

# Dog Talk

The official *unofficial* newsletter for FEMA dog handlers

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## In this issue:

- **Eye exams in May**
- **Disaster Canine Challenge?**
- **Christchurch Earthquake**
- **California CP December**
- **Airline Changes**
- **Penn State Research Update**
- **AKC Awards**

*Working service dogs and others qualify for this free eye exam during the month of May...*

<http://acvoeyeexam.org/>

The 4th ACVO National Service Dog Eye Exam event will provide a free screening eye exam to Service Dog groups including: guide dogs, hearing dogs, handicapped assistance dogs, detection dogs, police dogs, search and rescue dogs and formally trained and certified therapy dogs (through the Delta Society or similar). Dogs must be active 'working dogs' that were certified by a formal training program or organization or are currently enrolled in a formal training program to qualify. The certifying organization could be national, regional or local in nature. Essentially the dogs need to have some sort of certification and/or training paperwork to qualify for this particular this program.

While we would like to offer these services to all dogs who offer assistance to their owners/caretakers, this event will be limited to the above groups. There are limited 'slots' available to treat these animals therefore a specific group was defined.

The definition of Service Dogs to be served during this event applies only to this ACVO National Service Dog Eye Exam Day. Your veterinary ophthalmologist may offer a separate program outside of this event for Service Dogs, but you would need to speak with them separately.



## Interested in another Disaster Canine Combat Challenge?

Search and Rescue Assist along with HydroLyte are exploring the possibility of a second Disaster Canine Combat Challenge. We would like to gauge the interest among the Certified K9 Handlers in coming to Baltimore for another weekend of USAR Challenges. We are tentatively thinking of a Spring '12 event to avoid Hurricane Season as well as the hot and humid weather (hopefully).

If this is something that you would seriously consider participating in (either as support staff, evaluators or participants) I would love to hear from you. Please email me at [K9SARainc@aol.com](mailto:K9SARainc@aol.com) with your thoughts.

### Performance Designs:

Specializing in Steel and Aluminum crates... Custom designed for your very own needs. Feel free to email Sam for some pictures / idea's and quotes.

Now selling Kennel Gear water bowl and pail products! A great tool for securing water bowls / pails of various sizes to either mesh or tubular crates.

[www.PerformanceDesigns.biz](http://www.PerformanceDesigns.biz)



# Christchurch Earthquake- February 2011

New Zealand

In the December DogTalk there was an article about an earthquake just out of Christchurch, New Zealand entitled "M 7.1 earthquake...weren't we lucky"... On February 22 at 12:51pm we were not so lucky. While the earthquake was only a 6.3 this time the fault was under the picturesque Port Hills that form part of the hill suburbs and overlook the city. The effect was widespread and devastating with severe liquefaction and massive structural damage. The CBD, full of people at that time on a Tuesday lunchtime was hit really hard but almost every building damaged. My very basic USAR engineering understanding is that due to the closeness of the fault much of the movement was vertical, where most buildings are engineered more for horizontal movement

There was two complete building collapses in the CBD- the PGC building and the CTV site. In addition the top floor of The Press newspaper building in the square had collapsed and the iconic cathedral also in the square had a major collapse in the bell tower, a popular tourist attraction. Dozens of additional buildings had suffered serious damage and many people were injured, some fatally, by falling masonry and building facades.



*NZ-TF2 handler Brenda Woolley works her K9 Boss*





Coincidentally Christchurch has the largest number of operational dogs in NZ and the handlers available immediately took actions to make themselves available for deployment- this included battling traffic and serious road damage. This was the start of what was to be the largest deployment of USAR and USAR dogs in NZ history, and for these handlers the beginning of a very long 30+ hours searching for survivors. 2 teams arrived later that night from Auckland and within the next few days USAR dogs also arrived from Singapore, Japan and Australia. While we had limited opportunity to work with the overseas teams, but were very encouraged to hear them compliment our dogs and their ability.



The New Zealand dogs searched approximately 80 sites over the next week- 10 days. There were a number of successful finds, in really challenging situations. We have trained hard for exactly this type of situation and have spent some time over the last few years trying to create possible training scenarios we might encounter on the “real thing” and all this training was well and truly tested. On the first night for example just as we were about to search one site the generator ran out of fuel and we had to search with several people on the pile illuminating as much as they could with their headlamps. We went from there to a bakery where the lunchtime quake meant the contents of the cabinets and heated pie warmers had emptied all over the floor. Upstairs in the food preparation area there was jam and chocolate mousse all over the place...and this was just the first night!

It is thought the Christchurch earthquake has taken 181 lives, with many people homeless and the CBD still cordoned off, with this potentially lasting months due to the instability of many buildings. There will be many lessons to be learnt from this event but overall we are very proud of the performance of our dogs, and while we hope nothing like this happens in NZ again we will continue to train USAR search dogs to the highest possible level.

Janelle Mackie

*- My sincere apologies that this edition of DogTalk is soooo late- I do the layout here in Christchurch for Anne McCurdy and my computer did its own version of agility...and failed!*



## Canine Certificate Preparation

A CP was hosted by CA-TF3 at the Menlo Park Baylands Training Site 11 and 12 December 2010.

