



P2 / THE HIGH ROAD

Trainer Denise Dumesnil and her husband James drove an RV to Seattle to deliver Stubbs to his forever home.



P2 / BRAINS & BEAUTY

Hedy Lamar's namesake pup puts that heritage to work for her veteran partner.



P3 / INNOVATION

Meet our KIVA students who have been part of our student trainer program for a dozen years.



P4 / COZY WINTERS

Especially with a pack of Labrador pups to keep us engaged and happy with their loving qualities.

THE VEST



ASSISTANCE DOGS OF THE WEST NEWS & EVENTS / FALL EDITION 2020



SIBLINGS AT WORK

D.A. Greg Totten and Chief Assistant D.A. Cheryl Temple Welcome Star and Trakr.

In October, Trakr joined his sister Star at the Ventura County District Attorney's Office in their Courthouse Dog Program. This program is designed to aid in the investigation and prosecution of crimes by providing crime victims and witnesses neutral support as they navigate the criminal justice system. Studies have shown that facility dogs provide both physical and emotional benefit to vulnerable victims, resulting in more accurate testimony in the judicial system. Courthouse facility dogs are currently

used in 38 states and over 20 district attorney's offices in California.

Dogs like Trakr and Star are chosen by Assistance Dogs of the West to train as facility dogs due to their calm demeanor and temperament to work with children and adults in courtrooms, public settings,

and in facilities where stress levels are high. Star and Trakr will assist in interviews, case preparation, testimony and sentencing along with providing support to visitors and staff at the Hall of Justice and Family Justice Center.

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“Trakr is not all business though, the goofy playful boy comes out once the vest is off.”

-Rachelle Helm Dean, Supervising Senior Deputy District Attorney



MAKING THE WORLD A SOFTER PLACE

Just a note to let you know what an amazing addition Stubby is to our family. We are so happy and so in love with him. From day one, moment one, I knew Stubby was mine and I was his. Although we have been partnered for less than six months, it feels as though we've been together forever. I can't imagine life without him.

Being quadriplegic, I rely on help with daily activities. The reason for getting Stubby was to help provide more independence in my daily life. Success! He is so smart! He unzips my jacket, pushes elevator buttons, opens and closes doors, picks things up (phone, keys, etc.). And he always does it with an enthusiastic wag!

Although he is an amazing helper, he is so much more than that. Stubby is my adventure buddy and companion. We navigate life together. He is glued to me and I am glued to him.

A typical day consists of getting ready with Stubby by my side. I drink my latte and he waits (drooling all the while) until I'm done so he can drink the froth. We continue our day, running errands, going on play dates with his pack of newfound doggie friends. He's just the happiest dog. He is constantly wagging his tail.

It's amazing how much joy he brings to everyone he meets. Everybody needs to know that somebody cares. There's something about Stubby that strips away the feeling of judgment ... People become soft. He makes everybody smile.

This has been an amazing journey. I love my dog! He was truly heaven sent. Stubby is the joy amongst the chaos. I'm forever grateful. - Susan Camicia



SHE MAKES MY HEART SMILE

I'm Lisa Veres and my canine partner is the beautiful ADW Hedy. Her namesake is Hedy Lamarr, the 1940's Golden Age actress famous for co-inventing what is essentially blue tooth technology. My girl is both brains and beauty too!

I'm especially grateful to Susan and Don, her puppy raisers who offered her experiences like flying, camping, and hiking that helped make her a perfect match for me and my family. I want to thank Chloe, Ari, Jodie, Aimee, Ian and all the volunteers who had a hand in participating in the 1600+ hours of training to make Hedy the best dog for my specific needs.

One of the first things we were able to do together was to go vote in the primary election. Hedy got a sticker too. She loves to go with us when we go jeeping and camping. What better way to see God's beautiful creation than with our new best friend?

Hedy joins me at the nail salon, grocery shopping, dining out, and she goes with me to all my medical and PT appointments at the VA SCI (Spinal Cord Injury).

Due to all the surgeries on my spinal cord, I have to use a walker. Hedy helps by picking all kinds of items up when I drop them. She has reduced my incidents of falling immeasurably. She assists me with the laundry by handing me the articles of clothing that I have sorted on the floor. I taught her to pull my walker to me when it rolls away.

I'm a Senior Chaplain with the International Fellowship of Chaplains. It is a ministry of presence where we often come alongside Fire and Police to help in the community and beyond. Hedy is a wonderful co-chaplain when she joins me on chaplain calls.

Hedy is truly my faithful friend. We enjoy watching the hummingbirds in the backyard along with our beautiful sunsets. She makes my heart smile. I just love her so! Thank you ADW!

SPECIAL DELIVERY



These three sweet pups just arrived from Shoreline Labradors to join their New Mexico cousins.



CREATIVE CONNECTION

For nearly 15 years, ADW has partnered with Capital High School to offer an educational program to the students who participate in KIVA (Keeping Independent Visions Alive), which helps students with disabilities to prepare for success after leaving high school. ADW's Instructor/Trainer Barbara Klein knew she needed creative solutions to give the students the opportunity to experience and learn about the rewards, responsibilities and routines of working with service dogs and do it in a virtual format.



And creative she was! Barbara supplied each student with their own "service dog training package" - that included a plush ADW pup, fully equipped with a vest, collar and leash and grooming tools.

The students are then asked to either draw, take a photo and or write about what they learned, using either their plush pups or their real dogs from home as inspiration. The beautiful illustrations done by these students with written descriptions and narratives demonstrate the positive experiences of this program have real life application, and the potential to provide something of value to their lives and the lives of those around them.

CELEBRITY CANINES

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Star was the first facility dog to join the office in June and began working with crime victims as well as providing much needed love to all those that worked in the Hall of Justice as they navigate the stresses of working in the criminal justice system and the COVID-19 pandemic. Star has become quite a celebrity in the courthouse among the judges, attorneys, court reporters, and staff. The social distance and masks that are required to keep us safe while working in the courthouse tends to have a very isolating effect on a rather social environment. Star bridges that gap and provides some comfort and personal interaction during in the otherwise cold and stressful environment.

While Trakr is still completing the end of his training, he is already quickly becoming a known celebrity of his own. He is all business once the vest and halter are on, the stoic serious soul quietly walking the halls.

Trakr lives with his handler Jillian, her husband and their other dog Breacher. He loves to come home and play with his new brother in their big backyard.



VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

Earlier this year, more than 60 dedicated Courthouse Facility Dog and Crisis Response Canine handlers from across the nation joined ADW for a two-day virtual event that included expert guest speakers, new handling skills, and innovative training modalities to support their work with vulnerable victims. The impact these teams have on mediating trauma continues to be an invaluable asset to their communities.



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SO MUCH TO LOVE MEET THE NEW PUPPIES

At our Puppy Enrichment Center not only do our newest arrivals and mamma dogs have a safe and comfy place to whelp, but also, they experience an amazingly stimulating environment that is age specific. Each day, week, month their protocols for health and well-being along with service-dog learning is adjusted and changed to encourage growth and intelligence. No wonder they become such amazing partners to those who receive them. Thank you to our long-time donor, who made the purchase and renovation of the property possible. We love our new home!

Learn more about our latest litter: assistancedogsofthewest.org

**FLIP TO PAGE 3 TO SEE
THE SPECIAL DELIVERY
WE JUST RECEIVED.**

