



Photo: Carolyn Ford

Amanda (left) and Ashley, among the first Paws for Purple Hearts trainers at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, help Owen refine his retrieve.

## ***Paws for Purple Hearts Expands to Serve Warriors in Transition at*** **Walter Reed Army Medical Center**

BY: RICK YOUNT, DIRECTOR PPH, VETERANS AFFAIRS PALO ALTO HEALTH CARE SYSTEM & WALTER REED ARMY MEDICAL CENTER

Dogs from the Bergin University of Canine Studies are now being taught to heel by soldiers from the Warrior Transition Unit of Walter Reed Army Medical Center (WRAMC). After a long process of drafting proposals and gaining JAG legal approval, the Paws for Purple Hearts (PPH) program at Walter Reed launched in February 2009! What have we learned since February? It was well worth the time and effort.

It was wonderful to watch the soldiers arrive on their first day to work with their new dogs. They patiently listened to the staff talk to them about what they could expect from their participation in the program. Then, the magic happened. Three five-month-old Golden Retrievers were introduced to their new significant Humans. Owen, Nathan and Ortiz took over from there with tails wagging. A shift was felt throughout the room. These young uniformed Wounded Warriors,

some struggling with both physical and psychological injuries from the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan seemed different. Literally, you could see and feel the stress lift.

Imagine a typical day spent attending medical appointments and counting the days and months before you are either discharged from military service or placed back into active service. Now, in the midst of that daily routine, you have the mission of training a service dog that will one day help your fellow comrades live a more fulfilled and independent life.

Now, every day holds a bright spot knowing you will be greeted by a pup that knows you're the greatest and most loveable person who ever lived. He greets you, not caring if you have facial scars or scars that others can't see. He just loves you and that's what you needed! Because of your efforts, you watch your dog learn

see WRAMC page 7

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# In Quest Of

BY: DR. BONNIE BERGIN



Accreditation, oh my gosh, sometimes it seems that it is holding us hostage. The dedicated faculty, our brilliant consultant Betty Sundberg and I have been immersed in this project for months. But finally, on March 20th at 8:15pm, Wink, Denise and I wrapped up the Self Study Report, slipped it into a Fed Ex envelope (the building shook) and went out to dinner to celebrate. Just one more step in the process toward obtaining accreditation, but a big one -- what a relief to watch those months disappear into that envelope.

The following weeks, head above water, reconnecting with staff, husband, volunteers, dogs and life. That weekend I even rode my horse, Rose. Twice! A little self-evaluation -- I have been smiling non-stop for days. No guarantees for accreditation, but after being under the gun for so long, the economy notwithstanding, the breath of fresh air is cause to celebrate.

Next steps are: an accrediting team visitation; their questions for our response; then our case comes before the accrediting council. We've no knowledge of the formal time frame of each of these steps, but we are crossing fingers and toes for a council review early December, 2009. It is not like this is a completely new process. The state of California's process to formally approve our application to offer Associate, Bachelor and Master Degrees was a similarly grinding route.

But accreditation is different, much of it is about championing the dog. Courses are not offered [one or two recently], degrees

are not given in "dog studies" anywhere in the world. Accreditation, defined as "officially recognizing a person or organization as having met a standard or criterion," will formally recognize the dog as human's most purposeful and constant companion.

The vision of a university specializing in canine studies becoming accredited drives each and every moment of my working day -- striving to elevate the dog's status to one of an academic, scholarly subject of study -- reducing its backyard disposal image. This partner and friend of ours for lo these many thousands of years has more than earned the blood, sweat and tears we're spending bringing this dream to reality. May our efforts equal his years of devotion and service to us.

Months more work ahead of us, but for now -- a respite. Thank you for supporting this project. Were sheer will enough, accreditation would happen tomorrow. But grit, smarts, and an evolving perspective are part of a process requiring that we earn the designation. Like our dogs and their forebears, we toil through (figurative) wind, sleet and snow to deliver the message -- "The dog is more than worth it!"

