

Creating Extraordinary Bonds Between People and Dogs



Dear friends,

Duo Dogs, Inc. is full steam ahead in the new year! We ended the fiscal year ahead of plan and under plan in expense – which is where we want to be. You'll be seeing a comprehensive review of our year end performance in our 2022-2023 Annual Report coming soon.



For assistance dogs, from July 1 to date we've graduated Duo Assistance Dogs Evie (Ambassador), Gizmo (PTSD), Elliot and Gidget (Mobility), and as of Jan. 10, Duo Dog Woody (Facility – Saint Louis University). We were thrilled KMOV's evening anchor Cory Stark covered our new Saint Louis University partnership. You'll see the story later in this newsletter. This is Duo's first facility dog placement in a university academic setting!

We continue to learn where our community needs us through our many community and corporate wellness event requests. We had 200 last year! As an organization we are taking care to ensure our presence at these events has purpose aligned with our mission at Duo Dogs. We value our volunteer Duo Touch Therapy Team efforts who provide support and courage to those seeking distraction from anxiety, in stressful situations, or really just need a mental lift.

We are so very grateful for your time, talent, treasure, and testimony sharing the Duo story with others. All the work at Duo Dogs happens because of your support. On behalf of myself and the team at Duo, THANK YOU!

Most sincerely,

Dawn



Nae's Six

1/17/24



On January 17th Duo Dog Nae welcomed her second litter of puppies, three males and three females. This litter will spend 8 weeks under the watchful eye of Duo's Canine Team and dedicated Whelper Helper volunteers. Viewers from around the world can watch them grow thanks to the Duo Dogs puppy cam until they move onto their next adventure with their volunteer puppy raisers for the next 16 months.



Our Newest Teams

Assistance Dog Graduations

We are pleased to celebrate the newest graduates of Duo's Assistance Dog Program:

Jaimee H. + Duo Dog Gidget

Chuck L. + Duo Dog Elliot

Saint Louis University + Duo Dog Woody



[GRADUATION SLIDESHOW](#)

Duo Dog Gidget is from the Gellman Litter also known as the “G Litter” and is the second from her litter to graduate. Her parent's names are Duo Dog Silky and Brantley Coal. Duo wishes to thank Susan Parker England and Lora Carroll for their assistance in breeding the litter, Bob & Nancy Gellman for naming the litter, and Jennifer Moffett & husband, Paul, for serving as Gidget's Volunteer Puppy Raisers. About Jaimee: Jaimee lives in Florida with her husband, Mark. She has three children. The first has left the nest and two currently live at home. She previously worked as an ER Trauma Nurse. Jaimee has bred and raised Dalmatians over the years and is excited to welcome Gidget as her new assistance dog.

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[GRADUATION SLIDESHOW](#)

Duo Dog Elliot was born on 2/5/2018 and entered Duo's assistance dog program on 2/12/2019. His parent's names are Linray's Read All About It and Piccadilly's A Shade Darker. A big thank you to Patricia Manhart & Jim Reeves for serving as Elliott's Volunteer Puppy Raisers and for their assistance in getting him ready for this placement. Elliott came back to Duo in need of a new career, and we are pleased he has found his new partner in Chuck. About Chuck: Chuck lives in Tennessee with his wife, Barbara and their pet dog, Valentine, a 6-year-old Standard Poodle. They are caregivers to Barbara's sister. Chuck is a former Registered Nurse and Nurse Manager. Elliott, the most versatile dog in the world, will be a wonderful assistant to Chuck's every day life.

