reward systems, leash skills, and canine behavior theory. Then, during visits to our campus, in-person instruction allows first responders to review these concepts under the tutelage of our professional training team and apply them in sessions working with our search dog candidates. This integration of online learning and hands-on practice reinforces the understanding of each discipline and provides a more well-rounded education to new handlers.

In total, handlers visit our campus five times—four two-day trips and an intensive two-week session at the midpoint of the instruction program. During these months, SDF trainers continually assess handlers and observe their interactions with each search dog ready to graduate. Over time, the dogs make clear who are their "top choices" as handlers and our trainers thoughtfully assign each handler a canine partner based on personality, skill level, and general chemistry.

Each pairing is a cause for celebration, but it is only the beginning of their journey together. Every search team must continue training to demonstrate the skills necessary to achieve certification and maintain them to stay deployment-ready throughout their career.

While it's the hard work of our trainers, handlers, and canines that lead to a successful team pairing, none of this would be possible without our community of supporters. Your belief in our mission is integral to building effective search teams that are ready to help others in their greatest time of need.



# SHELTER SPOTLIGHT

## RESCUE RANCH FULFILLS ITS PLEDGE TO ITS COMMUNITY AND BEYOND

With rescue at the heart of our mission, it is critically important that we have as many eyes as possible on the lookout for search dog candidates in our nation's shelters. That's why we take the time to build relationships with staff and volunteers at shelters and rescues across the country – these dedicated folks are the first to observe a dog's potential and notify us.

One rescue that has been particularly prolific at spotting promising dogs is the Rescue Ranch Adoption Center in Yreka, California. Located just shy of the Oregon border, the Rescue Ranch is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, no-kill dog shelter focused on rescuing and rehoming dogs of all breeds.

They have helped identify several recruits for our program, including Vader who worked as an active search dog for six years and deployed to disasters such as Hurricane Irma, which struck Florida and the Virgin Islands in 2017, and ahead of Hurricane Olivia when it threatened Hawaii in 2018.

Vader was the first search dog candidate sent to SDF by the Rescue Ranch, but he wouldn't be the last. In 2016, another black Lab named Shadow landed at the Rescue Ranch after being abandoned by his owners. This time, Rescue Ranch staff knew exactly what to look for in a potential search dog—Shadow flew through our program and was paired with Bob George of California Task Force 2 (CA-TF2), Los Angeles County Fire, in 2017, where he is still an active search dog.

In 2020 and 2021, despite the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, Rescue Ranch sent us Siska and Lady, whose enthusiasm for games of tug and fetching tennis balls gained them acceptance into our search program. Though both Siska and Lady did not complete our disaster search training, they enjoyed using their noses and soon found their new callings!

Under our Lifetime Care program, which promises every dog a happy outcome, Siska and Lady continued receiving training, engagement, and socialization from our caring staff while waiting for their new careers. After being partnered with handlers from Rogue Detection Teams, an agency specializing in environmental conservation, both Siska and Lady love their new jobs—Siska assisting with bat conservation at a wind facility in Iowa, and Lady using her stellar sniffer to save bats and other species in need.

Later in 2021, Rescue Ranch staff struck gold again when they took Chirp in as a stray. Based on Chirp's reaction to tennis balls, the staff took the next step and tested him on other skills based on his evaluation videos.

Chirp was officially welcomed into our search program on December 24, 2021 — happy holidays to us! — and is currently in the senior class of search dog candidates and progressing very well. We expect he will graduate from search training and be paired with a first responder handler later this year.

In addition to being an ally in our mission to recruit shelter dogs, the Rescue Ranch is an invaluable resource to its community. Through its innovative programs, it provides local pet owners with discounted spay/neuter services, assistance with high-cost veterinary care, and access to a pet food bank, among many others. As the only designated evacuation center for dogs in Siskiyou County, Rescue Ranch also acts as the temporary caretaker for pets of residents fleeing wildfires.

We admire the many ways Rescue Ranch supports pets and pet owners in Siskiyou County—all while finding families for over 500 homeless dogs in the area each year. As a part of the story for five of these dogs, we could not be more grateful to the Rescue Ranch for being a partner in our mission.

