Why Dog Food Matters
Learn about why dog food ingredients are vital to your dog’s health
Read more on pg. 5

“McQueen has been a blessing to my entire family!”
Read more on pg. 2
MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

GREETINGS FROM GUIDE DOGS OF THE DESERT

The greatest compliment we receive at Guide Dogs of the Desert is someone applying to the organization to train with a guide dog. First time users, as well as successor handlers, place their trust and confidence in the personal training they receive with their custom matched guide dog. Whether they are urbanites, live in rural settings, travel for business and pleasure, or even incorporate their guide dog in their vocation, it is heartening to hear the repeated comments from our clients about their renewed sense of freedom to safely navigate their daily lives and the joy the trusted guide partner brings to their lives.

Our graduate spotlight on Keith Bates, reflects the joy that his guide dog, McQueen, brings to his personal and professional life. It is a wonderful reminder that these amazing working dogs also have dynamic personalities which strengthens the bond – both for the handler, as well as family and friends.

Not a day goes by at Guide Dogs of the Desert that I don’t learn something new about training and canine development. Trina Ver Vooren’s article, Guide to Your Dog’s Nutrition, is an example of the breadth and depth of understanding and providing good nutrition – to our exceptional program dogs as well as your own, loving, personal pet. Being mindful of our own personal health and the part nutrition plays, we also want the best for our dogs, so they, too, can enjoy a long life of energy and good health.

The flurry of activity around the campus – three classes since January – will begin to subside as we get into the dog days of summer. Rest assured, the behind-the-scenes work will diligently continue – training the dogs in anticipation of the Fall classes, planning the fundraising events and completing maintenance repair to the campus. Here’s to a healthy summer – good nutrition, freedom to enjoy the summer months wherever travel takes you on vacation, with joy and energy in your life!

Sarah G. Clapp
Executive Director
Sometimes a guide dog is not just a guide... Keith Bates and guide dog McQueen are celebrating their one year anniversary together. “I have so much more confidence and independence in getting around on my own with McQueen by my side.” Keith lives in Colorado, and has been a pastor for the same church for 10 years. He graduated with a degree in Pastoral Theology and Counseling. He and his wife Julie are parents to 8 children ranging in ages from 16 to 7-year-old twins. Keith lost his sight due to Kjers Syndrome, an inherited eye disease that effects the optic nerve and causes reduced visual acuity and blindness beginning in childhood.

“McQueen has been a blessing to the whole family; he allows me to be more independent. The most surprising benefit of having McQueen actually comes from the comfort he gives to others... As a pastor, I am often called upon to visit sick and dying patients. McQueen brings these people such comfort! He intuitively knows that they are ill, and he is right there providing comfort. He brings such joy to others!”

“Since acquiring McQueen, church services have become a little distracting. Apparently, my sermons aren’t very interesting to McQueen because he often starts snoring quite loudly! I’m pretty sure the congregation is more focused on him, than on me. I recently instituted a voluntary position at the church, ‘Minister of Canine’. McQueen guides me to the pulpit, and then a young volunteer takes him to the front pew until I am done with my sermon. We can still hear McQueen snore, but at least I’m once again the focal point, not McQueen!”

Keith’s 14-year-old daughter also inherited Kjers Syndrome and is legally blind. She attends the Colorado School for the Blind. “She realizes how much freedom McQueen has given me and she would like to have a guide dog as soon as she graduates from high school. My wife and I would also like her to have a guide dog for the enhanced freedom and confidence that a guide dog provides. A guide dog will also make her less likely to be victimized as a young lady walking alone with a white cane.”

“I really want to thank everyone at Guide Dogs of the Desert that made it possible for me to receive McQueen - free of charge! I never thought I could afford a guide dog, Thank You for making my dream come true.”

Keith’s guide dog was made possible by donors just like you. You can make a difference! Please give generously and help change lives like that of Keith. Many applicants are on the waiting list, and your support can help deliver just what they yearn for – freedom, confidence, and life-enhancing independence! Please give today!
FEBRUARY 2018 GRADUATES

Cynthia & Wellman
“I have never had such a sense of freedom in my life. It feels like my whole world has opened up to me with Wellman as my guide dog. There doesn’t seem to be an end to the possibilities of the work we can do together. Wellman is just incredible. I am now walking through life with grace.”

Carlos & Donnie
“Training with Donnie has exceeded my expectations and beyond of gaining my freedom and independence – it is a boost to my confidence, and I have my dignity back. Donnie is truly another pair of eyes that see for me. Guide Dogs of the Desert has touched my heart with giving me Donnie to guide me.”

