



## Company's Coming!

By Devin Grayson

As the holidays approach there will be many opportunities to socialize your DAD, both in your home and the homes of friends and family. By that same token, there will also be many opportunities to socialize your friends and family.

Dr. Kim's article on holiday safety points out the many hazards to dogs that we traditionally bring into our homes during this season and how to recognize and handle the emergencies they can potentially create. But while you're attending to your DAD's health by trying to monitor the gifts under the tree, the table scraps within reach and the antifreeze that hopefully isn't dripping all over your driveway or garage, you must also keep his or her training in mind.

The holiday spirit is generous by nature, but the rules for working dogs can't be tucked away until spring. Diabetics can always take a little extra insulin to cover an indulgent treat, but re-establishing the work ethic of a canine companion who's been turned into a holiday pet is trickier. Following is a list of holiday offenders and ideas for managing their, um, enthusiasm.



EAC Staff Dogs  
Naughty or Nice?

## The Ramper-Upper

**THE PROBLEM:** Good old cousin Frank is always the life of the party, and boy does he love dogs! And as he loves to point out, sometimes eight or nine times a day, dogs love him too. Frankie beelines to your DAD the moment he enters your home, gesticulating wildly and encouraging your normally well-behaved canine to jump up and give kissy-poos. After five solid minutes of fur-rustling, Frank saunters away, leaving a hyped-up, quaking canine in his wake.

(Solution: Continued on Page 5)

### 2nd Annual Early Alert Canine Crab Feed

**Saturday, January 10, 2015**

**6:00—9:00 pm**



**St. Stephen Catholic Church, Parish Hall**

**451 Eucalyptus Dr.**

**San Francisco, CA 94132**

### 6th EAC Graduation

**Saturday, January 24, 2015**

**2:00pm -4:00pm**

**Pleasant Hill Park**

**The Winslow Center**

**2590 Pleasant Hill Rd.**

**Pleasant Hill, CA**

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**Carol's Corner** by Carol Edwards**Radiant, Carol,  
and Bozeman**

As 2014 comes to close, it is still hard for me to believe how far we have grown in such a short period of time. The Early Alert Canines family has grown to 28 teams hosting two graduations, three training classes, Southern and Northern California recertification sessions, town hall meetings in Monterey and Yorba Linda and the hire of a new trainer—the wonderful Ellen Fisher. This is no small task for a young organization.

I report this all to illustrate how the demand for what we do remains constant and that the need, opportunities and challenges to grow are as real as our successes.

Our resolution for 2015 is to build our capacity, for today and for the future. Capacity building refers to activities that improve and enhance a nonprofit's ability to achieve its mission and sustain itself over time. For EAC this means increasing the number of volunteers and fosters directly resulting in increasing the number of dogs that we train. It also means increasing our funding base in order to create a stable administrative program to comfortably support our staff and clients.

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**Vet Notes** by Dr. Kim Bercovitz**Keeping your Canine Safe During the Holidays**

During the holidays I often notice an increase in dietary indiscretion – otherwise known as “garbage gut.” Holiday guests might not be aware of what can make our canine companions sick. Other times, things that seem harmless to us can be toxic to dogs. Following are a few of the things to be aware of.

The Christmas tree itself can contain hazards, like Christmas tree extenders, flashing lights, electrical cords, ribbons and tinsel. Under the tree, gifts might contain food. Chocolate is especially common. Dark chocolate is worse for dogs than milk chocolate. A small amount may cause vomiting and diarrhea. With progressively higher doses we see agitation, high heart rates, tremors, seizures, coma and death.

Most diabetics are familiar with the toxicity of xylitol, but your family might be unaware and give gifts of candy, gum and treats which are dangerous to dogs, even in very small amounts. Ingestion has been associated with severe low blood sugar and liver damage in dogs. Signs of toxicity may include vomiting, lethargy, loss of coordination and seizures. If your dog eats anything containing xylitol it is extremely important to get it to a vet hospital a.s.a.p.

Many people travel for the holidays. If your dog gets anxious or carsick on long car trips, talk to your veterinarian about a sedative/anxiolytic or anti-emetic. People tend to show their love by sharing food, whether that is table scraps, bones, or treats. Unfortunately bones can cause perforations in the stomach or intestines, break teeth, and cause obstructions. Fatty foods can cause pancreatitis which, when severe, requires hospitalization. Onions and garlic (especially in dried or powdered form) cause the red blood cells to become fragile and lead to anemia, which can be fatal.