***Vader is sponsored by the Joel and Dena Gambord Family.  
Chirp is sponsored by Doris and Howard Busloff.***



# LIFETIME CARE



## FROM SHY GIRL TO FLY GIRL: CAPER SOARS TO INCREDIBLE HEIGHTS IN HER NEW SPORTING HOME

One of our most strongly held values is the promise that dogs recruited from shelters and rescues for search training will never face homelessness again. Our Lifetime Care program guarantees a happily ever after for all our canines, even if they don't become search dogs. Sometimes that means finding them a fulfilling career that more closely fits their interests. Other times, it means finding the perfect family home of their own.

The journey to discovering a dog's perfect fit is seldom a direct path and, occasionally, a dog can surprise us. This was the case with Caper (formerly known as Ursala), who was found running in the street and surrendered along with her littermate, Chester, to the Burbank Animal Shelter in California. Recognizing their toy drive, shelter staff contacted SDF, and after evaluation, the pair was approved to enter our program.

From the start, Caper had some challenges to overcome. Her hunt intensity was lower than we'd like to see, and she also had significant reactivity around other dogs. But she had promising qualities too. She loved her toys and had an intense desire to please, offering her handler nearly constant eye contact as if to say, *"Whatever you want me to do, I'll do it!"*

SDF trainers worked with Caper to increase her desire to hunt, and she started to show improvement. However, she remained hypervigilant when other dogs were around and tended to become reactive if they got too close. She also struggled with certain sections of the rubble and an overall lack of confidence. For these reasons, we ultimately decided that although Caper was a sweet dog and a lot of fun to work with, she wasn't cut out for a career in search and rescue. Instead, Caper entered our Lifetime Care program and went to a foster home with one of our SDF trainers.

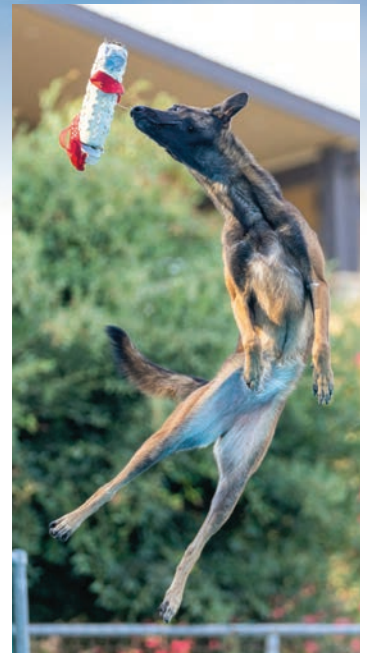
Caper thrived in her foster home. Her reactivity was mainly triggered by exposure to strange dogs, so while life as a search dog (with its constant exposure to new dogs) wouldn't work, Caper was fine with her canine foster brother after a slow introduction and time to get acquainted. The two dogs enjoyed spending time together playing tug, going to the beach, and

snuggling, and Caper received training every day to build her confidence.

After several months, Caper had come out of her shell, and it became clear that her ideal home would be with a very active family. Candis, an avid dog sport enthusiast and prior Lifetime Care adopter, was the perfect fit. Candis adopted Caper in June and introduced her to the dog sporting world and to ten (yes, ten!) new dog siblings—all competitors and former competitors in every sport from flyball to field hunt.

As for Caper, she took to dock diving like a duck to water. You'd hardly recognize this formerly bashful girl now running with her pack and leaping off docks with abandon!

Caper's brother Chester, who entered search training with her, did go on to graduate from the search program and was paired with a handler from Chula Vista Fire and California Task Force 8. We are very proud of him, of course, but no less proud of Caper for her accomplishments. The important thing is that both rescued dogs were given the freedom to realize their full potential in the pursuits they most love.