In dogs we trust,

## Development News

### ELVES' BOUNTY

Some very special elves worked their magic to raise funds for BUCS during the month of December. Twenty-four humans and nine dogs worked during the busy holiday season creating goodwill and wrapping gifts at Borders Bookstore in Santa Rosa. Showing their community spirit, Borders provided space and gift wrapping supplies to local non-profit organizations. The non-profits, including BUCS, provided a welcome service to Border's customers.

Although the gift wrapping was free, donations were accepted. BUCS volunteers were proud to present a total of \$1130 to Dr. Bonnie Bergin for their 39-hour fun-filled effort.

### BUBBLES & OYSTERS ... and Dogs in the Wine Country

On Sunday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, Bergin University had a unique opportunity to bring our dogs to Domaine Chandon Winery in Yountville, California at their annual Bubbles and Oysters event.

This prestigious event in the Napa Valley attracted over one thousand people. And, for the first time they included a non-profit. We'll toast to that!

### COME CELEBRATE!

On May 23<sup>rd</sup> from 3:00 to 8:00 PM BUCS will hold a family celebration day at Chop's in support of our at-risk teen & dog program! Everyone is welcome to enjoy the following activities: silent auction, rock climbing, sumo wrestling, service dog demonstrations, music and food (\$10 for food ticket).

Chop's is located by Santa Rosa's Railroad Square, 509 Adams St. To pre-order food tickets, please contact Pierre Rivard at 707.545.3647 x37.

### BASKETBALL SHOOTOUT

The Oxford Academy located in Westbrook, Connecticut, and the New London County Rugby team, decided that Paws for Purple Hearts was a program they wanted to support. So under the direction of Matt LaSoto, the Oxford Academy Basketball Coach, students, rugby team members, faculty and friends came together and held a Shoot Out asking for pledges from students, teachers and the community with the proceeds benefiting Paws for Purple Hearts.

The benefit included over 13 hours of volunteer time with 27 participants. All told, 3,825 shots were made and the benefit raised over \$3,200 for the program. Wow, our dogs would definitely approve of this use of their favorite item, the ball! Thanks so much!

### DEL MONTE VISIT

It was exciting when, in early 2008, we learned Del Monte Pet Food Division had chosen Bergin University of Canine Studies as a non-profit partner and we had an opportunity to meet some of their Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania staff. In late 2008, Del Monte moved its Pet Food Division to its headquarters in San Francisco, which was good news as it meant we would be closer and have more opportunities to get to know their mostly new staff.

To kick off this opportunity, we hosted 42 Del Monte Pet Foods Division staff at the University. Over a couple of hours, they were given a facilities tour, a presentation by Bonnie Bergin with an overview of our history, information on assistance and other working dogs, dog skill demos, and a description of our programs and commitment to expanding the human-canine bond through research and education.

Not sure what was the biggest hit -- the lunch served by Black Bean BBQ or the 17 four-week-old puppies they were able to hold and pet. 🐾

ADJUNCT PROFESSOR STANLEY COREN PHD.

# A Connoisseur of the Human and Canine Mind

BY: DR. BONNIE BERGIN



Dr. Coren with three pals: Wizard, a Cavalier King Charles Spaniel, Dancer, a Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever, and Odin, a Flat Coat Retriever (pictured left to right).


Dr. Coren is a genius. A much sought after speaker state-side and abroad, he will be one of the keynote speakers at the American Psychological Association meeting in August. That honor will be followed immediately by a trip to Sonoma County to teach Bergin University's Master's and Bachelor's Degree course in Human-Canine Cognition and Communication. A believer in dogs and in dogs' cognition, no one is more qualified.

A professor of Psychology at the University of British Columbia and the author of over 28 books, Dr. Coren is a connoisseur of the human mind. And due to its similarity to us, the dog's mind did not escape his attention. With his Alberta born wife, he has dog parented many breeds of dogs including Cairn Terriers, Cavalier King Charles Spaniels, and Beagles, in addition to retrievers. He has been involved in numerous dog sporting events but maintains that he simply enjoys the company of human's best friend and cohort.

