



...A Diabetic's Best Friend!

For The Love Of Dogs! An interview by Rochelle Kiddoo

I recently had an opportunity to speak with Chip Bishop, one of EAC's wonderfully dedicated foster volunteers. Chip and his wife Kenni have been fosters for more than 2 1/2 years. Chip owns Bay Insulation, located just across the parking lot from EAC. Here is what Chip had to say.



Chip & Fondue

Q: How were you recruited to foster for Early Alert Canines?

A: We had just lost our beloved Lab. Maria, an employee here at Bay Insulation, was walking in our parking lot and came across a volunteer at EAC. The volunteer was walking one of the dogs in training. The two got to talking and the volunteer mentioned the need for foster households. She asked Maria if anyone at Bay Insulation might be interested in helping out and Maria immediately thought of us. I spoke with Kenni that evening and we met with Carol Edwards, EAC's Executive Director, the following day. Within a short period of time we attended the foster training class and received our first foster dog.

Q: Can you describe a typical week in the life of a foster volunteer?

A: EAC's training facility is open Monday through-Thursday from 9:30 to 3:30. The dog stays in my office with me from about 8 am to 10 am when I drop off at EAC. I pick the dog up at about 3 pm and we return to my office until I'm ready to leave in the evening. On Fridays Kenni takes the dog to work at Kaiser in Oakland where she manages an organ transplant hub. Our daughter Lauren and Kenni's mother Aimee are currently living with us. All four of us are involved in the care of the dog during the evening hours and on weekends.

Q: Tell me how you transition from one dog to another?

A: We keep a very close eye on the new arrival for the first few evenings while we learn the habits, personality and behavior of the dog. Typically one of us is tethered to the dog during this time.

(Continued on Page 3)

The 6th EAC Graduation



January 2015

Julia & Pasha

Tia & Nona

Sarah & Bianca

Julian & Guinness

Sandor & Nunzio

Inside This Issue

Carol's Conner 2

Events 2

Fund Raising 3

Foster Story 3

Meet our Trainer 4

New Recruits 5

Carol's Corner by Carol Edwards



Summer time is here and it's a busy time of year for EAC! We recently held our annual fundraising walk. It was a wonderful success. Now it's on to Teen Camp where teenagers interested in receiving a diabetic alert dog come in for hands on training and assessment. It's a great 4 day event for teens ages 12-17.

Following Teen Camp, we move onto a Full Access Team Training Class, matching individuals who suffer from Type 1 diabetes with their new furry partners. While August usually means vacation time for most, EAC will be busy providing individual follow up support for all of our new teams.

It's really exciting to see EAC grow. More clients. More dogs. More volunteers. All working together to further our mission. I really do have the best job in the world! So, if you've been watching from the sidelines and feel like you want to get involved, now is the time to do it.

We are always looking for additional foster homes for our dogs while they go through training. Our next training class is Sept 12th & 19th. Let us know if you'd like to attend by emailing info@EarlyAlertCanines.org.

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

'Great time, good food, good people, GREAT Dogs!'

James



"Plenty of parking, a great venue!"

Mary

SAVE THE DATE



"Sports memorabilia, Fantastic buys!"
Steve

"The appetizers and crab were delicious!"Sue



[Directions](#)

St. Stephen's Catholic Church Parish Hall
451 Eucalyptus Drive * San Francisco, CA 94132

Vet Notes by Dr. Kim Bercovitz

Will return next issue.

Tail wags 'till next time!



2 *4*1 Walk 2015 at Thermo Fisher Scientific

Fundraising

Bookmark smile.amazon.com
Support your favorite organization every time you shop.

THE KONG MASTERS

Make your online shopping count!

If you're using Amazon.com (and really, 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 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 to make it even easier to return and shop at your AmazonSmile.com.



James and Bozeman

Wear EAC Colors proudly! 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.

For Love Of Dogs! An interview by Rochelle Kiddoo

(Continued from page 1)

The dog gains a bit more freedom as we get to know each other. We transition to a new dog about every 2 months. We've also fostered just for weekends and one dog stayed with us for 3 months. The transition period takes patience and can be a bit difficult as the dog we've become very attached to moves on to a new household. All four of us feel we lose a little part of our hearts each time we say good-bye.

Q: What is the most difficult part of fostering a Diabetic Alert Dog (DAD)?

A: Letting go of those we've become very attached to. Kenni and I often considered raising a Guide Dog puppy but we were always afraid we would get too attached. Those puppies stay with their raisers approximately 18 months. A DAD can tug at our heartstrings but we feel it is easier to let go when the dog has been with us only 6-8 weeks. I also find it somewhat overwhelming to be out in public with a DAD – I feel over protective and a strong sense of responsibility toward the dog, toward EAC and toward the EAC client who will be the recipient of the dog I've helped to raise.

Q: What is your favorite aspect of fostering a DAD?

A: Meeting the new clients and seeing one of "our" dogs partnered with a client. It is very rewarding to be a part of this process. We truly love to attend the graduations and we're proud to know we had a hand in the training of such a wonderful dog. I also love hearing the stories and following the teams on EAC's Facebook page.

Q: Any words of wisdom for new foster families?