*Are you an adventure-seeker in search of a sidekick, or an active household looking to add an energetic family member?*

*If so, your perfect companion might be one of our Lifetime Care dogs!*



# NEW SEARCH TEAMS PAIRED

BOTH HANDLERS AND SEARCH DOGS TRAIN CONSISTENTLY TO PREPARE FOR DEPLOYMENTS TO A WIDE VARIETY OF DISASTERS THROUGHOUT OUR NATION AND BEYOND. WE ARE THRILLED TO SHARE OUR TEAM PAIRINGS FROM OCTOBER 2021 THROUGH JUNE 2022 WITH YOU, SIGNIFYING THE BEGINNING OF JOURNEYS BASED ON MUTUAL TRUST AND A SHARED SENSE OF LIFESAVING PURPOSE.



**BRADLEY BACON & DIANA**

San Diego Fire-Rescue  
California Task Force 8  
Donated by Kaiser K9, Inc.  
Sponsor: The Joel and Dena Gambord Family



**LAUREN CANNING & BARNEY**

San Francisco Fire  
California Task Force 3  
Recruited from Retrieving Freedom, Inc.  
Sponsors: David and Barbara Barnhart



**LINDA D'ORSI & HOPPER**

California Task Force 8  
Recruited from Scott Edmonds  
Sponsors: The Joel and Dena Gambord Family,  
Westlake Women's Club - CFWC



**ERIC DARLING & STEVEN**

Ventura County Fire  
California Regional Task Force 7  
California Task Force 5  
Donated by: Anonymous  
Sponsor: Pat Snyder



**JOSHUA DAVIS & BOSCO**

San Francisco Fire  
California Task Force 3  
Recruited from Dogs for Better Lives  
Sponsor: The Joel and Dena Gambord Family



**ERIC GRAY & DEE**

Santa Barbara County Fire  
California Task Force 2  
Donated by Katherine Winrich  
Sponsors: Friends of Search and Rescue Canine Teams



**SHAWN HALL & MANION**

Virginia Beach Fire  
Virginia Task Force 2  
Recruited from Warrior Canine Connection  
Sponsors: Nanci Denney Bergin, Anonymous Donor



**KALUB LEWIS & CYRUS**

Unified Fire Authority  
Utah Task Force 1  
Recruited from Train A Rescue  
Sponsors: Nahikian Family Foundation,  
Anonymous Donor



**KAREN MEADOWS & JAX**

Virginia Task Force 2  
Recruited from Humane Society of Utah  
Sponsors: Lenny & Squiggy



**GARRETH MILLER & REVA**

San Francisco Fire  
California Task Force 3  
Recruited from Outreach Pawsabilities, Inc.  
Sponsors: Beth and Greg Apke, Jill Bee  
Named in memory of Reva Ferguson



**JONATHAN MUNGUIA & CLIFFORD**

Los Angeles County Fire  
California Task Force 2  
Donated by Kolfyre Labradors



**JULIE PADELDFORD-JANSEN & REBEL**

California Task Force 4  
Donated by Julie Padelford-Jansen  
Sponsor: The Joel and Dena Gambord Family



**DANIEL THOMAS & CHESTER**

San Diego Fire-Rescue  
California Task Force 8  
Recruited from Burbank Animal Shelter  
Sponsor: Julie Croker



**MANDY TISDALE & HOPE**

California Regional Task Force 7  
Recruited by Mandy Tisdale  
Sponsors: Carol Marengo, Kayann Stables

# CERTIFICATIONS

ACTIVE SEARCH TEAMS MUST PASS A THOROUGH EVALUATION EVERY THREE YEARS TO ENSURE THEY ARE READY TO DEPLOY TO DISASTERS ACROSS THE UNITED STATES AND THE WORLD. WE KNOW YOU'LL SHARE IN CELEBRATING THESE CERTIFICATIONS THAT ENABLE THESE TEAMS TO RESPOND WITH THEIR TASK FORCES TO HELP SAVE LIVES.