His classes, fascinating in their depth and breadth, promote the student's mind to mine their own depths for jewels of dog knowledge. A believer in positive reinforcement, communicating with the dog and expanding the dog's abili-

ties through better understanding of the dog's mind is an underlying theme at every turn in his fascinating lectures. His biting wry wit keeps his students at once alert and laughing while in search of meaning in his every word.

Real life stories, examples and lessons guide his students into a scientific awareness of the nuances of the dog's mind, a viewpoint usually only available anecdotally. A quote from one of his students underscores Coren's desire to see the dog given his academically rightful and just place in modern society. "Dr. Coren believes in many of the word-of-mouth reports of incredible dog feats but insists that a search for hard evidence in these unconfirmed reports will provide substantiation to an area rampant with hyperbole."

Masterful, both as an author and of the dog's point of view, Coren's written contribution to our understanding of dogs is considerable. The following is a partial list: *The Modern Dog*, *Why Do Dogs Have Wet Noses?*, *The Pawprints of History*, *Dogs and the Course of Human Events*, *How Dogs Think*, *Understanding the Canine Mind*, *How To Speak Dog*, *Why We Love the Dogs We Do*, *What Do Dogs Know?* and *The Intelligence of Dogs*. 

## Proud Supporter of PPH at Walter Reed

BY: PAM INGALLS, CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER




Carolyn Ford (left) and Lydia Wade-Driver are our great team that runs the PPH program at Walter Reed. Also pictured is Lydia's dog Cashmere.

When Rick Yount decided to put his master's project into action and implement his concept of using dogs as therapy for veterans returning from the war conflict with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder by teaching them to train service dogs who would ultimately be placed with their fellow veterans with mobility impairments, he quickly learned that it would take not just a lot of patience but a lot of support from individuals that could get him in the door of the Veteran's Administration and the Department of Defense. With his likeable nature, it was easy for him to get people to listen to his concept and become excited about the possibilities.

There were a number of significant champions for PPH along the way. One of those champions was instrumental in helping to bring PPH to Walter Reed Army Medical Center (Walter Reed). Dr. Earl Strimple, a retired veterinarian and strong advocate for the Paws for Purple Hearts (PPH) program from the beginning, made a valuable introduction to his contacts at Augusta Westland, an affiliate of Finmeccanica. From that introduction, Rick spoke to a number of people at Augusta Westland and Finmeccanica who listened with enthusiasm and wanted Finmeccanica and its affiliates to get involved with the program. Senior management at Finmeccanica saw the PPH as something they wanted to support in a significant way. The PPH program coincided with their goal of helping veterans returning from the war conflict. As one of the largest defense

contractors in the world, they felt an obligation to give back to the veterans. This was such an opportunity.

At the time, the program was just starting out at the Veterans Administration Palo Alto Health Care System. Finmeccanica wanted to help bring the PPH program to serve veterans in treatment at Walter Reed Army Medical Center (Walter Reed) in Washington, D.C. That worked really well since Rick had already made some contacts there from his original efforts to operate at Walter Reed. With Rick's early efforts and Finmeccanica's contacts and significant funding, the program launched to help veterans at Walter Reed in early February 2009. And thus a relationship was born. With their initial support and intention to provide ongoing support, we were able to offer this unique opportunity to veterans from the west coast to the east coast. Carolyn Ford and Lydia Wade-Driver, both graduates of Bergin University, were hired to run the Walter Reed program and heart warming stories of the veterans with their dogs have been coming since the first days.

The PPH program was Rick's vision and two years in the making. He and the rest of the staff at Bergin University are forever grateful for the support of not just Finmeccanica, but the combined efforts of many that have made the program a reality. On behalf of the staff, veterans and our dogs, thank you. 

### RAISING PUPPIES

# SHARE THE JOY!


BY: MOLLY MORELLI, DOG PROGRAM MANAGER



Time to explore and romp in the grass!