A: Pay attention to the dogs' personalities and take time to get to know them. You'll find many similarities but they're all different and their true personalities may take a few days to become apparent.

Q: Is there anything else you'd like to say?

A: "I just love the opportunity to do this. It has truly enriched our lives."

Meet Our New Trainer/Instructor by Erica Horn



Erica with Ibarra the service dog she trained.

Greetings! First of all, I'd like to introduce myself. My name is Erica Horn and I am the new Trainer and Instructor at Early Alert Canines.

As some of you already know, this particular mission is extremely important to me. At the tender age of seven, I was diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes. I clearly remember every aspect of that unique experience so believe me when I say I've been there and I get it. It's for that very reason that I'm happy to be giving back to the diabetic community by being a part of Early Alert Canines' mission.

Preceding Early Alert Canines, I graduated from Bergin University of Canine Studies with an Associate of Science Degree in Assistance Dog Education with an emphasis in Business and Companion Dog Studies. I attended a year-long program at Bergin which is the only university in the world where you can obtain a degree in Cynology (canine studies.) It was a wonderful year full of everything dogs! During that time I trained service dogs for individuals with physical disabilities while also participating in classes ranging from History of Dog Training and Breeding/Whelping to Disability Studies and Marketing.

I then spent some time working for Tony La Russa's Animal Rescue Foundation in the Intake and Behavior Department, as well as in Adoptions. I selected adoptable candidates from several central valley shelters and prepared them behaviorally for adoption. I assisted a few days a week meeting the public and doing my best to match them with the best possible dog or cat for their lifestyle.

Before moving to the Bay Area, I started out spending every single possible free moment I could muster volunteering with local rescues in my hometown of Fresno, CA. I fostered as many dogs as I could, attended as many adoption events that I could with those fosters, and tried my best to promote responsible dog guardianship along with positive reinforcement training. I assisted in starting up Elder Paws Senior Dog Rescue, which is dedicated solely to rescuing senior dogs 7+ years. In addition to volunteering, I also ran my own dog training business where I offered in-home private training consultations focusing on behavior modification as well as obedience classes, dog agility and Canine Good Citizen Preparation.

When not at Early Alert Canines, I enjoy spending my free time with dogs Chex, Candy, and Dexter. (Follow Chex's adventures on Instagram@chexy_chex.) When not frolicking with my doggies, you can often find me at a local coffee shop reading while enjoying my latte..

I cannot express how excited I am to be working with Early Alert Canines! I'm constantly wowed by how amazing dogs can be. At the end of the day, they are the ones teaching ME and I can never get enough. I hope you join me in exploring all that these fantastic beings have to offer by supporting this great organization and telling your friends about Early Alert Canines and our mission.

A wise woman once told me that two heads are better than one and five are better than two. I am convinced that, with all of our heads put together, we can flourish!



Erica & Hazel

Meet our Recruits by Erica Horn

BRAVE, a delicately sweet yellow lab, comes to us from Guide Dogs for the Blind. Inside and out, she's a ray of sunshine. She is quickly inching her way into everyone's heart with her adorable and loveable demeanor. She can't wait to be placed so she can share her sunshine!



Favorite Pastime: Greeting you with wiggles and enthusiasm!



TIGER This handsome and confident young dude has been enlisted from Guide Dogs for the Blind. Don't let his smaller size fool you – he has a big personality and a huge heart to boot! Because of his eagerness to discover new things he is quickly picking up the nuts and bolts of alert work.

Favorite Pastime: Chasing a ball for as long as you're willing to throw it!

PRIM, an affectionate black lab, comes to us from Guide Dogs for the Blind. Her willingness to learn and her zest for life has made her a great addition to the Early Alert Canines team. She has an endearing personality and a thirst for knowledge which has enabled her to quickly become familiar to alert work. She never tires of checking in with you to make sure you're happy and well.

Favorite Pastime: Staying close by your side during all of your adventures!



Fondue, a dainty little black lab from Guide Dogs for the Blind, is as sweet as can be! This mellow girl is the real deal wrapped up in a little package: adorable, friendly, and smart as a whip. She's quick at learning new things which is helping her pick up alert work in a jiff. She's full of wiggles and you're sure to find a big grin on her face.

Favorite Pastime: Snuggling and showing off her toys.

(Continued on page 6)

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In the News

Darwin wins the Guide Dogs for the Blind Puparazzi Calendar Photo Contest in the Career Change Category. https://www.gogophotocontest.com/media/236/resized/size4_20527.jpg

Meet our Recruits

 by Erica Horn

(continued from page 5)

Lily a soft and silky golden retriever/lab cross, pranced her way to EAC from Guide Dogs for the Blind. She is eager to please and will follow you wherever you go.

Lily is fantastic with other dogs and she picks up new things quickly. We look forward to this young lady becoming a stellar alert dog!



Favorite Pastime: Moving all of her tennis balls from place to place in your house.



CASEY is a beautiful red golden/lab cross that came to us from Canine Companions for Independence. She may seem bashful at first but don't let her fool you; once she gets to know you she loves to play!

Her perceptive disposition and eagerness to help has made her an excellent candidate for diabetic alert work. Changing someone's life for the better would be her dream come true!

Favorite Pastime: Playing fetch with a tennis ball for all eternity.