

PAWPRINTS



Fun Facts from National in 2020

- ◆ 362 teams graduated, nationally
- ◆ 686 puppies born
- ◆ 36 breeders selected
- ◆ 12 volunteer pilots with private planes made 68 flights to deliver 267 puppies across the country

In the Southwest Region:

- ◆ 55 teams graduated through 12 Team Training classes
- ◆ 378 active teams
- ◆ 229 puppies are being raised

Hi Everyone! Longer days, spring flowers and puppies - they're all a welcome change as we move toward normal-ness again. Trying to spruce up our newsletter, we have two "special interest" articles and some puppy related photos - I hope you enjoy them. We're always looking for articles of interest, so let me know if you have something to share. Puppy raisers, be sure to watch for Meet-Up notifications for in-person puppy classes taught by Chelsea and Kay. It's been great to have classes back and they've been super well attended! Thank you Chelsea and Kay for teaching the classes.

Two items to mention:
 -DogFest 2021 will be held August 28, 2021 the structure will be different this year and we need a north county team and team captain. Let me know if you'd like to part of this fun-raiser.

-Pawprints Newsletters - going forward, our newsletter will be sent out at the beginning of the second month of each quarter (instead of the beginning of the first month). - Kristen



New Puppies & Puppy Raisers

- Allie IV- Julie Mercer
- Davi - Cheryl Day & Linda Comunale
- Flanagan - Gerry Streff
- Francie V - Michelle Farnam
- Isha III - Deborah Butler
- Ingot II - Gail Gatzke
- London V - Robin Dushkin
- Ozma II - Margaret Engel
- Norris IV - Gail Greco

Next Class of Matriculating Dogs & Raisers

- April VII - Rick & Janet Williams and Jamie Stewart
- Iker - Jennifer Carney & Kathy Bennet
- Isley II - Stella, Scott & Emily Hansen
- Kendrick II -- Paul Sandberg
- Templeton - Karen Silvas
- Turner V - Laurie Dunne
- Miner II - Deb Ferraro & Dorothy Wagemester
- Moxie IV - Liz Kern
- Nara II - Dawn Rudolph
- Navi III - Jane Rieger & Lisa Snowiss

NEW Volunteers

- Holly Lacroix
- Jennifer Angel
- Robin Fries
- Karen Carnahan
- Dianna Gittelman



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The Twisted Tale of Veronica V as told by Jane, her puppy raiser



The typical trajectory of a Canine Companions puppy is fairly straight forward. A wriggly, fluffy puppy is taken home by an excited puppy raiser who cares for it for approximately 18 months. At that time, a still excited, and some-

times tearful, puppy raiser turns in a calm, mature, confident dog for professional training. Approximately six months later, amidst more tears, a proud puppy raiser passes the leash of that trained service dog to a graduate.

Veronica V's journey began in typical fashion. She was picked up at the Southwest Region's Oceanside campus by a very excited, first time puppy raiser, Jane Gorman. Veronica was a beautiful, cuddly and spirited full yellow Lab. She eagerly attended puppy classes and outings, mastering her skills and developing confidence, although she found it hard to control her excitable greetings as she approached everyone with infectious enthusiasm.

Veronica was part of the matriculating class of August 2019, just a few weeks shy of her second

birthday. She began professional training at the Southwest campus, and a few weeks later, she was selected to be a breeder. Ironically, Veronica's neighbor and BFF, Mulberry, was also chosen to be a breeder. The girls needed to report to Canine Companions headquarters in Santa Rosa so Liz Connors, Mulberry's puppy raiser, Jane, and three dogs, Veronica, Mulberry and Eleven, embarked on a road trip from San Diego to Santa Rosa, to begin their journey as breeders. After a brief period of evaluation at the Northwest Campus, Veronica went to live with her breeder caretaker family in Santa Rosa. Wayne and Debbi Yamagishi warmly welcomed Veronica into their home which included two other dogs, both Labs, and a cat. This was a big change for Veronica who was the only pet in an all adult household and had very little exposure to felines. Unfortunately, Veronica's adjustment period in her new home, was abruptly disrupted by mandatory evacuation orders due to raging wildfires in the area. Wayne, Debbi, all three dogs and the cat drove to safety as flames whipped along the side of the road. That first fretful night, Veronica sheltered with the entire Yamagishi family which included twenty people, seven dogs, one cat and a fish! She piled on top of the sleeping bags filled with grandchildren and settled in for the night offering them solace. The evacuation went on for five days. Fortunately, the Yamagishi home was spared, but their son's home suffered smoke damage, so his family, including pets and children, stayed with them for a month while their home was being repaired.