The last 8 weeks of my life have been a whirlwind. Seventeen whirlwinds to be exact. On February 1, 2009, Marilyn delivered nine healthy puppies; and on February 4, 2009, Beauty gave us 8 more. Puppy laundry, cleaning whelping boxes and feeding mamas were a 24-hour job for those first few weeks. As the puppies grew, the moms starting doing less and I started doing more. It was amazing to me that with 17 puppies I was able to know each pup as an individual. Each milestone, whether it was when they first opened their eyes, or took their first step, was met with amazement and a bit of sadness that it was over.

Now the puppies are 8 weeks old and full of life. They are learning more about their world every day. They no longer depend on their dog mom for survival, but now they depend on me, their human mom. They are eating about 18 pounds of dog food each day. Every morning they bound out of their crates ready for their morning walk. Then we load up in the car and head to school for the day. Each evening is spent walking in the fields, playing in the wading pool or finding treasures in the barn. I cherish each moment with these pups because I know that soon I will blink my eyes and they will be all grown up.

As the saying goes, "all good things must come to an end," and it is time for my children to leave the nest. It is time for them to have a home of their own and mature to become somebody's life partner. If you are interested in raising one of these pups, please call me at 707.545.3647 x32 or e-mail Molly@assisteddog.org. You must live within 30 miles of our Santa Rosa campus and be able to attend classes. 

# Congratulations Graduates

We're very proud of these graduates of our State of California-approved Professional Certificate programs -  
Assistance Dog Client Training and Social/Therapy Team Training.

## ASSISTANCE DOG TEAMS

WINTER 2008 AND SPRING 2009



Karen Lawson & Service Dog Stuart  
Twain Harte, California



Charles Williams & Service Dog Hank  
Los Angeles, California



Ilse Evans & Service Dog Starkey  
Berkeley, California



Mary Raymond & Service Dog Holly (formerly Holland)  
Santa Rosa, California



Gabriel Nio & Autism Service Dog Noah  
Petaluma, California



Renee Stockfleth & Home Helpmate Utrixie  
Petaluma, California

### MORE THAN A SERVICE DOG

## My Confidence and Independence is Restored

BY: LYNN HOLMES, SERVICE DOG RECIPIENT, SPRING 2008



Lynn and Quixote are a great team -  
always on the go!

Quixote, my BUCS-trained service dog, is happiest when he is doing things for me. It's really about how can I serve you! And I would cherish him for his help, if that's all Quixote did. But we are best buddies. We go everywhere together-he stays by my side in the bedroom and bathroom, watching TV, at the hairdressers, and on long walks on bike trails. We're inseparable.

If all he did were pick up things I drop, that would be enough. Quixote makes me relaxed about dropping things. At home, I used to spend a lot of my very limited energy trying to get things off the floor using a reacher. The hand strain alone was exhausting. Out in the community if I dropped something I was SOL, unless someone came by and helped. Most of all, my assistance dog is an energy saver and a big confidence builder.

As a team, we've figured out ways for Quixote to understand what few words I can speak and what my various mumbles mean. You see, PLS (primary lateral sclerosis), has left me unable speak clearly, as well as affecting my mobility. My voice was my livelihood, as an attorney and sales person. Having no one understand my words was demoralizing. I just wanted to crawl in a hole.

Then along came Quixote! Wonder Dog! He understands me! What a fantastic feeling! And he does everything I ask of him. Sometimes we get creative, like flipping a light

switch: A couple switches don't have space for Quixote's paws on the wall, so I position myself so he can use my lap to stand on, then Quixote leans over and flips the switch.

Now I go outdoors nearly everyday. People approach Quixote, often stopping to chat with Quixote and me. Cashiers light up when he pays! We go all over Santa Rosa, just the two of us-on the bike trails, on the bus, to the mall, to the movies, and to the parks.

One of our first outings was to my nephew's high school baseball game. At the end of an inning with all the cheering and high 5's on the field, Quixote, being the ultimate people dog, had to join in. Quixote bolted and I dropped the leash. In a split second, there he was, on the pitchers mound, surrounded by boys. I beeped my horn on the wheelchair and he returned, happy as could be!