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Saint Louis University + Duo Dog Woody



GRADUATION SLIDESHOW

Duo Dog Woody was born on 3/13/22 as part of The Tree Litter, named by Lise Herren. Woody's parents are Duo Dog Samoa and Chase. Duo wishes to thank Deb Sears-Brown and Trish Ahrens for their assistance in breeding the litter. Woody was raised by two Duo employees, Tony Alaimo and Beth Biondo, and has grown very accustomed to attention as a result of growing up at Duo. About Saint Louis University's Handling Team: Primary Handler Tori works as a Wellness Coordinator in campus recreation, and will be utilizing Woody in Mental Health Activation activities. Secondary Handler Rebecca serves as a counselor and foresees Woody comforting students who are enduring an immediate crisis. Additional Secondary Handler, Eric is the Assistance Vice President of Student Well-Being, and Matt is the Chief of Staff for the Office of the Provost. All are excited to see the impact Duo Dog Woody has on the SLU campus.

duo dogs in The News

Duo currently has 88 Facility and Assistance Dogs actively working across the United States, Canada, and the UK. Two of them have recently been featured in local publications for their work.

Duo Dog Forrest + Kane County Judicial Center



Woody's placement caught the attention of Cory Stark from KMOV and he got to attend part of Team Training. You can watch the story [here](#).

Duo Dog Woody + Saint Louis University



You can watch the video on
Forrest [here](#).



**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEWEST TOUCH THERAPY TEAMS THAT GRADUATED
IN OUR FALL TOUCH THERAPY CLASSES!**

**PAT E. + TUCKER
SUSANNA B. + POLLY
TERRI S. + PEBBLES
MARY JO C. + ELWAY
PATTI W. + IVORY
SUE L. + MILO
LINDY E. + WYNN
LISA R. + HANK
LORI O. + LUNA
KEVIN B. + MURPHY
BETH P. + RUFUS
JOAN H. + SAMMY
CRYSTAL M. + SPRITZEE
MADELYN R + BOWEN
NANCY H. + DASH
BOYD C. + JADE
JENNIFER B. + OLIVER
LAURA H. + SOPHIE
KRISTEN B. + WINSTON
PAM M. + BAILEY
AUDREY K. + DOUG
KEVIN C. + DUBLIN
RUTH L. + LOLA
JAKE H. + NONCE
LEXI S. + YADI**

YOU CAN VIEW THEIR GRADUATION SLIDESHOW [HERE](#).



IN ADDITION, WE ALSO GRADUATED TEAMS FROM OUR PURINA + DUO TOUCH THERAPY PARTNERSHIP, BRINGING OUR TOTAL OF DUO TOUCH THERAPY TEAMS UP TO 275 ACTIVE TEAMS IN THE SAINT LOUIS COMMUNITY! WE CELEBRATED OUR PURINA TEAMS WITH A SEPARATE CEREMONY HELD AT PURINA. CONGRATULATIONS TO THESE TEAMS!

**ERIN R. + WALKER
RACHEL D. + ASPEN
JESSICA F. + ED
KELSEY H. + WICKET
CHRISTINA S. + ZENA
TRICIA G. + APOLLO
MOLLY H. + CHARLIE
AMANDA J. + FAUCI
AMBER H. + LEXI
KAYLA AND PAUL S. + OZZIE
AMANDA B. + PENNY
BEV B. + BERNARD
COURTNEY K. + GIBBS
FRANKIE G. + WOOFIE
LAURA L. + ZOEY**

YOU CAN VIEW THEIR GRADUATION SLIDESHOW [HERE](#).



Upcoming Duo Touch Therapy + Obedience Classes

Duo Touch Therapy and Obedience Schedules

Duo Touch Therapy Training Sessions

WINTER 2024: January 2 - March 23, 2024 - IN SESSION

SPRING 2024: April 9 - June 29, 2024

FALL 2024: September 3 - November 23, 2024

Contact Tracy Gellman Liebe, tliebe@duodogs.org for more information

Obedience Sessions

SESSION 14: January 2 - February 10, 2024- IN SESSION

SESSION 15: February 20 – April 1, 2024

(Monday classes start one week later - February 26)

SESSION 16: April 9 – May 20, 2024

(Monday classes start one week later - April 15)

[Click here for more info](#)



Recent Duo Touch Therapy Team Retirements

Duo recognizes the following Touch Therapy teams that have recently retired and thanks them for their service:

Patricia J. + Blue

Lisa S. + Ziggy

Beverly Jo A. + Titus and Treasure



Recent Duo Touch Therapy Dog Passings

Duo recognizes the following Duo Touch Therapy Dogs that have recently passed and offer condolences to their families:

Bo Jangles (Carol C.)

