

Dog Talk

The official *unofficial* newsletter for FEMA dog handlers

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☆☆☆☆ Kudos to..... ☆☆☆☆

DOGTALK is pleased to announce that the following Canine Search Teams have recently gained certification (or **re-certification**) as FEMA US&R Canine Search Specialists:

☆☆ Irvine, CA- May 2009

Kim Norman & Rogue (AZ-TF1), Chuck Wong & Kino (CA-TF4), Peter Gross & Angus (CA-TF3), David Ramsey & Sandy (CA-TF3), Bill Monahan & Hunter (CA-TF2), Sharon Gattas & Chili (CA-TF6), Gerri Schmutz & Sizzle (CA-TF4), Ron Horetski & Pearl (CA-TF2), Tom Haus & Freitag (CA-TF1), Rick Bartlett & Spuds (CA-TF5)





CASTING CALL - Disaster Search Dog Competition TV Series - Casting Call for competitors

All across the country, volunteer canine teams operate as special lifesaving units – forces that are called in whenever a catastrophic event occurs – to search and find lost or trapped humans that are inevitably buried whenever an earthquake levels a house or a violent storm hits.

Each of these teams is already remarkable. Many have saved lives all across our country and all will continue to do so for as long as their paws are still able. But most Americans aren't even aware that these superheroes exist. In this new television series, the best of the best of these elite rescue teams will compete for the chance to show the world what they are capable of . . . their heart and their drive will endear them all to America. One team will win the honor of Top Dog and receive cash and prize awards.

PB&J Television is currently casting K9 Rescue Teams to compete in a new television series that will showcase some of our greatest American heroes - Search Dogs. If you and your Live Find, Disaster Search Dog would like to compete, please contact us with your name, phone number, photo and video submission.

Applications should be submitted to info@pbandjtv.com by July 24, 2009.

Thank you for taking the time to put yourself on tape. Any video format is acceptable but please test your camera or video recorder to ensure that the video and audio are both functioning properly. Please stay close to the camera and speak in a loud, clear voice. Below are a list of questions to prompt you - please use these as a guide but feel free to elaborate on any topics that are important to you. The viewer will not know what questions you are responding to, so please speak in complete sentences (incorporating the question into your response). When you are finished (no need to edit your video), you can send large files for free using

www.yousendit.com. Thank you!

Introduce yourself.

Please talk a bit about your day job and daily life (outside of the rescue dog world).

What is your personality? Are you competitive?

Please introduce your Search Dog to us and tell us about your certifications.

How did you get involved with Search Dogs? What was it that drew you to this field?

What was it like to train with your dog?

What are some of your dog's best skills?

Have you and your dog been on real-life search and rescue missions? What was that like?

What has been your dog's greatest accomplishment?

How does your dog mesh with your personal/home life or family?

How do you feel, personally, about your dog? What kind of connection do you two have?

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To Serve & Protect

What would you do if your working dog was injured? Learn emergency life support to provide immediate care for your injured dog. Courses taught by experienced veterinarians—with dogs present—will teach you the critical first steps.

Next Course: October 17, 2009

Important Information:

Announcing a new course format for the upcoming "K911: Emergency Life Support for the Search and Rescue Dog" Conference!

This new structure is in response to the suggestions from past attendees, the shrinking budgets of organizations and individuals for continuing education, and the overall expense of the conference.

We have made K911 a 1-day, all inclusive event. Registration will be limited to the first 24 people, and lectures will run from 8:30 - 2:30 pm Saturday, October 17th only. The skills lab will be tailored for all registrants and will begin immediately following the lectures, running from 2:30 - 5:30. The event will take place entirely at West Michigan Regional Laboratory, and still include continental breakfast, hot lunch buffet, lecture outlines and handouts. The cost will be \$200 per person.

The same skilled instructors from Michigan State University's College of Veterinary Medicine will be with us for the day, but in a more intimate learning environment that will provide greater opportunity for interaction and networking with the instructors and other participants.

You will experience the same quality conference as in previous years, but at a price and schedule that is more within reach during these tight economic times.

Registration is open!

www.wmrl.net/k911



McBaine

**In Loving Memory of McBaine aka "Pretty Boy"
Eliodora "Ellie" Chamberlain
Missouri Task Force 1**



On June 13, 2009, McBaine (aka "Pretty Boy") passed away in my arms surrounded by all of his family. On a crisp March morning in 1998, Baine found us on a crisp March morning on the Katy Trail in McBaine, Missouri. After 1 month listed as a stray at the shelter, I decided to make Pretty Boy a permanent part of our family. Not long after adopting Baine, I took him to an obedience class with a Canine Officer, who recommended that I look into search and rescue with Baine. Nine months later, I found the Missouri Task Force 1, and joined the canine search team in February 1999. It was the beginning of an entire life change for all of us.

Baine danced on the rubble pile. He and I earned our FEMA certification in October 2000. We traveled and trained across the country meeting wonderful people and their hard-working dogs. Not only was Baine a disaster search dog, but he was also a wilderness search dog with the Boone County Fire Department Wilderness Search and Rescue Team. Throughout all the searches and deployments, he taught me so much, and challenged me to be a better trainer and canine partner.

Because Baine was a shelter dog, he was older than we had all anticipated, so I had to retire him in 2003. Unbeknownst to him that was not the end of his career! He became my Assistant Dog Trainer to teach and train Katy.

Outside of search and rescue, he was a great best friend, nurse maid and travel companion. He loved going on trail runs, swimming, and always did his best to rescue all the stray branches or logs in the water. He was with us through thick and thin, and put up with my hair pulling through graduate school.

He was an awesome partner, teacher, friend, assistant dog trainer, puppy trainer, mentor, and hero. He made me a better human being, and I am grateful for all his gifts and unconditional love. Without Baine, I could not have accomplished everything he, Katy, and I have done. His lessons will live on through me, Katy and all those who will come thereafter. Pretty Boy, we love and miss you, and are very grateful for having touched our lives forever and bringing us such joy.