In the past 6 months with my service dog, I have learned a few lessons: (1) These are people dogs and when you're excited, they're excited; (2) Men and boys are more willing to acknowledge a person in a wheelchair with a dog; and (3) Hold the leash tightly.

You will be asked in the months to come, if your dog is beginning to know what you're thinking. And yes, your dog will anticipate your needs, but I think the more important

see Lynn & Quixote page 7

# Our Associate Degree Grads



Lisa Anderson & Spice  
Evanston, Wyoming  
AS in Assistance Dog Education



Tricia Clarkson & Seddy  
San Jose, California  
AS in Assistance Dog Education



Sharon Grant & Simone  
Lawrenceville, New Jersey  
AS in Assistance Dog Education



Stacey Herman & Starkey  
San Clemente, California  
AS in Assistance Dog Education



Ming Chin Lin & Uki  
Keelung, Taiwan  
AS in Assistance Dog Education



Shannon McBride & Uki  
Shingle Springs, California  
AS in Assistance Dog Education



Colleen Powell & Uno  
Minneapolis, Minnesota  
AS in Assistance Dog Education



Linda Ryan & Tatiana  
Novato, California  
AS in Human-Canine Life Sciences

## DEGREES OPEN DOORS FOR GRADS

BY: JORJAN POWERS, COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR



Early puppyhood training is always a happy time for AS-degree students pictured here with the "W" pups.

We are often asked what types of jobs our graduates tend to get after completing their degrees. Typically, those who get a degree in Assistance Dog Education want to either start their own service dog agency or work for someone else. Sometimes they create a niche for specialized training—such as making placements with children, a particular disease like Parkinson's, training a unique breed of dog or training someone's own personal dog.

Those who have taken our Human-Canine Life Sciences course typically want to be involved in a canine related field such as dog daycare, grooming, obedience training,

agility or search and rescue, to name a few. There are also job possibilities in marketing, research and product development.

As with any degree, the more advanced your training, the broader your experience and expertise. Studies show that the higher your education, the more money you will make in your career as well.

If you have questions about pursuing an Associate, Bachelors or Masters Degree at Bergin University of Canine Studies, please contact Jorjan Powers, Communications Director, [Jorjan@assisteddog.org](mailto:Jorjan@assisteddog.org) or phone: 707.545.3647 x22.

## SOCIAL/THERAPY TEAMS

SEPTEMBER 2008

FEBRUARY 2009



Left to right: Linda Schroff & Bella, Valerie Szostak & Miss Quincey, Alisa Kernitz & Snowy Zoe (white lab)



Left to right: Marni Wroth & Onza, Zoe Good & Boo Boo, Patty Jellison & Maggie, Mary Bevin & Peyton

## A GOOD INVESTMENT FOR TODAY AND THE FUTURE

BY: PAM INGALLS, CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

With few exceptions, no business or individual is unaffected by the current economy. Businesses and individuals are faced with hard decisions regarding financial priorities and how best to weather these times.

During these difficult times, financial experts are finding the steady course they historically have advised their clients to take – diversification – isn't helping people much. Most of us are waiting it out and trusting that in time, the economy will strengthen.

As in most bad news, there's a silver lining. People are stepping back and re-evaluating their priorities - family, friends, health, and community. And one thing is for certain. Even in the worst of times, making an investment in a cause you believe in is always a good investment. In fact, it's probably the soundest investment you can make today. And it does pay off. The personal dividends are huge. Making a difference in the world.

We at BUCS are joining other businesses and non-profits by evaluating our needs, priorities and goals. So far, through our loyal supporters, we've been able to keep our staff together. This may change, but for now we've been fortunate. We are investing in our future to ensure our place in the world by hiring a top-flight branding and marketing firm, Brainworks, to strengthen our identity and assist us with increased student enrollment through professional recruitment strategies. Their experience and proven

track record with other non-profits and universities is impressive, and they generously discounted their services to make it affordable for us. We are confident that our decision to make this investment will pay off and are enthusiastic as they guide us through a process of self-reflection and expand our vision and possibilities.