Zoey (Kelley P.)

If your Duo Touch Therapy dog has recently retired or passed, please contact Stephanie Mach smach@duodogs.org so that we can recognize and thank you for your dog's service and update our records

Honoring our Touch Therapy Teams

Touch Therapy dog Bo Jangles, lovingly nicknamed 'Bobo', passed away this past fall. Bobo, and his handler, Carol Costigan served in our Touch Therapy ranks for over 10 years. Bobo, a Bichon/Cocker mix and Carol made frequent visits to Siteman Cancer Center where they brightened the day of those who were dealing with health issues. Carol shared that even after they resumed visits after a year and half off because of the pandemic, Bobo did not miss a beat. He remembered exactly where and who the person who gave him cookies was located. Bobo brought smiles to those he visited through a repertoire of spins, roll overs and of course, gentle pets on the head. Carol's love of dogs continues with Cooper, a Welsh Corgi, who is currently enrolled in our obedience programs. Thank you to both Bobo and Carol for their years of service!



Volunteer Update

Duo has various volunteer opportunities throughout the year from raising and training future assistance dogs, playing/exercising them in our kennel, to assisting with our fundraising events or volunteering at our facility. We are extremely grateful for our volunteers. Their time and contributions are valuable to us and will make a positive impact on those we serve.

Please click [here](#) to fill out an online application. Once you have submitted your application, you will receive an email invitation to attend a New Volunteer Orientation, where you will learn more about Duo's mission and explore the different options that fit your skills and talents best!

During Orientation, we will go over specific volunteer opportunities, Duo Dogs' policies and enjoy a facility tour. Additional paperwork will need to be completed at Orientation and you will receive information on how to obtain a Background Check (\$37 processing fee).

Upcoming New Volunteer Orientations:

Thursday February 15

Wednesday March 13

Tuesday April 16

Monday May 20

Thursday June 13

[Click Here to Sign Up for New Volunteer Orientation](#)

Contact Erin Manning, Community Relations Manager, with any questions
emanning@duodogs.org



Join our all new Duo Dogs Ambassador Program

What is the Duo Dogs ambassador program?

Our ambassador program is a new aspect of our marketing campaign where we enlist the help of passionate and knowledgeable members of the Duo community to help expand brand awareness. Our goal is to advance our mission in a successful way through ambassador support.

Our ambassadors should be supporters of the mission, goals and values of Duo Dogs and help propel the institution forward. Duo Dogs Ambassadors can personalize our organization by sharing their own stories and experiences. Through your experiences and knowledge of Duo Dogs, you can help emotionally connect with those in which you interact. Additionally, as an ambassador, you can assist Duo by networking, or speaking in public and attending community events. Together, with our ambassadors, we hope our focused efforts will help further our reach and influence in the St. Louis region and beyond.

Ambassadors of Duo Dogs may be asked to do any combination of the following:

- **Speak publicly to groups.**
- **Volunteer and represent Duo Dogs at an event.**
- **Invite guests to the next Duo Dogs event.**
- **Host a reception or tour of Duo Dogs with your friends or contacts as an opportunity to tell Duo Dog's story.**
- **Make thank-you calls to donors.**
- **Forward an organizational newsletter to others in your network.**
- **Invite Duo staff to present at a brown bag lunch at their office, school, or other organization in which you are affiliated.**

Expectations / Skills / Qualifications Needed:

