



**Home of the  
Assistance Dog Institute**  
10201 Old Redwood Hwy  
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www.BerginU.edu

Q2 2021

# QUEST

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF BERGIN UNIVERSITY OF CANINE STUDIES

## IN QUEST OF:

## Making a difference in the lives of shelter and rescue dogs!

Eureka! For several years now Bergin University had been sending our Bachelor students to the Humane Society, Rohnert Park Animal Shelter and other canine rescue programs to train these abandoned, surrendered, stray or feral pups and dogs to help make them more adoptable. But with COVID, like so many of our other activities, these programs had ground to a halt.

But that didn't stop our efforts to help these homeless pups and dogs in need of forever homes and to support life outcomes for them.

Devan, our creative Puppy Parent Manager, reached out to his contacts in the rescue/shelter world, resulting in Allison, a volunteer for Dogma Animal Rescue, bringing us a litter of Miniature Pincher crossed with Yorkie pups she was fostering. Prior to whelping, the mom had been rescued from a homeless encampment in the Central Valley.

Daily, Allison, sometimes accompanied by her daughter Grace, came to the University campus, bringing three unbelievably tiny four-week-old pups no bigger than the palm of a hand into our University world. These pups were trained by our students with the intent to make them more adoptable, while the students themselves learned more about training pups.

One of our University's goals is to provide our dog-loving students an opportunity to become aware of and enamored with the prospect of helping support successful placements for those lost, frightened, homeless canine best friends whose problems or untrained behaviors are a serious deterrent to that search.

Allison's willingness to travel to the school to provide our students this experience was exceptional, and Lillypup, the abandoned pups' mom, gradually became comfortable seeing her tiny litter grow into young pups



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### INSIDE:

- MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF SHELTER AND RESCUE DOGS
- STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES
- GRADUATE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

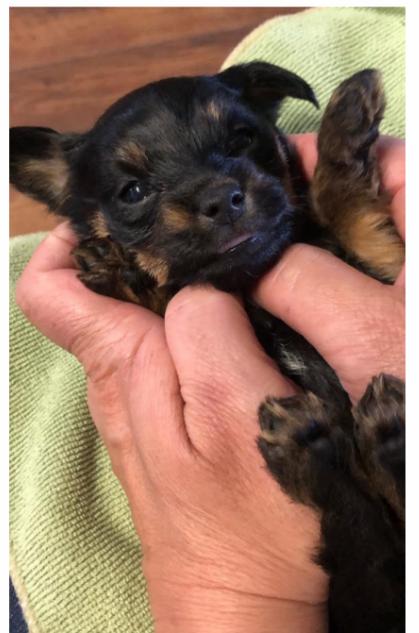
who were learning to wear a harness, walk on a leash, and learn some basic obedience commands.

As Charlie, Rockie, and Eevee grew from just a few ounces to just over two pounds in size, their initially uncertain, untrusting little bodies and minds developed into more confident beings who began exploring and enjoying the pup room and all its toys and training treats - not to mention the Associate and Bachelor students who dedicated their time and knowledge to lovingly helping bring these pups along the path to becoming ideal household family pets.

Lilly's pups are now just over 9 weeks old and have been adopted. Still with bodies barely larger than an eggplant and unlikely to grow much bigger than an oval cantaloupe, they will bring joy and happiness to a household in love with the biggest of canine's hearts in the tiniest of canine bodies.

A contribution to Bergin University would be most appreciated to help us continue our efforts to help our canine friends and companions make a difference in the lives of individuals with disabilities and our commitment to make a difference in theirs.

*Devan*





# STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

At Bergin University, our mission is to advance the human-canine connection through research and education. One of the many ways we accomplish this is through our hands-on work with dogs in shelters and rescues.

This semester, the fantastic team at Humane Society of Inland Mendocino County welcomed our Bachelor students into their shelter with unparalleled levels of enthusiasm and open arms.

Our students made the trip from campus in Penngrove up to Redwood Valley to spend four hours every Friday with the dogs in the care of HSIMC. Our students have assisted with dog introductions, small play groups, quiet kennel activities, obedience exercises, and of course a bit of general love and attention for the dogs.

Our students graduate from the programs at Bergin University and work in a wide range of fields in the canine industry. Some become Service Dog trainers, others pet dog trainers, dog groomers, police K9 trainers, agility trainers, and a growing number are working in animal shelters.



Regardless of their paths post-graduation, our students know that their work in any field impacts the overall welfare of the animals and the people in their community.

Thank you to the staff, volunteers, supporters, and dogs of HSIMC for making our students and instructor feel so welcome in your facility. We are so thankful for our partnership with HSIMC, and cannot wait to return for future semesters and collaborations.