Our donations in recent months are understandably lower. Some donors have apologized for reducing their donations to us. No apology is necessary. We have more responsibility than ever to ensure that every dollar donated is maximized. You have to work harder for your dollars, and we have to work harder for them, too. From the single dollar bill that we occasionally receive to the largest donation, we value each donor and their ability to give. And we recognize the sacrifices you make, not for Bergin University, but for the people and dogs that we are able to help. We work for them and share that common goal with our donors.

So it is our hope that you will continue during these times to give what you can to ensure we can continue to make a difference. If you aren't able to give now, we understand and hope you will stay in touch and consider us in the future, or consider other ways to support us through your donation of time or goods and services. We know your reward, in addition to our gratitude, is being a part of the work we do. 🐾



Nan and Joe

Marketing Bergin University:

## Taking the Next Step

BY: ALFRED KAHN, FOUNDER AND PRESIDENT OF BRAINWORKS

Bergin University is taking bold steps toward its future as a university, and I'm happy to be a part of the journey.

As the president of Brainworks, a national design and marketing firm, I am excited to be in the process of bringing the uniqueness, expertise, reputation and passion of Bergin University to a new and wider public. We will be helping Dr. Bergin and the administration and faculty of the school create a new visual identity, along with a plan and a set of communication tools for enhanced student recruitment and enrollment, plus a blueprint for growth.

As the school goes forward, it is our job to communicate the vision that will move Bergin University from what exists today to what will rise tomorrow. We have identified many strengths for a school that, in terms of professional enrollment marketing, recruitment and management, is essentially starting from scratch. In truth, Brainworks has never teamed with an institution as unique as Bergin — but we have seldom seen one with as much potential. The school is breaking new ground, and the commitment is real.

We'll keep *Quest* readers updated along the way. This is one time we're very happy to be going to the dogs! 🐾



Whitney

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Home of the  
Assistance Dog Institute

### Staff:

Sarah Anderson, Work-study staff/Part-time Faculty  
Dr. Bonita Bergin, President/Chief Academic Officer  
Cheryl Brighting, Development Associate/Assistance Dog Services  
Anne Castro, DVM, Veterinarian/Faculty  
Kathleen Condon, Associate Academic Officer  
Carolyn Ford, Manager & Instructor PPH  
Denise Getz, Administrator/Financial Officer  
Wink Grellis, Marketing Specialist  
Leslie Heckathorn, Kennel Maintenance  
Sae Hokoyama, Work-study staff/Part-time Faculty  
Pam Ingalls, Chief Operating Officer  
Alexandra Laudel, Kennel Maintenance  
Marie LeMay, Kennel Maintenance  
D. Glenn Martyn, Dog Training Director/Faculty  
Molly Morelli, Dog Program Manager/Faculty  
Nancy Pierson, Pup Parent/K-9 Support Program Manager/Faculty  
Jorjan Powers, Communications Director/Faculty  
Pierre Rivard, Venture Programs Manager  
Marcia Rogers, Faculty  
Lydia Wade-Driver, Training Consultant PPH  
Rick Yount, Director of Paws for Purple Hearts



## GI Education Benefits

If you are a veteran, there is no better time than now to get a college degree. Thanks to the new Post-911 GI Bill, increased benefits are available starting August 1, 2009 to attend Bergin University of Canine Studies (BUCS). BUCS has been approved to receive payment since 2004 for tuition and fees for veterans who enroll in either our Associate of Science or Bachelor of Science programs. These benefits may include a housing allotment as well.

We encourage all interested veterans and eligible dependents to talk with their local veteran education counselor to find out more details about the latest G.I. education benefits. Our facility code is 31-0103-05. 🐾

**LYNN AND QUIXOTE** CONT'D FROM PAGE 4



Quixote helps Lynn with daily chores.



question is: Do you know what your dog is thinking? With Quixote, around 10 pm he looks at me saying with droopy eyes, asking why aren't we in bed? Yes, he starts out sleeping in my single bed, under the covers, snuggled up close to me.

