

DOG TAGS

PUPPYJAKEFOUNDATION.ORG • WINTER 2014

Puppy Jake's First Graduate Team



Puppy Jake Foundation is proud to introduce the first graduate team from our training program, Specialist Mitch Chapman and his service dog, BOB.

Mitch served our country in Afghanistan in 2008 as an Infantryman. While conducting route clearance operations, Mitch's vehicle was struck by an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) and subsequently ambushed. Mitch sustained serious injuries, including a spinal injury, hearing loss, head injury, and severe Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Tragically, a close friend of Mitch's lost his life in the ambush.

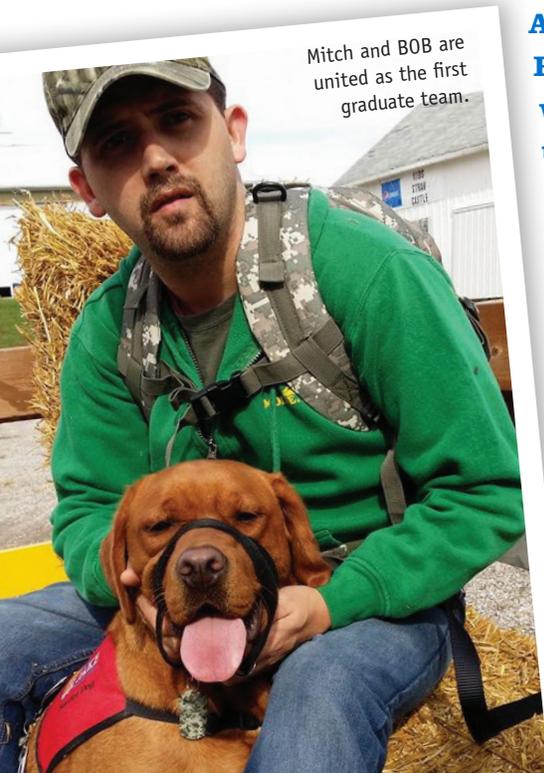
BOB, an almost two-year-old yellow lab with fox red coloring, came to PJF from Iron Hill Retrievers. BOB struggled a bit during his first few weeks in life with a cleft palate. With surgery and some tender loving care, BOB matured and developed into a terrific, eager-to-train service dog.

As part of service dog training, PJF puts trainees through a wide variety of experiences that they might encounter with their placement family.

BOB's adventures during training included air travel to Los Angeles, San Diego, and Chicago. BOB also boarded the USS IOWA, explored rides at Disneyland, went on a boat cruise, visited Legoland, and met the Iowa Barnstormers, Iowa Wild and Iowa Cubs. BOB also served as an ambassador for service dogs, earning many new friends and PJF supporters along the way, including actor Gary Sinise and the cast of Jersey Boys.

Continued on page 2

Mitch and BOB are united as the first graduate team.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Gingerbread house clinic

Sunday, November 23, 2014
1 – 3 p.m.
Palmer's Deli & Market
2843 Ingersoll Avenue
Des Moines

Annual Reception

Thursday, April 23, 2015
6 p.m.
Sticks Studio
3631 SW 61st Street
Des Moines

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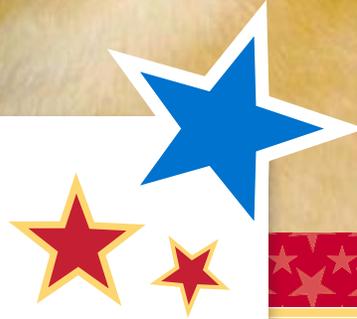
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PJF's new yellow lab puppy, LOLO getting her check-up Ingersoll Animal Hospital.



On With Life with LOLO



With the assistance of the Iowa Association for Justice (IAJ), PJF is pleased to take on the raising and training of a puppy that will grow to become a facility dog at On With Life (OWL). OWL is a brain injury rehabilitation facility in Ankeny, Iowa. Through the "Justice in Deed" program, over \$10,000 was raised to sponsor a puppy dedicated for this extraordinary work.

The puppy selected for this mission is LOLO, a female yellow lab. LOLO will be spending her days at OWL while she is training with her foster family.

During a recent break in LOLO's day, an Occupational Therapist at OWL shared this touching experience: "We witnessed a great example of the benefits of having LOLO join the On With Life team in one of our therapy sessions today. She was visiting with a person who has been presenting with his eyes fixated to the right. No visual tracking has been noted after almost two weeks at On With Life, despite multiple attempts to track objects and faces. Today, he looked up to find LOLO, along with tracking her to the left visual field and moving his head to the left! On top of that, LOLO sat so nicely in his lap for 10 minutes. While I placed his hand on her back, we noted slight movements of his digits in attempts to pet her! Such an awesome, inspiring moment to see!"

Mitch and BOB, first Graduate team, cont.

After 20 months of training, under the guidance of Lead Trainer Renee Jetter at Urbandale's Canine Craze Performance Center, BOB learned the service dog skills needed to assist Mitch with flashbacks, crowd control, stability, and sudden, unexpected noises.

Mitch and BOB participated in a Placement Camp so trainers could work with the team to socialize and fine-tune specific skills. Mitch's three children also participated in "Family Day" during camp and learned the differences between a pet dog and a service dog.

Mitch's wife, Lindsey, reflected on the change she has seen in just one month of the team working together:

"My husband is back. He goes to events with the kids now with confidence. We even went to a concert for the first time in years, just the two of us...and BOB. Words will never describe my gratitude for Puppy Jake Foundation."



