I could either sit and cry or I could fight for my infant son.

I Don’t Want Pity!
Greetings from
Guide Dogs of the Desert

Fake Service Dogs. We hear about situations on the news related to travel, ill-behaved dogs being allowed access while “legitimate” service dogs are expelled from planes and other locations. We encounter them in the grocery stores and restaurants, doctor offices and while shopping. This topic has been extensively discussed at the Council on U.S. Dog Guide Schools (CUSDGS) bi-annual meetings for the past two years, of which Guide Dogs of the Desert is an active member. This Council is made up of the Executive Directors and Directors of Training of all the accredited Guide Dogs Schools in the United States. Our discussions at CUSDGS has culminated in the following Position Statement that I thought worthy to share with you. Existing Legislation is Sufficient to Curb Fake Service Animal Use.

**CUSDGS Position Statement**

The Council of US Dog Guide Schools recommends a focus on appropriate behavior, hygiene, and control for animals brought into public spaces including pets and all categories of working animals. Current federal laws such as: The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA); Air Carrier Access Act (ACAA); and Fair Housing Act (FHA), include provisions to exclude access to a service animal based on these criteria. Legislation requiring Licensure or Certification will complicate access issues for legitimate service dog users without addressing behavior or management issues and is not recommended. To ensure that animals entering public spaces are well behaved, managed and housebroken, the best approach is to empower the public and law enforcement to use existing laws through education and outreach efforts.

**Background Information**

Pet owners who illegally misrepresent service animals and bring ill-behaved, poorly-trained, mismanaged or poorly-groomed animals into public spaces can cause access challenges for legitimate service dog teams who follow. The services dogs provided to individuals, who are disabled are becoming increasingly diverse and more challenging for the public to easily recognize. Additional designations under the law such as emotional support and therapy animals compound the issue. Societal acceptance of dogs in public spaces is also on the rise. On one hand, the resulting increase of dogs in public places is a positive step for guide dog access, but when a dog misbehaves in public, it has an immediate effect on any service dog teams it encounters and has the potential for a long-term effect on reducing accessibility for legitimate service dog teams.

*Continued on page 5*
Making a Difference – How Guide Dog Patton Provides Independence So Carly Can Care for Her Infant Son!

“All I want to do is make a difference!” Carly just turned 30, but for the past seven years she has been navigating her world in total blindness. “I have been dealing with challenges all my life. When I was five years old, I was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes. Dealing with the ongoing treatment was tough as a child. During my teenage years, I sometimes neglected my health by ignoring my diabetes.

When I was 23, I was in an abusive relationship that got violent. On one occasion I was thrown to the ground and hit my head. The trauma caused by the blow to my head combined with the effects of my diabetes resulted in total blindness - almost overnight. All of a sudden I found myself blind and was forced to learn to use a white cane - I hated it! Losing my independence created so much frustration and anger.”

Carly’s grandmother, Sally, is also blind and has received two guide dogs from Guide Dogs of the Desert. With her grandmother’s gentle yet persistent encouragement, Carly attended classes to learn to use a white cane and read braille. Things improved for Carly. But during the past two years, Carly experienced both wonderful highs with the birth of her son and devastating lows finding out her mother was diagnosed with terminal cancer. “No one ever wants to see their mother fall ill, but with this blow I could either sit and cry and let life go by, or I could fight to regain my independence and show my mother that—even with blindness and a baby—I could do it on my own! Her illness and my not wanting to be a burden gave me determination to push to the limits of doing all I could by myself before ever asking for help! I don’t want pity; so finding ways to get things done for me and my son, meant everything to me! Now, people are amazed at what I can do being blind!”

Navigating the outdoors has been just as impactful and life changing for Carly. “Thanks to Guide Dogs of the Desert, my life changed even more last April when I got Patton. With him leading the way, I feel very secure going out alone. Untouchable! I totally trust that he is not going to let me get hit by a car or bus! I walk confidently everywhere with my baby and Patton everyday—we go to the park, shopping, or just around town—the freeing feeling is overwhelming! Truly indescribable! Plus I am in much better shape and healthier, too, since I got Patton!

Now I just want to give back and make a difference for others. After my son gets a little older, my mission is to return to school in the medical field to create a better life for my son! I am determined to give back and help others.”