**CHAD ARBERG & CORY**

San Diego Fire-Rescue  
California Task Force 8  
FEMA Certification: June 2022  
Recruited from One Albuquerque Animal Welfare  
Named in memory of CalFIRE engineer Cory Iverson,  
who was killed in the line of duty in December 2017



**JAKE ARMENDARIZ & CLANCY**

Los Angeles County Fire  
California Task Force 2  
FEMA Re-certification: October 2021  
Donated by Brent McCloskey  
Sponsors: The Joel and Dena Gambord Family, Pat Snyder  
Named by Cecilia O'Flynn and Kathleen Kennedy



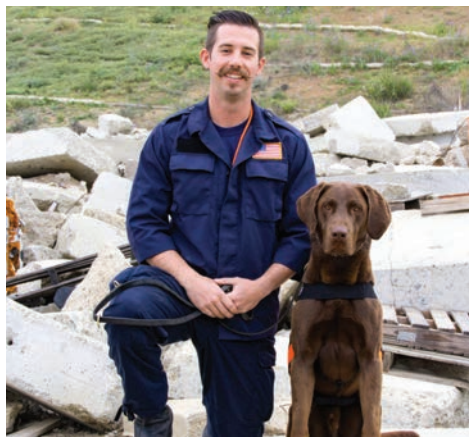
**CORY BALDOVIN & DIVA**

Los Angeles County Fire  
California Task Force 2  
FEMA Certification: October 2021  
Donated by an Anonymous Donor  
Sponsors: Mary and Jeff Kroll



**AIDE BARBAT & DELTA**

San Diego Fire-Rescue  
California Task Force 8  
FEMA Re-certification: October 2021  
Donated by Jasmine Simental  
Sponsor: The Joel and Dena Gambord Family



**MIKE BRICE & BLAKE**

San Diego Fire-Rescue  
California Task Force 8  
FEMA Re-certification: October 2021  
Recruited from Jackson County Animal Services  
Sponsor: Red Oak Foundation



**BRANDON BUDD & JOSIE**

Sacramento Fire  
California Task Force 7  
FEMA Re-certification: June 2022  
Recruited from Lassen County Animal Shelter  
Sponsors: Susan Kemper and Cam Warren





**LINDA D'ORSI & HOPPER**

California Task Force 8  
FEMA Certification: June 2022  
Recruited from Scott Edmonds  
Sponsors: The Joel and Dena Gambord Family,  
Westlake Women's Club - CFWC



**LAURA DENISON & FLYER**

Nebraska Task Force 1  
FEMA Re-certification: June 2022  
Recruited from Haven Humane Society  
Sponsor: The Joel and Dena Gambord Family



**MIKE DEVINE & SONNY**

Los Angeles County Fire  
California Task Force 2  
FEMA Re-certification: October 2021  
Recruited from Joseph Cinnante  
Sponsors: Nanci Denney Bergin,  
The Joel and Dena Gambord Family



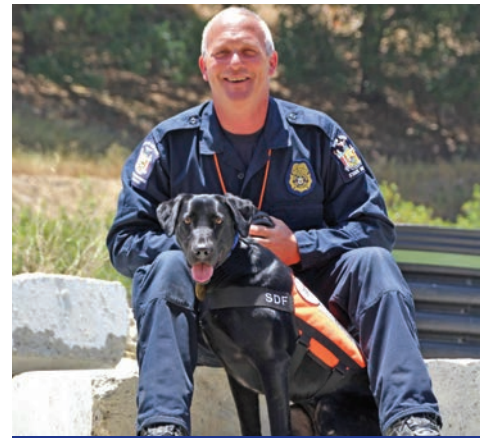
**GARY DURIAN & FRISCO**

Los Angeles County Fire  
California Task Force 2  
FEMA Re-certification: June 2022  
Recruited from Columbia Humane Society  
Sponsors: Mary and Jeff Kroll



**VINCENT FUCCELLA & HANK**

Sacramento Fire  
California Task Force 7  
FEMA Re-certification: June 2022  
Recruited from Second Chance Pups  
Named in memory of Henry "Hank" Salvatori



**BRIAN GIRARD & KEILA**

New York State Division of Homeland Security &  
Emergency Services Office of Fire Prevention & Control  
New York Task Force 2  
SUSAR Re-certification: October 2021  
Recruited from Brightside Animal Center  
Sponsor: The DeMartini Family



