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“Still here, still raising puppies, training teams, and serving our community.”

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It certainly feels like a lifetime since before the pandemic. But here we are as resolute as ever. And spring has sprung.

There is so much we couldn't do this last year. Then again, because we couldn't do this and we couldn't that, we did something else, instead. With the rare gift of time, we contemplated who and where we are and who and what we want to be in the coming years. Sad truth is Susan will need to start slowing down a bit. Our Dara will eventually need to step down as our Chair. And, we need to plan for what that means. We also had to finally accept that while what we do is so important, we simply are not well-suited for major grant funding. We touch those that we touch profoundly, but we are able to touch so few, it is hard to attract grants. The great news, we have made good use of the time given and continue to work with our Board, and its newest member, Paula Kalima.



Turns out, we didn't have to look too far. We just needed to listen to our community, and we've always done that pretty well. What they've told us is that they are in need of the comfort and healing power of the dog-human bond -- not just a few folks and not just here and there - but almost everywhere. So many are really hurting and could just use a little fur therapy. They want our dogs near them, around them and with them. What is more, folks seem to be willing to pay us for services we have long offered for free. Here-in lies a possible future.

At the moment, we are in the final stages of signing a contract with the Air Force to bring our graduates and dogs-in-training to support airmen and women at Joint Base Pearl Harbor. We are in the middle of working with an elder care facility to train and support a facility dog. University of Hawaii Center on Disability Studies would like our dogs at their clinics when they provide vaccinations to our people with disabilities. Meanwhile, we have begun discussions with Liliuokalani Trust to introduce our dogs to programs they fund or administer at the Kapolei Court House and at their residential facility, Lydia House.

Things are looking up and we feel good about going forward by going back to our roots. We will let you know as things bloom.

Matt Lorin
Executive Director

A New Year, A Fresh Start

"The secret of change is to focus all of your energy not on fighting the old, but on building the new" - Socrates



Hawaii Fi-Do has spent this Covid year dealing with a lot of change and now we are focusing on "building on the new" with a better understanding how we can contribute to helping others with the issues that this past year has brought.

Thanks to our generous donors, Chive Charities, Friends of Hawaii Charities, and our loyal volunteers, we are creating exciting and fun new programs using our sensitive skilled dogs to help so many more needy populations in our state. We will share more details of our activities over next few months.

On the right, picture us all vaccinated here and feeling a bit more comfortable about being out in the community doing our public training.

We so appreciate the stores and malls that welcome us as an accredited ADI training program. Our dogs are wonderful examples to the community of how well-behaved, trained dogs should act out in public. It's always fun to see people watching us, commenting on what great dogs they are and are amazed when they pick up credit cards off the floor or back up in tight places.



It's so important that service dogs learn to work out in public with all the distractions and we do use these opportunities to explain the ADA laws, expected behavior of service dogs and the many skills they can be trained to do to help individuals with disabilities.

On the left, Luna giving some TLC to our wonderful health care providers. National research is warning us to be aware of increase cases in anxiety, depression, and social withdrawal in children in post Covid times, which could result in mental health issues and long-term health problems as adult.

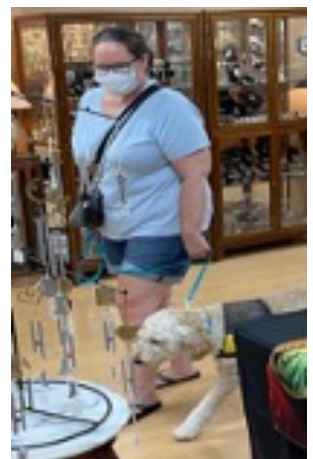
We all know the benefits of interacting with dogs and how they make us feel good but imagine them as healers and helping to reduce pain and anxiety in people with a range of health problems.

Our Dog Team Updates



Service dogs Jane and Jake have passed all their evaluations and public access tests and are doing great in their probation period and have settled in very nicely into their new homes and jobs

On the Left, newly certified Jake attending to Ken while he gets his COVID vaccination. And, on the right, Jane and her new owner Jenny taking their public access test - happy to be getting out in the community, again.



Litter News



We can't wait to see how they progress since they are already doing excellent retrieve work, know their obedience commands and most of all have excellent focus with great work ethics.

On the left, the "L" litter dogs are next up at 15 months old and are now being introduced to their possible new jobs. Every dog is different, and they all have great potential, but the match of the dog and the right person is what makes a successful working team.

Last, but not least, on the right are our two, oh so cute labs, now 6-month-old. Both Ms. Kennedy (Missy) and half-brother, Nate are amazing, funny, sweet, energetic, and very smart.



If you see us in the community, come say hello, get a little fur fix and maybe get a lick or two!

Susan