You, too, can make a difference right now! We invite you to join Carly in helping change lives with a renewed sense of freedom and independence with a guide dog leading the way. There are over 45 applicants on the waiting list for a guide dog; and with your support, you can help deliver just what these applicants yearn for—freedom, confidence, and independence!

Make the perfect year-end charitable gift today with a gift to Guide Dogs of the Desert!
October 2017 Graduates

**Sandy & Tammy**
“There is no better place to get a guide dog than Guide Dogs of the Desert. Tammy is such a sweet dog and I have had a lot of fun learning. It’s amazing to trust and be safe with a dog. We can just go everywhere.”

**Belinda & Daisy**
“I have had 9 previous guide dogs of all breeds – Daisy is my first poodle! She is a very accepting dog and keeps perfect pace when walking. The guide dog truly becomes a part of who you are. I have enjoyed getting different perspectives of training from all the trainers and have learned so much.”

**Anthony & Lucy**
“Lucy is my 3rd guide dog and having been at two other schools, Guide Dogs of the Desert was my first choice for this training. I am so impressed with the philosophy of the training, the staff and quality of training. Lucy is so smart and a very hard working dog.”

**Rachelle & Barb**
“When I lost my sight 8½ years ago, I also lost a lot of friends and family. Barb is the true companion that I longed to have, so I could go to a lot more places and have a lot of fun. I was nervous when I started the training, but Barb is a nice dog. Everyone at Guide Dogs of the Desert has been so helpful.”

**Brianna & Leo**
“What a difference Leo is going to make in my daily life. We are inseparable and I feel less clumsy. With a guide dog, people will approach to inquire about the dog and want to learn about blindness. I will also be able to get around more quickly than with a cane. It’s a beautiful thing.”

**Susan & Al**
“I trained with my first guide dog at home. This 28-day training here at the campus has been so phenomenal and more beneficial. I would recommend it, no matter how many guide dogs you have had. It has been a blessing to come here. Everyone has been totally terrific – the classmates, trainers and other staff.”
November 2017 Graduates

**Kim & Wanda**

“Wanda is my 3rd dog from GDD. We immediately had a super great connection. Her attitude is bigger than life and she has a wonderful energy about her. I also appreciate the 28-day course – it allows you time to work out the bugs of training with a new dog prior to going home.”

**Sonja & Wheelr**

“I have eyes now – I can see again! I used to hesitate to go out at night but not anymore. We made it around the block a couple of times and Wheelr proved he is my eyes. With this fur ball by my side, I feel confident to travel alone and have no hesitancy to go out at night. Wheelr is a kind and happy dog.”

**Deborah & Shayne**

“Shayne is my 4th dog. I realized I needed to get “my wheels” back since I will be returning to work. Shayne is a dream come true. A training program is only as good as its trainers, and Guide Dogs of the Desert has a wonderful training program. The individual attention is just amazing.”

**Brenda & Pepper**

“I am so glad to be here getting my first guide dog. Pepper is wonderful, identifying things I cannot see. With the cane, I always had to have someone with me; with Pepper, I can now just go on my own and that feels so nice.”

**Jim & Tenzing**

“I now realize I am not a blind man... I am a man who is blind. Tenzing and I move together with ease. I am amazed at the training here – so much to learn, the commands and even the tone of voice I use giving commands. We are a team.”

**Lawrence & Schuey**

“I appreciate Guide Dogs of the Desert giving me the opportunity to train with a guide dog. I look forward to exploring new territories with Schuey – there are many trails in the foothills above Chino. This has been like training to be a pilot; it is repetitive and you have to be confident in your directions.”
5 Easy Ways to Give With Tax-Smart Donations Before December 31st

You can still make an impact this year! There are many ways to give to Guide Dogs, several of which offer attractive benefits for you while supporting the important work we do. Here are five popular ways you can make a difference this year:

Give Cash, Check or Pledge. Giving Cash or a Pledge is the simplest way you can support our current needs. To document a cash gift of any amount, you must have a dated receipt from Guide Dogs, so make certain you receive one. A canceled check is only sufficient for gifts less than $250.