The CP was attended by:

Terri Griffin & Gizzy- TX-TF1  
Eric Darling & Ben- CA-TF5  
James Covington & Dodger- TN-TF1  
Barrett Anderson & Niko- TN-TF1  
Meagan Kazda & Bridger- TX-TF1  
Lauren Farr & Tank- TN-TF1  
Lisa Kelsey & Cricket- OH-TF1  
Matt Griffith & Rookie- TN-TF1  
Tim Houwelling & Tater- CA-TF3



## Airline Changes...

Below is updated information for American- search dogs now classified as pets rather than service dogs...

Checked Pet	<p>Within and between the United States and Canada, Mexico, Central and South America and the Caribbean.</p> <p>For all other locations, contact <a href="#">Reservations</a>.</p>	<p>\$150 USD per container</p> <p>Charges for travel NOT within and between the United States and Canada, Mexico, Central and South America and the Caribbean may be obtained from <a href="#">Reservations</a>.</p>
Cabin Pet	<p>Within and between the United States and Canada, Mexico, and the Caribbean provided the country of arrival permits entry.</p> <p><b>NOT allowed to Hawaii.</b></p>	\$100 USD per container
Assistance animal traveling with a disabled passenger (such as seeing eye dog)	Any destination with the exception of the U.K.	No charge.

\*Charges shown above apply for each origin/destination without a voluntary stopover/connection of four hours or more. If your itinerary includes a voluntary stopover/connection of more than four hours, charges apply for each connection segment.

## Research Update...

The Penn Vet Working Dog Center is known for its ongoing study of the 9/11 SAR dogs deployed to the World Trade Center, Pentagon and Fresh Kills Landfills. In September 2010, the data representing 2001-2006 was published in the Journal of Environmental Health. We have launched another nationwide project and are looking for SAR dog participants. The AKC Companion Animal Detection Dog DNA Bank has been created with the objective of obtaining DNA samples as well as information about pedigree, behavior, health, training and certification. The goal is to be able to identify genetic indicators of successful, healthy detection dogs improving breeding and selection programs of future generations. Contact the Penn Vet Working Dog Center to learn how you can participate.

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## AKC HUMANE FUND SEEKS CANINE HEROES FOR 12TH ANNUAL AWARDS FOR CANINE EXCELLENCE

New York, NY - Heroes, like dogs, come in all shapes and sizes. Since 2000, thousands of dog lovers have nominated special canines for the AKC Humane Fund Awards for Canine Excellence (ACE). ACE nominees range from skilled assistance dogs and law enforcement K-9s that keep U.S. citizens safe to Search & Rescue dogs who have aided in recovery missions. Equally important are the Therapy dogs who provided much needed comfort in the wake of tragic national events such as the attacks on 9/11 and Hurricane Katrina as well as the companions who aspire to be champion leg warmers at the foot of their owner's bed at night.

"Over the past eleven years, the AKC has had the honor of recognizing some truly outstanding dogs through ACE," said Ronald Rella, Director of Project Administration. "We encourage anyone that owns or knows of a heroic dog to submit a nomination as a way to pay tribute to the canines that devote their lives to making ours better."

Each year, five dogs that have performed an exemplary act or series of acts that have significantly benefited a community or individual, whether large or seemingly small, are selected for an ACE. One award is given in the following five categories: Companion, Law Enforcement, Search and Rescue, Therapy, and Service. Honorable Mentions are awarded to outstanding entries in each category. In addition to the prestige of being chosen from hundreds of entries, each of the five honorees receives a cash award of \$1,000, an engraved sterling silver medallion and an all-expenses-paid trip for dog and owner to Orlando, Fla., to be honored at the eleventh annual AKC/Eukanuba National Championship in December 2011. The engraved names of the five recipients will also be added to the ACE plaque that is on permanent display in the AKC's Library in New York City. Dogs receiving honorable mention will be awarded an engraved bronze medallion. All entrants will receive an ACE Certificate of Recognition in acknowledgement of their nomination.

Anyone, including the dog's owner or handler, may submit a nomination. Submissions for the AKC Humane Fund Awards for Canine Excellence for 2011 must include: \* A non-returnable, original photograph of the dog. Hi-resolution electronic photos provided on a disc are permissible, but not scans. (electronic requirements: 300dpi and at least 5x7 inches or, 72dpi at least 20x30 inches) \* A 500-word-or-less description of how the dog has demonstrated excellence. \* Dog's call name, registered name if applicable, breed, age and sex. \* Owner/Nominator name(s), address, phone number. E-mail address if available. \*Please note that to be considered, dogs are not required to be AKC registered but must be an AKC recognized breed.

Nominations will be accepted until June 1, 2011 and should be sent to:

Ronald N. Rella: ACE Awards 2011

The AKC Humane Fund

260 Madison Avenue, 4th Floor

New York, New York 10016

For more information about the ACE awards or to download a nomination form visit

<http://www.akchumanefund.org>

Please forward any news, scheduled events, letters to the editor, or other info you want disseminated via **DOGTALK**, the underground canine newsletter to Anne McCurdy: [Amccurdy@iuhealth.org](mailto:Amccurdy@iuhealth.org)