Outside of the house people often change their antifreeze this time of year. Antifreeze has a sweet odor and taste that attracts dogs. Symptoms develop minutes to days later. Treatment needs to be started early, so once again, get them to the vet quickly!

**Tail wags 'till next time! Dr. Kim Bercovitz**



## Funraising

### Make your online shopping count!

Holiday shopping online? If you're using Amazon.com (and honestly, who isn't?), EAC can directly benefit from every single one of your purchases. It's like giving two gifts in one!

**Next time you're picking up a few items through Amazon, log onto the site through [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) and enter "Early Alert Canines" as the charity you wish to support.**

Your shopping experience will then continue as it normally does, including automatic access to your Prime account and Amazon purchase history, but Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price of the items you buy to EAC. Amazon recommends bookmarking [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) to make it even easier to return and start your shopping at AmazonSmile.com.



Bookmark [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com)

Support your favorite organization every time you shop.

**Wear EAC Colors proudly....**Football season is over, so it's time to put away your team jerseys and join Team EAC! We have officially launched our own EAC Store through Queensboro. Our store can be found at: <http://eacstore.qbstores.com>

The entire vast selection of clothing, accessories, fleece, towels, hats and much more are now available with custom colored stitch logos. There are many colors, styles and items to choose from. When you log on, you will also see a special Instant Savings Award waiting for you. Please Bookmark this link as well: <http://eacstore.qbstores.com>

**Happy Holidays to you from the Staff and Dogs of EAC.**



### Carol's Corner by Carol Edwards

(Continued from page 2)

I hope you'll join me in my commitment to making 2015 the pivotal, turning point year for EAC.

We need EVERYONE who has been touched by the work we do, the lives we have changed and the direct impact we have made in support of Type 1 diabetics to stand tall with us and tell our story to EVERYONE who will listen.



It is so humbling to experience the amount of love and support that you show me, EAC and your fellow clients. It is why I do what I do. I write this note as a whole-hearted THANK YOU for all that you do and to offer you the challenge to do more. Attend the January Crab Feed on the 10th, attend the January 24th graduation and bring someone new to witness this special day. Begin putting your May Walk team together now. Shop at Smile Amazon this holiday season; but also year-round!

EAC belongs to all of us. We need to break the ceiling this year. I throw out this bone for 2015: it is time to grow to stabilization and fully commit to the mission of EAC. It's time to bring everything you've got to the table.

Have a joyful and happy holiday. I hope to see you all at our 2nd Annual Crab Feed on January 10 with empty stomachs and full wallets!

[Contact us to suggest future topics!](#)

[info@earlyalertcanines.org](mailto:info@earlyalertcanines.org)

## Meet Our New Trainer/Instructor by Ellen Fisher



Ellen with Hannah, the service dog she trained.

Greetings Early Alert Canines volunteers, supporters and community members!

I'd like to introduce myself- my name is Ellen Fisher and I am the new Trainer and Instructor at Early Alert Canines. If I haven't already met you, I look forward to making your acquaintance in the future.

Having been a part of the Early Alert Canines community for four months it's very clear to me how important your donations of time, funding, energy and word of mouth are to furthering the mission of our organization. We could not do this very important work without you. So thank you very much for all of your support.

Prior to Early Alert Canines I attended Bergin University of Canine Studies and received an Associate of Science Degree in Assistance Dog Education. Bergin is the only university in the world where you can obtain a degree in cynology, or canine studies. I participated in a yearlong

program training service dogs for individuals with physical disabilities while taking classes such as dog psychology, canine health, breeding and whelping, history of dog training, marketing and disability studies. Additionally, I was a student instructor in a program called Dogs Helping Veterans, where I taught veterans to train service dogs for fellow veterans with physical disabilities.

Before attending Bergin University, I worked for three years at the East Bay SPCA in Oakland-- a non-profit animal shelter--acting as the Humane Education Coordinator. While at the shelter I managed a violence prevention program called Teaching Love and Compassion. This after school program teaches at-risk middle school students to train shelter dogs, in combination with an empathy based classroom curriculum. This unique program gives both the students and dogs a new set of skills for life.

Additionally, I managed the shelter's animal assisted therapy program, evaluating public dogs for pet therapy work, coordinating pet therapy visits and helping start a therapeutic reading program at the San Pablo Library for English as a second language and shy child readers. I also have a BA in Spanish Literature from University of Puget Sound in Tacoma, Washington.