As my partner, Quixote helps me with many daily chores. He opens and closes doors, gets clothes I point to from the closet or a drawer, flips light switches, opens the refrigerator and closes it, speaks when I click a dog trainer, opens and closes the pantry door. And if it's time gets his daily bag of his food, he places it in my lap. He picks up anything I drop. He also pays cashiers. Recently Quixote learned to take my jacket off me (followed by cheering and a lick-fest). He knows my eyeglasses and TV remote don't belong on the floor and Quixote gets them and brings to me; and he knows I don't belong on the floor!

My agency sent a new caregiver and she did well, until it was time to transfer me back to my wheelchair. I ended up

lying on the floor and Quixote just calmly placed himself between the caregiver and me. No aggression. No barking. Just a calm demeanor, but positioned to say, "Ok you're not touching my person again." Quixote moved when the paramedics came and when everyone left, we had a lick-fest.

About the lick-fest - I think I'm his favorite toy. You see, Quixote is a lick monster! He loves to stand on my footrests and lick me all over my face, head and hair. He goes nuts. I'm amazed at how long he can stand on his hind legs. I cry uncle long before he's ready to stop the sloppy kisses.

As each of you will find, an assistance dog from Bergin University is only a small portion of what the University provides. They have given me more than a service dog; they've given me partner who has restored my independence and confidence. 🐾

**Walter Reed Army Medical Center** CONT'D FROM PAGE 1



Photo: AgustinaWestland

Nathan, Ortiz and Owen (top to bottom)

the commands and together you celebrate the success. When you're having a hard day, he knows how to help. He is there for you and listens. He doesn't allow you to isolate because that is a violation of dog values. He is an expert at living in the moment, a skill that will make all the difference in the world for you. He'll teach you if you let him in and oh yes, he's good at getting in! Who is teaching whom to heel/heal?

Thanks to all who support our efforts. With your help, we're opening new doors to allow our dogs to work their miracles! 🐾

**VET TIP**

**For Special Canine Kisses**

BY: ANNE CASTRO, DVM

Why should I brush my dog's teeth?

Any oral hygiene program whether you are a dog or a person starts with daily brushing to remove plaque. Plaque is the accumulation of bacteria which if not removed will eventually lead to tartar buildup, gum inflammation, infection and loss of teeth etc. Organs such as the kidneys and heart are susceptible to the spread of this infection.

Once tartar has accumulated, teeth need to be cleaned under anesthesia by a licensed veterinarian. By brushing your dog's teeth daily, you may lessen the amount of dental cleanings and thus save money in addition to your dog having fresh breath and other health benefits.

It's easy to brush your dog's teeth especially if you start slowly and when your dog is young. Use a soft brush or a finger brush and no toothpaste in the beginning. Concentrate on the outside of the teeth. Once your dog is used to this brushing you can add a dog toothpaste (not a human toothpaste) to the process. Dog toothpaste comes in a variety of flavors, which may help make the experience more palatable.

In general, hard food helps remove plaque from teeth and there are specially formulated diets to help control plaque. A good home care plan involves both daily brushing and diet plus regular vet visits, which include an oral exam.

All of this translates to fresh breath - great for those special kisses! 🐾



Students Lisa Anderson and Ming Chin Lin familiarize Nettie with the toothbrush - a great start toward canine dental health.



Home of the  
Assistance Dog Institute

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## Mark These Dates

- May 13 - 17.....Social/Therapy Seminar
- May 25 - June 12... Master's Session
- June 15- July 25 ...Service Dog Seminar
- July 8 - 12..... Social/Therapy Seminar
- July 25 ..... Summer Graduation
- August 3 - 22 ..... Master's Session
- August 17 ..... Fall BS classes begin
- August 24 ..... Fall AS classes begin
- December 19 ..... Winter Graduation



Choices - take a swim? grab a snack?  
hang with mom? follow Molly?



Xosa



Xander and Xuxu



Who's Hungry?!



Xander

PHOTOS BY: SAE HOKOYAMA, BS-DEGREE STUDENT