# GRADUATE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

## SON CARE FOUNDATION

SAVING LIVES



### About Son Care Foundation

Son Care Foundation’s mission is saving lives. We’re here to highlight our New Life K9s and Gentle Touch Pet Training programs. New Life K9s provides Service Dogs to veterans and first responders, who are struggling with PTSD. New Life K9s also helps rehabilitate incarcerated men in state prisons through dog training. Gentle Touch Pet Training directly supports New Life K9s by providing 100% of their profits to saving the lives of our veterans, first responders, and our incarcerated population.

### Son Care Foundation Job Opportunities

#### 1. Program Manager

New Life K9s Service Dogs is looking for a dedicated Program Manager to join our team! This position will play a key role in overseeing our Service Dog program.

As a Program Manager you will be responsible for managing people, maintaining systems, writing grants, and fundraising. This role is great for someone who is detail oriented, has great public speaking skills, and has a passion for supporting the rehabilitation of veterans, first responders, and incarcerated individuals.

If you want meaningful work and love working with people and dogs, we’d love to meet you!

See job here:  
[www.soncarefoundation.org/employment](http://www.soncarefoundation.org/employment)

#### 2. Canine Interns

New Life K9s also has four Canine Internship positions available! This is a multi-disciplinary paid internship with the opportunity to gain valuable experience in three canine-related fields.

As a Canine Intern, you can choose to focus on being a Service Dog Training Assistant, a Daycare/Kennel Host, a Group Class Dog Training Assistant, or you can do a combination!

This internship is 35-40 hours/week and includes a free room on our property. So if you love people and dogs and you’re ready to explore different dog careers, we’d love to meet you!

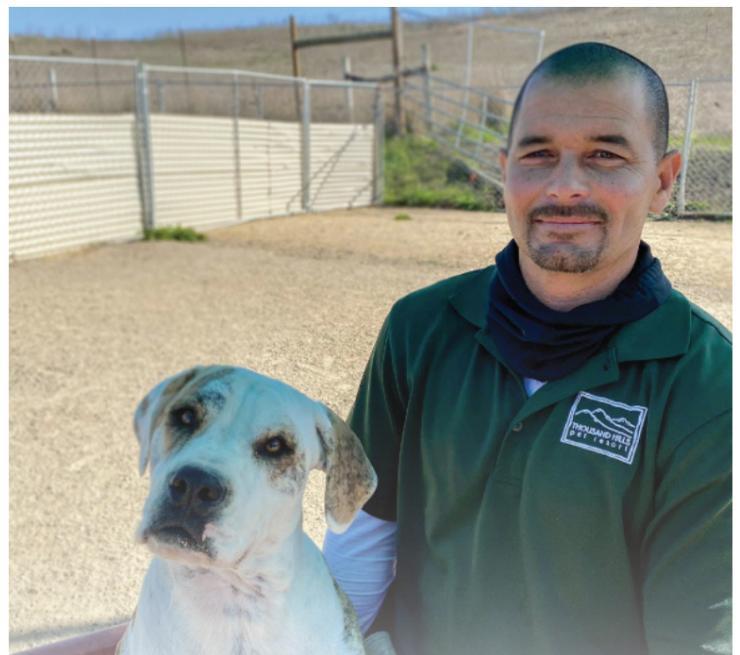
See job here:  
[www.soncarefoundation.org/employment](http://www.soncarefoundation.org/employment)

#### 3. Pet Dog Trainer

Gentle Touch Pet Training is looking for a talented dog trainer to join our team! As a dog trainer you will play an important role in being a part of a team, communicating with customers, and all dog’s safety.

This position is part-time but hours can be up to 40 hours/week. So if you love people and dogs of all breeds and sizes we’d love to meet you!

See job here:  
[www.soncarefoundation.org/employment](http://www.soncarefoundation.org/employment)





**Paws for Purple Hearts Program Instructor:**

Paws for Purple Hearts (PPH), a non-profit organization, provides dog training instruction as therapy for our Veteran service men and women. We currently have instructor or associate instructor openings at three of our five sites across the United States. These instructors work with Veterans with physical disabilities or diagnosed trauma-related conditions (PTSD or TBI) at Department of Defense and Veteran Administration hospitals and programs. We also conduct on-site Veteran programs at our five PPH facilities. The dogs these Veterans and PPH instructors help train are then placed as service, facility, or specialty therapy dogs with Veterans or Veteran-related programs.

If you are interested in applying for one of these positions, please email [servicedog@paws4ph.org](mailto:servicedog@paws4ph.org) to receive a job description and application. Please put "program instructor application" in the subject line.



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 Rachel Hanson -- Staff Accountant  
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 Jennifer Longman -- Vet Care Assistant  
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