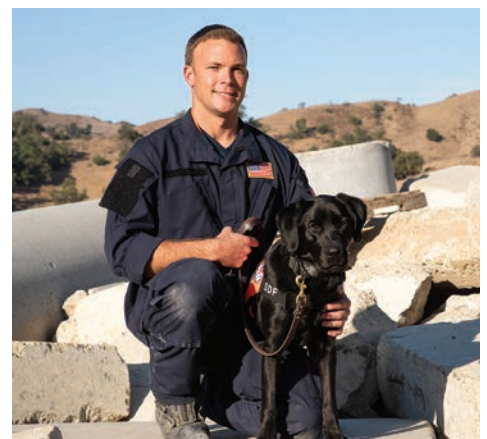
**ERIC GRAY & DEE**

Santa Barbara County Fire  
California Task Force 2  
FEMA Certification: June 2022  
Donated by Katherine Winrich  
Sponsor: Friends of Search and Rescue Canine Teams



**SHAWN HALL & MANION**

Virginia Beach Fire  
Virginia Task Force 2  
FEMA Certification: April 2022  
Recruited from Warrior Canine Connection  
Sponsors: Nanci Denney Bergin, Anonymous Donor



**JOHN PAUL HILSABECK & BOND**

Los Angeles County Fire  
California Task Force 2  
FEMA Certification: October 2021  
Recruited from Dogs for Better Lives  
Sponsor: Ann Cooluris



**SCOTT HOFSTETTER & AMBER**

Nebraska Task Force 1  
FEMA Re-certification: June 2022  
Recruited from Stephanie O'Brien  
Sponsor: Julie Croker  
Named in memory of Amber Skall



**ERIC INGSTAD & JAVA**

Los Angeles Fire  
California Task Force 1  
FEMA Re-certification: June 2022  
Recruited from Bones Pet Rescue  
Sponsor: The Joel and Dena Gambord Family



**JASON JASGUR & RUFFY**

Los Angeles Fire  
California Task Force 1  
FEMA Re-certification: June 2022  
Donated by Elaine Brock  
Sponsor: Pat Snyder



**PATTI KRAFFT & BILLY**

Texas Task Force 1  
Dallas Fire-Rescue  
FEMA Re-certification: June 2022  
Recruited from Humane Society  
of the South Platte Valley  
Recruited by South Dakota Canine Center  
Sponsors: Elinor Plumer, Julie Brandau Community  
Service Memorial Project  
Named in memory of William M. Sparuk



**ADAM LECKONBY & LUKA**

New York State Division of Homeland Security &  
Emergency Services Office of Fire Prevention & Control  
New York Task Force 2  
SUSAR Re-certification: October 2021  
Recruited from Tracy Police Department Animal Services  
Sponsor: The Joel and Dena Gambord Family  
Named in memory of six U.S. Marines who lost their lives  
during an earthquake rescue mission  
in Nepal on May 12, 2015



**KALUB LEWIS & CYRUS**

Unified Fire Authority  
Utah Task Force 1  
FEMA Certification: April 2022  
Recruited from Train A Rescue  
Sponsors: Nahikian Family Foundation,  
Anonymous Donor





**KAREN MEADOWS & JAX**

Virginia Task Force 1  
 FEMA Certification: April 2022  
 Recruited from Humane Society of Utah  
 Sponsor: Lenny & Squiggy



**NICK MEDINA & MATTIS**

Los Angeles County Fire  
 California Task Force 2  
 FEMA Certification: October 2021  
 Donated by an Anonymous Donor  
 Sponsors: Carol George and Roger Stewart



**GARRETH MILLER & REVA**

San Francisco Fire  
 California Task Force 3  
 FEMA Certification: April 2022  
 Recruited from Outreach Pawsabilities, Inc.  
 Sponsors: Beth and Greg Apke, Jill Bee  
 Named in memory of Reva Ferguson



**JULIE PADEFORD-JANSEN & RICOCHET**

California Task Force 4  
 FEMA Re-certification: June 2022  
 Donated by Julie Padelford-Jansen



**BROOK ROWLEY & ECHO**

New York State Division of Homeland Security &  
 Emergency Services Office of Fire Prevention & Control  
 New York Task Force 2  
 SUSAR Re-certification: April 2022  
 Recruited from Mohawk Hudson Humane Society  
 Sponsor: Arc Aspicio