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Just before Christmas, Debbi excitedly alerted Jane that Veronica went into heat. Visions of newborns danced in their heads. Photos of Veronica's suitors were shared. However, in early January 2020, another unexpected twist occurred. Unfortunately, it turned out Veronica had a minor anatomical anomaly which didn't impact her health, but made breeding unwise. The door to her future as a breeder was shut. So, on the very day Veronica's classmates from San Diego were taking part in their graduation ceremony, Veronica returned to the Northwest Campus to continue her professional training. Veronica hadn't been in training for 6 months... she had been destined to have puppies.

Another turn, but not the last. This time her transition back into professional training was interrupted, not by wildfires, but the Covid-19 pandemic. Covid forced the Canine Companions campus to shut down, so Veronica left campus and was fostered by a staff member and family. There was a lot of uncertainty at the time. Stay-at-home mandates were put in place. Fortunately, Veronica adapted again and was very sweet with all members of her foster family. This situation



lasted for about ten weeks. Eventually, the Northwest campus re-opened and Veronica returned again to highly structured professional training on site. The monthly progress reports were scrutinized by Debbi and Jane. After all this time, what path would she follow?

As fate would have it, Jane received the long-awaited news on Veronica's third birthday that she would be rotating into team training. Was she ready? Had she mastered all her skills? Would she find a match? Time slowed as both Debbi and Jane waited anxiously for nine long days to find out if she was paired with someone. Finally, the good news came! She had made a match! Veronica is now working as a facility dog at an outpatient clinic for veterans in Sacramento. Veronica's puppy raiser was a psychologist and her new handler is a psychiatrist, so she has found her niche in the mental health field. Veronica is offering stress relief and comfort to both staff and clients. She has the uncanny ability to sense who really



needs her and spends more time with them as she makes her rounds. Her penchant for excitable, but now appropriate, greetings has become a real asset. She also loves snuggling with a three year old boy in her new home when she's not working. The road travelled by Veronica V was full of twists and turns. She faced numerous challenges along the way that included wildfires, infertility, a worldwide pandemic, multiple living environments and several interruptions to her professional training. Despite these events, or perhaps because of them, Veronica has shown that she is resilient, flexible, loving and adept at offering comfort and bringing joy to others. Her path was

unique but she finally found her perfect job.





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Volunteer Spotlight Nancy, Tim, Rachel and Jason Gackstetter with Taran



How did we get involved with CCI?

We first heard about Canine Companions from the booth at the 2001 Del Mar Fair. Jason, who has cerebral palsy, was four years old. We sent in an application

around his 6th birthday; the earliest that applications could be submitted. We were paired with Marisa in 2004 and with successor Taran in 2014. It has been one of the best choices we've ever made. In addition to the forty or so commands for picking things up, opening doors, and all the other commands, first Marisa and then Taran have been a huge social bridge to his classmates and the public. Jason's wheelchair magically disappears with Taran at his side. Everyone wants to talk with the cool guy that has the awesome dog. She also teaches Jason responsibility with daily feeding, brushing and walks.

What volunteer tasks have you done?

Canine Companions is such a great organization. It has a huge impact on the graduates, the graduates' families and friends, on the puppy raisers and their families and friends, and on anyone who sees these incredible service dogs who love their work so much. We have found that Canine Companions is not so much an organization as it is a family. We are honored to be a part of this family. To help support Canine Companions, Tim has been on the Regional Southwest Board since 2004. Nancy, Tim and Jason

also support and volunteer at funding raising events and help staff the Canine Companions booth at the Del Mar fair, various street fairs and other events around San Diego, Orange County, and LA. We are also always willing stop and talk with anyone to answer their questions, hear their dog stories, and be good ambassadors. We can't wait to get back out to public events and letting everyone know about Canine Companions.