Lila & Jimbo
“One of the first students at Guide Dogs’ 44 years ago, I am now training with Jimbo - my fourth guide dog from this school. Jimbo is a terrific dog and has a smooth, slow drive. Over the years my guide dogs have meant so much to me – getting me around college, raising a family, and working. My whole faith is in Jimbo to continue to travel safely.”
CONGRATS TO THE RECENT GRADUATES!

Oleta & Dinah

“When my former guide, Jake, recently passed away, I didn’t want to venture outside again – even to get the mail. Dinah is a perfect guide dog – she has just the right pull. The full four weeks of training with Dinah has been a great refresher, with new training techniques. It won’t take long for everyone in our small town of 120 to know Dinah.”

IN-HOME TRAINING: Erin & Charlie

“Charlie and I love our life together. My head is held high while my boy is being my eyes. It is effortless to be a normal woman who’s visually impaired vs. a blind woman trying to be normal. Charlie is incredible, and I can’t imagine life without him. Charlie and I are ready for whatever comes along our path because our relationship is rooted and energized in love.”

UPCOMING EVENTS

GUIDE DOGS OF THE DESERT GRADUATION
May 12, 2018 - 12PM

PINOT & PINTS FOR PAWS
Pinot & Pints for Paws
Mission Gables Bowl House - Redlands
May 19, 2018

Please check our website for more information: www.gddca.org
WHY DOG FOOD INGREDIENTS MATTER
A GUIDE TO YOUR DOG’S NUTRITION

By Trina Ver Vooren

Most of us have heard, have been affected by, or know someone that has lost their dog due to rancid or bad commercially-prepared dog food. The dog food recalls, of late, are becoming so frequent that dog owners are looking for alternative ways to feed their beloved pets. If you feed commercial pet food, do your research on the ingredients. Your pet’s health is worth it! **When it comes to dog food, like so many things, you get what you pay for.**

Given the most recent recalls, have you ever asked yourself, how on earth does the drug used to euthanize pets ‘pentobarbital’ find its way into pet food?

This is how it happens. Many pet food companies purchase meat and by-products from rendering plants and use those products to make dog food.

Rendering plants receive 50-gallon drums or larger loads from slaughter houses, shelters, veterinarians, zoos and restaurants to name a few. These large loads are processed and heated so the moisture and fat is removed. The “meal” is what is left over after the process is complete.*

Be sure to look at the ingredients on your pet food labels. If the label includes words such as: meat meal, animal-by-products, animal digest, animal fat, chicken meal, fish meal, bone meal, beef tallow, etc., then put it back on the shelf! These are cheap ingredients that can be harmful, if not deadly, to your pets’ long-term health and wellbeing.

Whether you choose to feed a kibble based diet, canned, freeze dried, raw, or a combination, there are several foods you can add to help boost the nutrition level.

**CONSIDER ADDING THESE FOODS THROUGHOUT THE WEEK:**

- **Green Tripe** – Is loaded with probiotics and enzymes. It is also loaded with B vitamins. You can order from www.greentripe.com

- **Raw eggs** – Best if you can crush shell and all into your dog’s food. Utilize eggs that come without hormones or antibiotics.*

- **Coconut Oil** - This oil has great antibacterial, antiviral and anti-fungal properties.

- **Organ Meat** – Feed small amounts or chicken or beef liver, 2-3 oz. per serving. You can purchase as dehydrated treats or fry some at home. Kidney is good as well.

- **Canned Pumpkin** – (Not the pie filling) Plain, unsweetened. It is loaded with fiber.

- **Yogurt** – Plain whole fat – great probiotics. Especially if your dog has been on antibiotics.

- **Canned Mackerel/Sardines** – Packaged in water are loaded with Omega-3 fatty acids.*

*Do not feed eggs and fish on the same day.

*Source: Dogs Naturally
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>CARING CANINE FUND</strong></td>
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<td>Your gift of $100 or more will help sustain the Canine Emergency Fund for emergency veterinary needs of future guide dogs.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>EQUIPMENT SPONSOR – $600</strong></td>
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<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>
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<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>
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<tr>
<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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<td><strong>PUPPY SPONSOR – $5,000</strong></td>
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<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>
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<td><strong>STUDENT ACCOMMODATION SPONSOR – $5,000</strong></td>
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<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>
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<td><strong>GUIDE DOG SPONSOR – $10,000</strong></td>
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<td>(Includes Puppy Sponsor benefit of naming a puppy) through its formal training and graduation. Invitation to attend Graduation Luncheon and Ceremony.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>STUDENT SPONSOR – $30,000</strong></td>
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<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>
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<td><strong>TEAM SPONSOR – $40,000</strong></td>
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<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>
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*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!