PJF dog handlers and volunteers aboard the USS Iowa with Gary Sinise.

Know the Facts about Accessibility

The number of service dogs and service dogs in training is growing rapidly to meet the also increasing needs of individuals that require their assistance. Access of service dogs is protected by the "Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990" (ADA).

It's important to dispel some myths that continue about the role of service dogs, which unfortunately is not commonly understood by many businesses. The following is a brief summary regarding service dog access in public places.

A Business may do the following:

- Ask if the dog is a Service Dog
- Ask what tasks the Service Dog performs

A Business may NOT do the following:

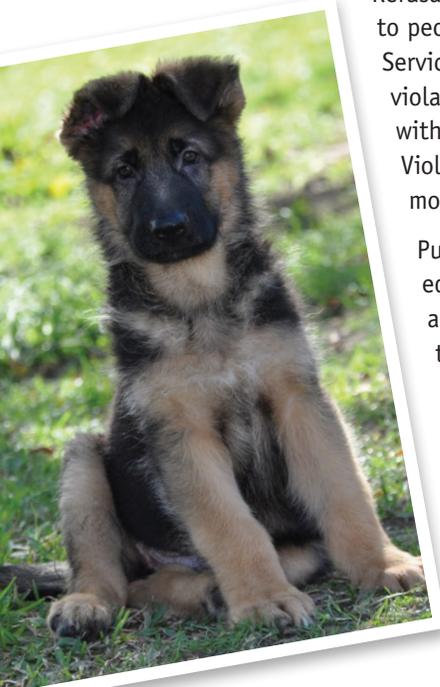
- Ask questions about the person's disability
- Require ID or certification for the Service Dog
- Charge fees due to the Service Dog
- Refuse entry, isolate, segregate, or treat the person differently and/or less favorably than other patrons
- Require the Service Dog to leave a premises UNLESS the dog is out of control and the owner/handler does not take effective action to control it, or the dog poses a direct threat to the health or safety of others

Any business that sells or prepares food must allow service animals in the public area, even if state or local health code prohibits animals on premise.

Refusal to provide equal access to people with disabilities with Service Dogs is a federal civil rights violation, provided by the American with Disabilities Act of 1990. Violators can be required to pay money for damages and penalties.

Puppy Jake Foundation strives to educate businesses in a positive and helpful way to better inform them of the law, so people with disabilities can enjoy the same opportunities as the general public while supporting area businesses.

VINCE, the newest addition to PJF.



Check presentation from Gabus Automotive Group.

Looking Back, Giving Thanks

As we reflect on the beginning of Puppy Jake Foundation just over a year ago, the growth of the organization is truly exciting. A family (and it truly is a family) of volunteers, trainers, sponsors, supporters, puppies and dogs work tirelessly every day to help a wounded member of the U.S. Armed Services. These heroes have given selflessly to defend our freedom and it is an honor and privilege to assist them in restoring independence to their lives.

PJF welcomes volunteers to become foster families to raise, socialize and train our service dogs. Each dog trains for up to 24 months with the foster family. Part-time puppy sitters help with the training on an as-needed basis. Training classes are held weekly at our training facility, Canine Craze Performance Center in Urbandale. Additionally, the teams attend community events and group outings, as well as travel to a major city for specific training skills and experiences.

Seven dogs – Golden Retrievers, Labradors and German Shepherds – are nearing completion of their training. Everyone is pleased with the progress, and the Foundation is looking forward to our next class graduating in 2015.

This month, five new puppies have entered the program. We have hopes of five more puppies joining the team in the next few weeks. It's an incredibly exciting time, as we can see the momentum of our cause picking up.

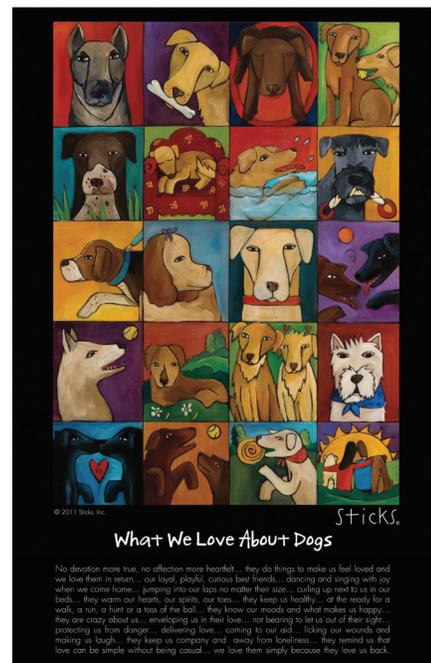
Thank you. Although those words don't adequately describe the deep gratitude we have here at Puppy Jake Foundation for all of you – whether you donated time or money or a good word – we want to be sure to express our appreciation to everyone who has helped us get this far, especially during this time of year.

Puppy Jake Foundation could not fulfill its mission without our financial sponsors and supporters. At an estimated cost of \$18,000 per dog for the two-year training program, this would be impossible without the generous contributions of people like you. Donations go to help with the purchase price of the puppy, veterinarian care, 24 months of training, food and equipment.

You can visit our website at www.puppyjakefoundation.org for an application and to see the list of sponsors and supporters.

Shop Our Site
and Support PJF

Puppy Jake Foundation apparel,
artwork and other collectibles share
your love for your favorite cause
and make for great gifts!
Proceeds go to help provide
service dogs for American
veterans with disabilities.



Puppy Jake Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to helping military veterans through the assistance of well bred, socialized and professionally trained service dogs.

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