**MANNY SAMPANG & EVA**

Los Angeles County Fire  
 California Task Force 2  
 FEMA Re-certification: June 2022  
 Donated by Heather Smith  
 Sponsors: Otilia and Emma Diaz



**PAUL SANDIGO & CASSIE**

San Francisco Fire  
California Task Force 3  
FEMA Certification: October 2021  
Recruited from Merissa Hewitt



**CLINT SCHEPE & GEORGIA**

Chula Vista Fire  
California Task Force 8  
FEMA Re-certification: October 2021  
Recruited from Union County Sheriff's Office Animal Control  
Sponsors: Mary and Jeff Kroll



**TOM SIMONS & FORREST**

Salt Lake City Fire  
Utah Task Force 1  
FEMA Certification: April 2022  
Recruited from Train A Rescue  
Sponsor: Farmers Insurance



**DANIEL THOMAS & CHESTER**

San Diego Fire-Rescue  
California Task Force 8  
FEMA Certification: June 2022  
Recruited by Burbank Animal Shelter  
Sponsor: Julie Croker



**MIKE TOEPFER & DEACON**

Los Angeles County Fire  
California Task Force 2  
FEMA Re-certification: October 2021  
Donated by an Anonymous Donor  
Sponsors: Otilia and Emma Diaz  
Named by Nancy M. Stone



**BILLY WALKENHORST & VICTOR**

Santee Fire  
California Task Force 8  
FEMA Re-certification: June 2022  
Recruited from Haven Humane Society  
Sponsor: Pat Snyder  
Named in memory of six U.S. Marines who lost their lives  
during an earthquake rescue mission  
in Nepal on May 12, 2015



**ALEX WALLBRETT & HOSS**

San Diego Fire-Rescue  
California Task Force 8  
FEMA Certification: October 2021  
Donated by an Anonymous Donor  
Sponsors: Walt and Faith Kalback



**JOE ZAKAR & DORA**

San Diego Fire-Rescue  
California Task Force 8  
FEMA Re-certification: October 2021  
Recruited from Sacramento County Animal Care  
and Regulation  
Sponsor: The Joel and Dena Gambord Family



# DEPLOYMENTS

## BOOTS AND PAWS ON THE GROUND: WHAT HAPPENS DURING A DEPLOYMENT?

SDF provides the training and guidance necessary to prepare search teams to deploy, but we do not deploy teams directly to incidents. All SDF teams are part of a federal and/or state task force and a local response agency, which means when a call for assistance comes through a fire department, law enforcement agency, or other organization, these task forces are activated to respond with a team of rescuers which can include search dogs.

Every response is different as these urban search and rescue task forces respond to all types of disasters, both natural and manmade. Because different strategies are applied to search for survivors in each scenario, deployed search dogs may not search if they are not needed. But make no mistake, they are ready if needed.

### **What is the difference between a state and federal task force?**

State task forces are governed individually by each state and set their own operational procedures and policies. Generally, their responses are dictated by mutual aid agreements with neighboring counties and states, allowing them to respond within their state borders and regions nearby.

Federal task forces placed throughout the United States are run by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and are deployed by the federal government anywhere within the country when needed. They can also respond as a state task force when the response is in their own state.

### **How do teams deploy internationally?**

Two of our country's federal task forces are deployable internationally: Los Angeles County-based California Task Force 2 (CA-TF2) and Fairfax County-based Virginia Task Force 1 (VA-TF1). These task forces can deploy with a group of 40-75 rescuers and six canines each to assist foreign governments with search and rescue efforts and humanitarian relief in the event of a disaster.

When deployed outside the United States, these task forces are known as USA-1 (Virginia) and USA-2 (Los Angeles County). Both are completely self-sufficient when deployed, meaning they do not create an additional burden on the country they are assisting.

For an international deployment, the country in need requests assistance from the United States. Once called, the task forces can be gone for up to three weeks as they help search for survivors, provide medical aid, and recover those lost in the disaster.

SDF teams have participated in international deployments multiple times, including the deadly 2010 earthquake in Haiti, the 2011 earthquake and tsunami in Japan, multiple earthquakes that struck Nepal in 2015, the 2017 earthquake in Mexico City, and the 2021 earthquake in Haiti.