Favorite experience or memory?

There have been so many positive memories. From grade school through high school, Jason and Nancy would give a presentation to Jason's classes about his service dog and his disability. It was a great way to show everyone that although Jason rolls instead of walks, he is much more like everyone else than not. And of course, it was always a great opportunity to teach his classmates about service dogs. Then there is baseball. We have been honored to represent Canine Companions in pre-game ceremonies with the Padres at Petco Park and with the Dodgers at Dodger Stadium. One time, we got invited to attend the batting practice at Petco Park with the Padres. Wil Myers, the Padres outfielder and first baseman, came over. He asked if he could say hi to Taran. It didn't take long before he was sprawled out on the grass giving her some loving pets. He said he really wanted a dog, but that he traveled too much.



Personal:

We have been blessed to have been paired with Marisa and Taran, as well as being a part of the Canine Companion family. The positive impact all the Canine Companion dogs make is invaluable.



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Tribute to Jay Scrivener



You know that friend who is always willing to help when you need something? You know that friend who will always tell you the truth when you need to hear it? You know that friend who you love dearly but who can also make you crazy? Then you know Jay Scrivener, an avid volunteer, a puppy raiser and a friend for

all seasons.

Jay started volunteering with Canine Companions in 1998 when his wife, Kris, thought she would like to raise a puppy. She signed up, filled out all the paperwork and brought home a black Lab named Dale. Within weeks, it was Jay who realized that this was his calling and he slowly took over the puppy socialization and training. Buh-bye Kris, hello Jay!

It turned out that Jay was pretty good at working with puppies, socializing them and teaching them the needed commands. Once Dale graduated as a full service assistance dog, Jay was hooked. Throughout the next several years, he welcomed eight more puppies into his life and seven of them earned the titles of Skilled Companion, Service Dog or Breeder. Now it's important to note here that this is Jay Scrivener we're talking about and he could also be a crusty curmudgeon, so these weren't just any puppies. He insisted they had to be male, black and – after his pup Alton was selected as a breeder – they had to be Alton puppies (there may be a reason the Puppy Program Manager has changed five times since he joined up).

Whatever his specifications, they clearly worked for him and Jay became passionate about promoting the CCI mission. After several years of inactivity, the local chapter was reformed with Jay at the helm. As president, he organized dozens of fundraisers, large and small. He regularly gave in-person presentations to civic groups and private organizations. He drove to the SWR campus weekly to wash dogs (ok, to wash the black dogs). He was a puppy mentor for new raisers, he did site visits for potential raisers and signed up numerous donors and sponsors who contributed cash to our yearly galas and golf tournaments. As time went on, the equation became simple:

Jay + CCI + Black Dog + Golf = Success

Even though ten years ago Jay was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease, he continued to participate in everything he could, no matter how small. He went from being a major player and sponsor in our yearly golf tournament to sitting on the sidelines and being a greeter. More than anything, he did not give up and didn't give in and his support of Canine Companions never waned. As his condition worsened during the last weeks of his life, he made sure everyone knew that he wanted memorial donations to CCI in lieu of flowers.

You know that friend who does so much for so many, he leaves a gaping hole once he passes? Then you definitely know Jay Scrivener. A loyal, compassionate, and sincere guy who made a difference and left the world a better place. Thanks, Jay.



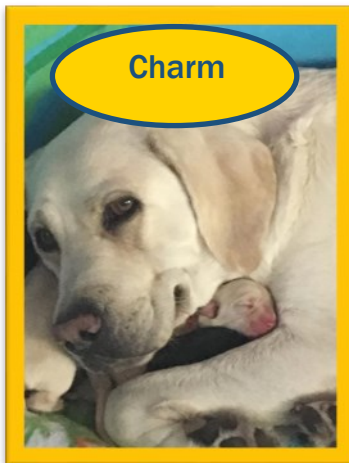
A special fundraiser in the annual golf tournament has been set up in Jay's honor - if you'd like to donate, please use this link:

<https://birdease.com/14123/donate>

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SPECIAL FEATURE from a Breeder Caretaker