- **Ambassadors should have a positive, inclusive, engaging, and passionate personality.**
- **Ideally, individuals should have a history of engagement at events, commitment through continuous volunteerism or donations or both, create and maintain active networks and community ties, plus free time to promote Duo Dogs**
- **Know and practice our elevator pitch about Duo Dogs.**
- **Be knowledgeable about our programs, services and how we are funded and be able to publicly speak on these topics.**
- **Ambassadors, as directed by our Community Relations Manager, should be able to set up tables at local events, create a new event for visibility and use your own network to promote nonprofit.**
- **Continually strive to make connections between potential future volunteers and funders and Duo Dogs.**
- **Successful completion of Duo Dogs Ambassador Training.**

**If you would like to become a Duo Ambassador, please contact Sean McCaffrey,
smccaffrey@duodogs.org**

2023 VOLUNTEER HOURS

DUO DOGS IS FOREVER GRATEFUL TO OUR VOLUNTEERS WHO HELP US CONNECT PEOPLE WITH DOGS. WE APPRECIATE EVERY SINGLE ONE OF OUR VOLUNTEERS – EACH PERSON HELPS TO CREATE A POSITIVE IMPACT IN THE ST. LOUIS COMMUNITY AND BEYOND!

KENNEL ENRICHMENT

WE ARE PROUD TO SAY THAT WE HAD A GRAND TOTAL OF 111 INDIVIDUAL KENNEL ENRICHMENT VOLUNTEERS WHO FILLED 606 OUT OF 730 SHIFTS NEEDED FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2023. DUO WAS FORTUNATE TO HAVE THIS DEDICATED GROUP OF VOLUNTEERS WHO CARED FOR OUR DOGS IN ADVANCED TRAINING.

TOP TEN PARTICIPATING KENNEL ENRICHMENT DUO VOLUNTEERS FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2023 WERE:

**DIANE ELLIS - 45 SHIFTS
RACHEL SIMMONS - 38 SHIFTS
SUSAN LANDIS - 31 SHIFTS
ERIN BERSON 30 - SHIFTS
CHLOE AUSTIN - 27 SHIFTS
JENNIFER MOFFETT - 23 SHIFTS
LIZ HARRY -22 SHIFTS
MARK HILLIS - 22 SHIFTS
LEAH WILLIAMS - 20 SHIFTS
MARY DUGGAN - 19 SHIFTS**

*** THESE STATISTICS ARE GENERATED FROM SIGNUP.COM AND REFLECT VOLUNTEERS' NUMBER OF SHIFTS SERVED PER ACTIVITY. THIS TOP TEN LIST DOES NOT INCLUDE HOURS SERVED BY OUR 33 SUPPORTIVE KE VOLUNTEERS FROM SAFETY NATIONAL WHO SIGN-UP FOR THEIR DUO KENNEL ENRICHMENT SHIFTS INTERNALLY. WE ARE EXTREMELY GRATEFUL FOR THESE VOLUNTEERS WHO USE THEIR LUNCH HOUR ON WEDNESDAYS AND THURSDAYS EVERY WEEK, TO PROVIDE PLAYTIME AND EXERCISE FOR OUR DOGS IN THE DUO KENNEL.**

2023 VOLUNTEER HOURS

WHELPER HELPERS

WE ARE EXCITED TO REPORT THAT DURING 2023, WE HAD A GRAND TOTAL OF 258 WHELPER HELPERS FILL A GRAND TOTAL OF 1,544 SHIFTS FOR 4 SEPARATE LITTERS! CRISSY SMITH AND HER TEAM CANNOT SAY THANK YOU ENOUGH FOR ALL OF THE TIME AND DEDICATION THEY HAVE GIVEN TO DUO. EACH WHELPER HELPER FILLED A GREAT NEED AND GAVE EACH PUPPY A GREAT START TO LIFE!