### **What do the canines do when deployed?**

No technology can match a dog's nose when it comes to finding survivors buried in debris. A search dog enables rescuers to "clear a pile," or deem it clear of any buried survivors, without digging beneath the surface. This quick but thorough clearance means precious time and resources can be spent efficiently to look for survivors.

Some search scenarios are more difficult for the dogs than others, but that's why SDF built our National Training Center: to provide training on these more advanced setups before a team faces these search problems while deployed.

### **What role does SDF play in a deployment?**

SDF is not a deploying agency, so we do not decide where or when our teams deploy. Our role is to train canine disaster search teams and ensure they are prepared for future rescue missions. We also take lessons learned from previous deployments and incorporate them into training scenarios at the National Training Center.

### **How can I help SDF teams deploying to a disaster?**

SDF-trained teams at a disaster have everything they need to do their job on that specific deployment. Donations to SDF will go toward training existing teams to maximize their deployment readiness and ensure that the next generation of search teams are prepared for future rescue missions.

## SDF SEARCH TEAMS DEPLOY TO IOWA SILO COLLAPSE



On June 21, 2022, SDF-trained teams Laura Denison & Flyer and Scott Hofstetter & Amber responded as part of Iowa Task Force 1 (both teams are also attached to Nebraska Task Force 1) to search for a missing employee at Agri-Way Grain Elevators in Yarmouth, Iowa.

Employees reported they heard a loud bang as they unloaded grain into a holding shed and ran from the facility as the silo began to collapse. One employee could not be located after the collapse, and nearly 60 emergency responders, contractors, and towing crew members were dispatched to the scene to search for the missing man. Sadly, the victim was found deceased.

Our hearts go out to the victim's family, coworkers, and the entire community impacted by this tragedy. While this is not the outcome we hope for, we know that canine disaster search teams are ready to help to ensure no one is left behind.

*Flyer is sponsored by the Joel and Dena Gambord Family.  
Amber is sponsored by Julie Croker and named in memory of Amber Skall.*

# RETIREMENTS

EACH RETIREMENT MARKS THE CULMINATION OF YEARS SPENT PREPARING FOR DISASTERS AND DEPLOYING TO FIND SURVIVORS IN COMMUNITIES NATIONWIDE.

THE COMMITMENT OF THESE TEAMS IS REMARKABLE, AND WE THANK THEM FOR THEIR EXEMPLARY SERVICE AS THEY ENTER A WELL-EARNED NEW CHAPTER OF THEIR LIVES.



**MARSHIA HALL & LILAH**

**Years of Service: 2011-2022**

Temple Terrace Fire | Florida Task Force 1  
Recruited from Sacramento SPCA  
Sponsors: Danielle and Jason Connor



**VINCENT STOOPS & MAGNUM**

**Years of Service: 2011-2022**

Tulsa Fire | Oklahoma Task Force 1  
Recruited from Shasta County Sheriff Animal Regulation



**LAUREL PITMAN & SONIC**

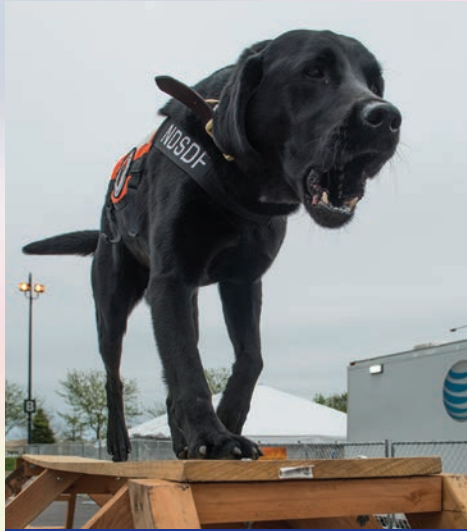
**Years of Service: 2010-2022**

Dallas Fire-Rescue | Texas Task Force 2  
Recruited from The Animal Foundation  
Sponsors: Janet and Greg Van Huisen, Jill Bee, Colleen Murray, DVM

# RAINBOW BRIDGE

WE HONOR THESE CANINE HEROES WHO DEDICATED THEIR LIVES TO HELPING COMMUNITIES IN THEIR TIME OF NEED.