NEW PUPPIES WERE JUST BORN AT OUR BREEDING FACILITIES!

BECOME A PUPPY RAISER

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
SUSTAINER’S CLUB

Guide Dogs of the Desert’s Sustainer’s Club is a special group of individuals, who commit to making a gift each month to help our specially-bred puppies become guide dogs to hundreds of people without sight and without cost to them.

Sustainer’s Club members choose the amount of their monthly gift. Dependable monthly income makes planning easier both for you and for Guide Dogs of the Desert. The Sustainer’s Club promises to become the pillar of support for Guide Dogs of the Desert along with other events, foundation grants, and support from hundreds of Lions Clubs around the country. We hope you will become part of this pillar of support.

Tail Waggers— For as little as $10 per month, you will receive a photo of a puppy in training, along with a special Sustainer’s Club pin.

Leader of the Pack— For $30 or more per month, you will receive a post-it “Lab Notes” pad with the Sustainer’s Club pin and photo. You will also receive our annual Guide Dogs of the Desert calendar.

Top Dog— With an increased monthly pledge of $45 or more, in addition to the above recognition, you will receive an exclusive invitation to meet with students training at the campus.

WISHLIST

Puppy Development Center
Master Equipment Folding Grooming Table 36” x 24” x 32 1/2”: $104.00
Groomer’s Best Walk-Through Grooming Tub: $1349.99
Mini Refrigerator - 36”: $99.00

Kennel Department
Medium Classic Dog Kennels (20) $150.00 ea.
Large Classic Dog Kennels (15) $150.00 ea.
(3) Bulk Pressed Rawhide 6” $86.99
4’x5/8” Black leash for puppies (40) $3.49 ea.
5/8” Collar for puppies (40) bright colors $2.49 ea.
ProSelect Empire Exercise Pen $169.99

Breeding Center
Nylabone Just for Puppies Ring Bone Puppy Teething Chew Toy (20): $3.92
KONG Classic Dog Toy (20): $12.42

Training Department
Nylabone Dura Chew Knot (30) - for Training Vans: $14.21 ea.
Silicone Collapsible Water Bowls (30) - $9.25 ea.
Pro Select Cool Pup Crate Fans For Training Van Crates (30) - $35.68 ea.
Samsung StormWash 48-Decibel Built-In Dishwasher (Stainless Steel) (3)- $569.00 ea.

Please Call Guide Dogs of the Desert and We Will Order Items For You! Full or Partial Orders Gratefully Accepted. Check our website under Support Us for updated items on our Wish List. www.gddca.org

Memorial Tribute
With sadness we remember guide dog Buddy, who was so much a part of the family and will forever be cherished.
Buddy, faithful guide dog to Alan Fitzsimons
THROUGH THE EYES OF LOVE

RECENT EVENTS

Lorna Luft in concert

Ron Johnson and Ron Roblee with Carl Blue

Dr Hartzler, Robin Leiske, Denny and Barbara Kovacs, Dorothy and Tim Milauskas

Co-Chairs Jim and Stacy Jacob

Sally Phinny and her guests with Sarah Clapp

Guide Dogs of the Desert Board of Directors

Michael Davis and Kay Hanson

Sarah Clapp with Yvonne and Steve Maloney

Debbie Eisner and Dr. Leonard Sigdestad, Chair

Stephanie Powers and Lorna Luft
RECENT EVENTS

BIG HORN FRIEND-RAISER

Ann and Jay Thornton
Manfred Czinczoil and Billie Koyl
Katrina Leffler and Nanette Francini
Monique and John Barr
Sarah Clapp, Tom Sullivan, Ann and Jay Thornton
Tom Sullivan speaking to group

SANTA PAWS

Thank you, Molly Thorpe and Palm Springs Marathon Runners!

HITS GRAD PRIX HORSE SHOW

Thank you, Ann Thornton and HITS Show attendees!
Thank You to Our Sponsors

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

LEAVE A LASTING LEGACY

If you would like to extend your support of Guide Dogs of the Desert to make a lasting impact, there are several gift arrangements to choose from.

The Maynard Society recognizes individuals who have provided for Guide Dogs of the Desert in their estate plans. To become a member, simply let us know you have named Guide Dogs of the Desert as a beneficiary in your will, trust, gift annuity, life insurance policy, 401K or other similar tax-deferred retirement plan.

Whether you would like to put your donation to work today or benefit us after your lifetime, you can find a charitable plan that lets you provide for your family while also supporting Guide Dogs of the Desert.

Please contact Sarah Clapp, Executive Director for more information at sclapp@gddca.org or (760) 329-6257

EQUIPMENT SPONSORS NEEDED

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.