OVERALL TOP TEN PARTICIPATING WHELPER HELPERS FOR ALL 4 LITTERS: (PURINA, NAUTICAL, MOVIE CHARACTERS, GREAT OUTDOORS) FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2023:

DIANE ELLIS – 92 SHIFTS

JENNIFER MOFFETT – 68

GLORIA LUBER – 56

CHRIS MARS – 44

DAN HORNER – 32

JAN STULCE – 27

JULIE HIBBARD – 26

ERIN BERSON – 23

CINDY WITTICH – 22

JACKIE ETLING + LORI O'BLENNIS TIED FOR 21

***THESE STATISTICS ARE GENERATED FROM SIGNUP.COM AND REFLECT VOLUNTEERS' NUMBER OF SHIFTS SERVED PER ACTIVITY.**

2023 VOLUNTEER HOURS

VICNET REPORT FOR JAN-DEC 2023:

TOP TEN MOST LOGGED VOLUNTEER HOURS BY ANY DUO VOLUNTEER:



JENNIFER MOFFETT- 8,121
STEPHEN PARISI - 5,979
BRIAN + JULIE WASSON- 5,672
DAN HORNER- 4,532
BONNIE AUDRAIN- 3,673
PAMELA BUTLER- 3,673
LINDA NEWBERRY- 3,220
TRISH WILKINSON- 3,096
BELINDA BRIN- 2,776
PATRICIA MANHART- 2,529

***THESE NUMBERS ARE BASED ON REPORTS FROM VICNET (DUO'S VOLUNTEER PORTAL).
IF YOU NEED TO UPDATE THE NUMBER OF HOURS YOU HAVE SERVED, PLEASE GO TO
WWW.VOLGISTICS.COM/VICNET. IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT ERIN
MANNING AT EMANNING@DUODOGS.ORG.**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT! WE COULDN'T "DUO" IT WITHOUT OUR VOLUNTEERS!

DUO TEAM MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: ABI KELLY

Abi works with Crissy, Tony, and Jim in supporting the various stages of the Assistance Dog Program. She describes her role as “being ready for anything,” as her day takes her from answering volunteer questions to organizing areas, creating projects and videos, taking dogs to the vet, and coordinating Puppy Sitter requests. Each day is different from the day before which is an exciting part of the role. Abi’s clinical and hospitality experiences working at veterinary clinics and in hospitality at one of the local casinos and at Walt Disney World Resort (more specifically, in Frontierland – yeehaw!) led her to realize that she wanted to combine her love of meeting and helping people and animals (more specifically, dogs). Ever since she was a child, she has been interested in service dogs and the wide range of tasks they can perform to help people, so when her fiancé volunteered at Duo through a corporate volunteer day and told her about it, she knew she wanted to be a part of our mission.



Abi likes to stay busy. She enjoys hiking at a variety of different parks with her dog, Cinco, and visiting local coffee shops. She will find any opportunity to go on road trips and travel, or to attend concerts and music festivals. At home, Abi is usually writing stories and poetry, doing archery with her Recurve bow, watching a horror movie, reading a book, editing photos, or continuing to decorate her house. She met her fiancé, Ty, when they both worked at Walt Disney World and is excited about their upcoming wedding in the fall. Ty adopted Cinco’s sister, Shiloh, who you can see and pet (much to her delight) at Duo from time to time.

DUO TEAM MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: STEPHANIE MACH

Stephanie works with the Touch Therapy and Obedience Programs partnering with Tracy, Matt, James, and Megan to provide support to our current and future Touch Therapy Teams as well as Obedience class clients. Stephanie was interested in the Touch Therapy Program, long before applying to work at Duo, after seeing the impact therapy dogs made at her aunt's funeral and then learning about Duo Dogs after seeing Duo Ambassador Dog Barclay on the news. Stephanie began obedience classes with her chocolate Labrador, Hoss (the Boss), in preparation for hopefully becoming a Touch Therapy Team when he turns 2. In Stephanie's previous corporate role, her favorite part of the job was organizing their community involvement activities and representing the organization at trade shows and events. Stephanie has been involved with volunteer work since 2002 when she began as a Big Sister as part of the Big Brothers Big Sisters organization, noting it is one of the most rewarding things she has ever done.