When I'm not at Early Alert Canines I spend time as a volunteer trainer with the Menlo Park Veteran's Administration canine therapeutic program called Paws for Purple Hearts. I co-instruct veterans enrolled in a Post-Traumatic Stress rehabilitation program to train service dog puppies. I am also completing coursework in the Academy for Dog Trainers, a world-renowned scientific based applied dog behavior program. In my free time I enjoy hiking with my two dogs, Sage and Modoc, baking, reading, traveling and photography.

I am thrilled to be working with Early Alert Canines and am constantly in awe that I have a job that allows me to harness the amazing power of the dog nose. I look forward to sharing with you the cutting edge of canine training methods and research. I am enthusiastic about sharing my passion for service dogs; these talented animals have so much to offer, and with your help Early Alert Canines will continue to successfully place highly skilled diabetic alert dogs, grow as an organization and continue to become an integral part of the diabetic community.

Welcome Ellen!



## Company's Coming!

By Devin Grayson

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### The Ramper-Upper

**THE SOLUTION:** The trick to managing Ramper-Uppers is to head them off at the pass. Talk to dog enthusiasts before they visit your home and tell them you need to enlist their canine expertise to help you train your DAD. Invite them to set a good example by not engaging your dog immediately upon entering your home. As the dog calms down, they can show everyone how to slowly and calmly approach a working dog, and how to disengage from the dog if she gets excited.



### The Rapturous Rewarder

**THE PROBLEM:** Aunt Millie is overwhelmed to the point of tears by what a wonderful protector your DAD has turned out to be. She showers him with kisses every five minutes and always has a baggie of safe, approved dog-treats on hand, which she dispenses liberally. She anthropomorphizes your DAD, constantly worrying that he works too hard and doesn't get enough pampering. She's even been known to sneak him treats under the table and poo-poo you when you call her on it—after all, she always spoiled you, and you came out just fine.

**THE SOLUTION:** Remind a Rewarder that getting treats outside the context of alerting can be confusing for your DAD. Make her a part of your team by inviting her to save her praise and indulgences in order to help you and your DAD celebrate successful alerts. Her participation in the dog party following a successful alert will reinforce the very skill she's so taken with. The rest of the time, a kind word of thanks and a gentle pat is praise enough.



June 14, 2014 Graduates



Teen Camp  
Julia & Pasha, Mo,  
Tia and Nona



January 25, 2014 Graduates

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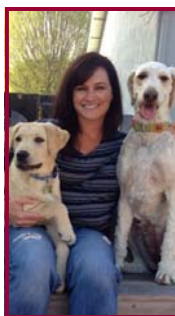
Hilary Freeman, Registered Nurse  
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Website by Creative Ape

## In the News

Want to keep your tail wagging? Check out our EAC-client Diabetic Alert Dog blog, or start one of your own (and let us know about it) Darwin the D.A.D.

<http://darwinthedad.com/>



Larry, Mo  
and Curley

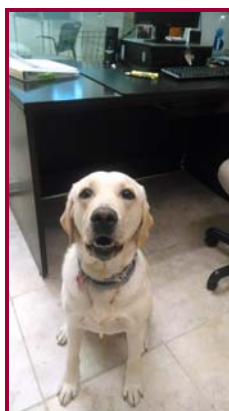
## Meet our Recruits by Mo and Ellen

**Guinness**- Our latest ebony scholar is from Guide Dogs for the Blind. He just the right mixture of energy, work ethic, and gentleness to be an amazing diabetic alert dog and companion. Keep your eye on him, he has a bright future.



## Guinness Alerting

**Nona**- Our new tawny coated pupil has arrived from Canine Companions for Independence. One would never know her name means "Grandma" in Italian. There is a spunky and energetic inner child that pours out of her. We can already tell she is going to be an alerting rock star.



Hi! I'm Nona

**MOODY** - This sweet yellow lab has been enlisted from Canine Companions for Independence. He is eager to learn and is persistent with his alerts. He can't wait to be placed so he can begin his new career and change a life!



**ARTURO** -This affectionate yellow lab comes to us from Guide Dogs for the Blind. A new candidate at Early Alert Canines, he is wowing the hearts of staff and volunteers with his sweet demeanor. Boy does this boy love to bond!

Wherever you go, he will follow! He also answers to his nickname "Churro."