Give Appreciated Stock or Other Property. When you give appreciated stock or property to Guide Dogs, we'll sell it and you will eliminate all the capital gains tax you would have paid had you sold it. Your gift will be deductible at the day of delivery’s full fair market value (assuming you have held it for more than one year).

Donate an Insurance Policy. A gift of a life insurance policy you no longer need makes a perfect year-end gift. To qualify as a deductible gift, Guide Dogs of the Desert must become the policy owner. For most types of insurance policies, your tax deduction is usually the cost basis or the fair market value of the policy, whichever is less.

Make a Gift from your IRA. If you are 70½ or older, you can make a difference by transferring any amount up to $100,000 annually directly from your IRA. The transfer doesn't generate taxable income or a tax deduction so you benefit even if you do not itemize your tax deductions.

Invest in a Life Income Plan. A life income gift provides you with payments for the rest of your life and Guide Dogs with support thereafter. If you use appreciated securities that you’ve owned longer than a year to fund the gift, you will be entitled to an income tax deduction based, in part, on the charitable portion of the securities' full value, in addition to eliminating up-front capital gains tax.

Contact Sarah Clapp, Executive Director at 760 329-6257 for helpful tips about getting the most from your gift this year.

The challenge posed by Fake Service Dogs is a complex issue for guide dog users and organizations. Certification or licensing of legitimate service animals is often proposed as a solution to this challenge. Efforts to further legislate this issue have the potential to complicate access for legitimate legally-protected guide dog and service dog teams. Accurately defining a service dog is a moving target in today's animal friendly societal landscape. The general trend of increased access to public spaces is driving discourse about ways to offer selective legal tools such as state issued licenses or identification for service animals and teams. While this seems like a logical solution to the problem, it doesn’t address behavior and restricts access for legitimate service dog users.

Current federal laws such as ADA, ACAA, and FHA provide the ability to determine on a case by case basis whether a service animal can be excluded from access based on that animal’s actual behavior or history with tools to exclude misbehaved or poorly-controlled animals appropriately. If a service dog is disrupting customers or the handler is unable to control the dog, the ADA allows the public or management to ask the handler to regain control or remove the dog from the premises with a simple statement such as, “That dog is not appropriate for public access.” Behavior focus is uncomplicated, does not violate rights and is easily taught.

Sarah G. Clapp
Executive Director
### Sponsorship Opportunities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sponsorship Level</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>CARING CANINE FUND</strong></td>
<td>Your gift of $100 or more will help sustain the Canine Emergency Fund for emergency veterinary needs of future guide dogs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>EQUIPMENT SPONSOR – $600</strong></td>
<td>This entry level sponsorship provides the essential equipment, including harness, necessary for a guide dog, throughout its formal training.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>NEWBORN PUPPY SPONSOR – $1,000</strong></td>
<td><em>GDD’s Choice</em> - Receive a certificate and photo of a newborn puppy. Sponsorship covers the cost of breeding and delivery.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>LITTER OF PUPPIES SPONSOR – $3,000</strong></td>
<td><em>GDD’s Choice</em> - Receive a certificate and photo of a mother with her litter of puppies. Sponsorship covers the cost of breeding, delivery and expenses up to 12 weeks of age.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>PUPPY SPONSOR – $5,000</strong></td>
<td>Covers the expenses for one puppy, from breeding up to 18-20 months old. Name a puppy, receive a certificate and photo, along with updates regarding the puppy’s progress. Invitation to attend Graduation Luncheon and Ceremony.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>STUDENT ACCOMMODATION SPONSOR – $5,000</strong></td>
<td><em>GDD’s Choice</em> - Provides room and board for one student attending in-residence training. For in-home training, the gift covers the expenses for one licensed trainer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>GUIDE DOG SPONSOR – $10,000</strong></td>
<td>(Includes Puppy Sponsor benefit of naming a puppy) through its formal training and graduation. Bi-annual updates continue through formal training to placement/graduation. Invitation to attend Graduation Luncheon and Ceremony.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>STUDENT SPONSOR – $30,000</strong></td>
<td><em>GDD’s Choice</em> - Covers all expenses of a student during their 28 day, in-residence training program, including transportation to and from the school. Receive a certificate and photo of the student/guide dog team, and invitation to attend Graduation Luncheon and Ceremony.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TEAM SPONSOR – $40,000</strong></td>
<td>Includes Puppy, Guide Dog, and Student Sponsor benefits, covers all expenses for both the guide dog and the student, including equipment. Receive a certificate and photo of the student/guide dog team, and invitation to attend Graduation Luncheon, with special recognition given at Graduation Ceremony.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Puppy, Guide Dog, Student and Team Sponsor opportunities can be pledged over a two-year period of time.
Puppy Raiser Events

Puppy Raisers are an integral component in preparing our puppies to become future guide dogs. They are responsible for care, socialization, and providing basic obedience training until the puppy is called back for formal training at 18 to 20 months of age.