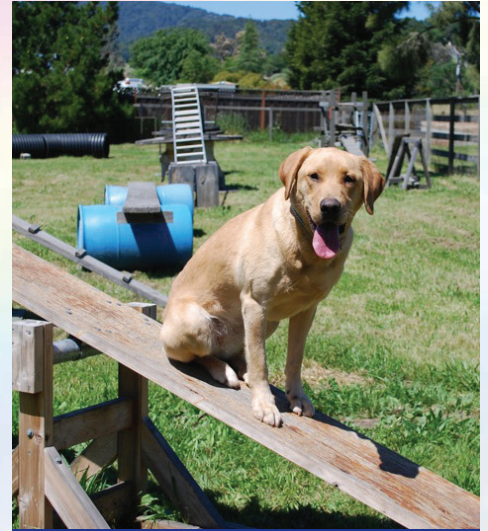
THEY WILL BE REMEMBERED FOR THEIR EXUBERANCE, INGENUITY, AND UNIQUE PERSONALITIES THAT BROUGHT LIGHT AND HOPE TO SO MANY LIVES.



**GEORGE**

**February 8, 2009 – February 19, 2022**

Handler: Damon Wirth  
Lincoln Fire-Rescue  
Nebraska Task Force 1  
Recruited from Labradors and Friends  
Dog Rescue Group  
Sponsor:  
Herbert H. and Barbara C. Dow Foundation



**LILLY**

**December 13, 2008 – June 14, 2022**

Handler: Steve MacDonald  
Nebraska Task Force 1  
Recruited from San Luis Obispo Animal Services  
Sponsor:  
Julie Brandau Community Service Memorial Project



**MAJOR**

**November 2, 2008 – April 4, 2022**

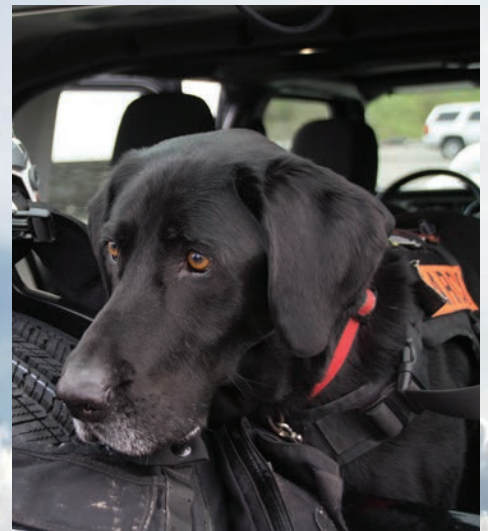
Handler: Russell Tao  
Chino Valley Fire  
California Task Force 5  
Donated by Nona Bauer  
Sponsors: Ann Mangini-Major,  
Job's Daughters of California



**NOAH**

**July 21, 2009 – May 23, 2022**

Handler: Mark Schroeder  
Nebraska Task Force 1  
Recruited from Central California SPCA  
Sponsor:  
Julie Brandau Community Service Memorial Project



**VADER**

**January 1, 2013 – February 6, 2022**

Handler: Eli Thomas  
San Francisco Fire  
California Task Force 3  
Recruited from Rescue Ranch, Inc.  
Sponsors: The Joel and Dena Gambord Family



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888.459.4376

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# UNDER

DISASTROUS CIRCUMSTANCES,  
HE COULD FIND A MISSING  
CHILD IN THE WRECKAGE.  
HARD TO BELIEVE NO ONE  
WANTED THIS COURAGEOUS

# DOG



### Ridge

Discovered in a shelter  
in Tooele County, Utah.



From shelter dog to search dog, help us write the next underdog story.  
Your donation helps us train dogs like Ridge to strengthen  
America's disaster response system.

Donate Now. Call (888) 4K9-HERO or visit [SearchDogFoundation.org](http://SearchDogFoundation.org).

**UNDERDOGS OVERCOME.**