CHARM'S LAST LITTER marks the end of our Breeder Caretaker career

After 40 puppies born in our home, Charm is retiring from her CCI career as a breeder. After five litters or when she reaches five years old whichever comes first, CCI retires their girls. In almost fifty years of overseeing their breeding colony CCI has found that not only are litters born healthier, but their breeder girls have longer healthier lives when they are bred each time they have a heat cycle. This policy not only supports healthier puppies but also a healthier retirement life for Mom. To that point, Charm had stillborn pups in her final two litters. Depending upon their natural rhythm, Mama's birthing timeline can range between five and eleven months. Charm had her litters just a bit over every six months.

At this time, CCI's breeder colony all live in homes within 90 miles of national headquarters in Santa Rosa. They oversee when she mates with the chosen sire. Famously, Bobby (one of CCI's most prolific sires) would be at the door and ready to head out whenever the CCI ring tone rang on his BC's cell phone. Most whelp out their litters in the home of their breeder caretaker. Once a female goes into season she immediately takes up residence at CCI for the entire time she is in heat.

Charm's temperature was used to determine the three days her body would be most receptive to conceiving puppies. It is not unusual to have more than one sire for a litter. For her final litter (born Nov. 23, 2020), Charm had two guys on deck. Experienced sire Hawk was bred with her on day 1 and day 3. On day 2, newly assigned breeder boy Zoom had his very first chance up to bat. It is not unusual for CCI to use a new male in a very limited manner at the start of his career to make sure that he can actually perform as necessary and that he has viable sperm. Charm's final litter surprised us with 3 stillborn pups despite our best efforts but 4 did survive and one of those (determined by DNA) was Zoom's. Hurray for Zoom!



This puppy was just born into the CCI world. The reason I know the pup is newly born is that it is wearing red yarn. Each puppy is born with in its own sack with placenta. A BCs first act is to get that sack off the puppy's head and get it breathing (often marked with a yelp). Then we immediately put colored yarn on the puppy to designate birth order. Red is always first born; blue is second, and on through a rainbow of assigned colors. CCI keeps track of birth order as a way of designating the number you see tattooed in our pup's ears.

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(Continued from page 6 - Charm's Retirement)

The first two digits on the tattoo are the year the pup was born. The last 3 digits are the birth order in that year starting with the number 001. The final tattoo last December was 20686. By using their designated number it's easy for CCI to access puppy records.

It has been our joy to welcome almost twenty years of CCI puppies into the world and see who they become.



Charm's Last Litter (L to R)
Eugene, Etta, Eleanor, Emma

Charm's BC's Gayle & Greg



DOGFEST 2021



Interested in being on the team?

Contact Kristen Rogers

kristenr99@msn.com





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PUPS AROUND TOWN



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GWEN'S CORNER

Happy Spring dear volunteers!

I hope that everyone is still doing well and enjoying the longer days. We are always excited when April rolls around and we get to celebrate Volunteer Appreciation Week! Volunteer Appreciation week is from April 18 to 24, 2021 and I want to take this opportunity to thank all of you for all your efforts and support this past year. It has been a year of change, some good, some not so good but there is light at the end of the tunnel and things are looking up.

Please join us for our SW Volunteer Appreciation virtual event on Wednesday, April 21, 2020 at 4pm (PST). More information and meeting link will be in the SWR Volunteer Update. Mark your calendars and get your computers/phone ready, and download Teams Meeting for optimum experience.

Happy Volunteer Appreciation Week in advance - you are a valued part of the Southwest region!

See you soon!

Gwen

North County Group Leadership Team

- **Volunteer Database** - Gwen Seah - gseah@cci.org
- **Lead/Newsletter/Calendar & Events** - Kristen Rogers - kristenr99@msn.com
- **New Volunteer Support** - Loree Andreasson - loreandreasson.ca@gmail.com
- **Outreach Coordinator** - Becky Lundgren - becky.lundgren@ccivolunteer.org
- **Puppy Raiser Outreach** - Michaelene Mooney - letsbeintouchnow@yahoo.com
- **Newsletter Designer** - Teri McCartney - teri@retrieverland.com

If you'd like to join in, please contact any of us !