Puppy Raisers provide a loving home and many tummy rubs as they help their puppy grow toward its future job as a guide dog.

Thank you Puppy Raisers!

We need Puppy Raisers!

New puppies were just born at our breeding facilities and they need homes!

URGENT NEED!

Volunteer puppy raisers are needed for new litters of puppies that will soon be ready to go to a good home for their initial raising and training!

If you are interested in participating in our amazing Puppy Raising program, please check out the Guide Dogs of the Desert website at www.gddca.org and fill out a Puppy Raiser Application online or contact Trina Ver Vooren or Liz Hile at (760) 329-6257
Guide Dogs of the Desert’s puppies need your help to become guide dogs. Your donation of $600.00 ensures that our trained dogs have the equipment necessary to become working guide dogs.

Call 760-329-6257 for more information.

Please check our website under Support Us for updated items on our Wish List.

www.gddca.org
Upcoming Events

Co-chairs Stacy and Jim Jacob
Together with Dorothy Milauskas
Invite you to celebrate Valentine’s Day with

Lorna Luft in Concert
Through the Eyes of Love

Wednesday, February 14, 2018
Cocktails 5:30 PM
Dinner 6:00 PM
Concert Performance 8:00 PM

Annenberg Center for Health Sciences
Eisenhower Medical Center

Dinner & Concert Tickets $250.00 per person
Concert ONLY Tickets $75.00 per person

For Sponsorship Opportunities or to RSVP by
February 1, 2018 call (760) 329-6257

Guide Dogs of the Desert Graduation
February 17, 2018 - 12PM

Dog Day Afternoon
Smoke Tree Ranch
April 2, 2018

Guide Dogs of the Desert Graduation
April 7, 2018 - 12PM

Pinot for Paws - Arizona
April 13, 2018

Please check our website for more information: www.gddca.org
Upcoming Events

Guide Dogs of the Desert Graduation
May 12, 2018 - 12PM

Please check our website for more information: www.gddca.org

Recent Events

Wellness Center and Puppy Development Center Ribbon Cutting

Board Members Patti Craine, Laurie Kettering, John Lowey, Darcy McNaboe, and Cynthia Woods joined Director of Canine Development, Trina Ver Vooren, officially reopening the Frank M. and Gertrude R. Doyle Foundation Wellness Center and the new Puppy Development Center on Saturday, November 18, 2017.

Calimesa Lions Golf Tournament

Guide Dogs of the Desert is honored to be one of the annual recipients of the Lions Club of Calimesa Golf Tournament.

Memorial Tribute

With sadness we remember guide dog Jake, who was so much a part of the family and will forever be cherished.

Jake, faithful guide dog to Oleta Whaley
You Can Make a Difference - Name a Newborn Puppy Today!

Each year, more than 60 happy, healthy puppies are born at the Guide Dogs of the Desert breeding facilities. It’s always a joyous occasion when new puppies arrive – and every new puppy needs a name! You can make a meaningful impact by becoming a Puppy Sponsor and naming one of the newborn puppies. A Puppy Sponsorship covers the expenses for one puppy from breeding up to 18-20 months old. As a Puppy Sponsor, you are able to name the puppy, receive a certificate and photo, attend Graduation Luncheon and Ceremony, as well as receive updates regarding the puppy’s progress. You can make a difference, name one of the newborn puppies today!

Puppy Sponsorships - $5,000.00

Thank You to Our Sponsors

petco. where the healthy pets go

The Frank M. and Gertrude R. Doyle Foundation
The Karl Kirchgessner Foundation
The Sharon D. Lund Foundation
The McBeth Foundation
Nesbitt Foundation
RTS Family Foundation