Stephanie loves experiences! You can find her around town attending shows at the Muny, enjoying events at the MO Botanical Gardens, brewing beer with her husband Eddie, and doing yoga. Stephanie became an aunt in October and visits her nephew as often as she can! She made sure to note that Hoss LOVES coming to work at Duo and waits at the backdoor sprinting to the car on workdays. Make sure to stop by to say hello when you visit Duo and see what special bandana Hoss has on for the day.

DUO TEAM MEMBER UPDATES



Megan Ores-Uhrich has joined our team as a part time training specialist for Duo's Obedience Program. Megan started working with dogs after adopting her first. In the last 23 years she has completed 2 dog training internships, worked in multiple shelter behavior departments, taught loads of group classes and specialized in private training for behavior problems in pet dogs. What she loves about being part of the Duo team is getting the opportunity to educate people and dogs so they can live their best life together.

Gertie Butler has joined our team as our new Kennel Professional. Gertie has an Associates Degree in Occupational Sciences in Veterinary Medicine and has worked as a Veterinary Technician.



Duo Lecture Series

In our final lecture of our 2023 lecture series, a near capacity crowd gathered to hear Julie Spears, a current Touch Therapy Team with her dog Graham and a nutritionist from Purina, speak about canine nutrition. Before Dr. Spears' lecture, we heard from Duo Board Member and Touch Therapy Team Rob Verbarg, speak about his Leonbergers, Ozark and Glacier. Rob and his wife Janet have been active in Touch Therapy for over 10 years and have volunteered with us in numerous ways. If you happened to watch the National Dog Show on Thanksgiving Day, you may have noticed Rob and Ozark starred in several Purina commercials that were aired nationally. We are grateful for Dr. Spears' insight and knowledge of canine nutrition as well as our ongoing partnership with Purina. Thank you Dr. Spears and Rob!



Save the dates for upcoming Duo events

A Fetching Affair:

Paws Mental Health



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**Christine
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Save the dates for upcoming Duo events



Bathing and Grooming At Home For Pet Owners

Attendees will learn about helpful handling techniques for bathing and grooming at home. They will be able to identify their pet's coat type and will leave with a good sense what is required to properly maintain it.

Saturday, Feb 10th 2024 1PM

Duo Dogs

10955 Linpage Place

rsvp

ewelch@duodogs.org



You're Invited
 duo dogs

P A N E L D I S C U S S I O N

Duo Dogs + Mental Health: An Educational Discussion on the Benefit of Duo Touch Therapy + Facility Dogs.

Hosted by



Featured Panelists:

Ashley Komorowski, SSM Rehabilitation Hospital- Duo Dog Kia

Lisa Jones, Saint Louis Prosecuting Attorney, Victim Service Division- Duo Dog Levi

Kathleen Houston, St. Louis Children's Hospital Child Protection Program- Duo Dog Opal

Holly Skubiz, Duo Touch Therapy + Response Dog Volunteer, Barron + Oliver

Wednesday April 10th 2024

Check-in: 7:30AM Panel Discussion begins: 8:00AM

1832 Schuetz Rd, St. Louis, MO 63146

[rsvp ewelch@duodogs.org](mailto:ewelch@duodogs.org)

A virtual viewing link will be available for interested parties



duo dogs TRIVIA NIGHT

The best doggone trivia night



SATURDAY JUNE 8, 2024



Jewish Community Center

2 Millstone Campus Drive

Doors open at: 6:00PM

Trivia starts at 7:00PM

Table of 8 guests \$250

Admission includes beverages

Bring Your own food

**50/50 raffle
games
prizes for
best decorated table
+ first place**



contact Sean McCaffrey smccaffrey@duodogs.org
to purchase tables or for sponsorship.

