

Mission Statement: A non-profit organization devoted to improving the quality of life for Veterans and non-veterans, through training service and hearing dogs.

# PRINTS

Vol. XVIII / Issue 1 / May-June, 2019







#### (Top counter clockwise)

Rufus Bengyak displays DFL's
Donor Recognition Bone display
in the off-leash dog park. Prep
your dogs now for their HowlO-Ween costumes to Pawrade on
October 19, 2019. Judy Schmidt,
USAF Veteran and Bentley.

GRADUATION 4

EDUCATION 6

SPONSOR 8

INSTALLATIONS 12

2019 Service & Hearing Dog Graduation at DFL Training Center

**DFL Educational Programs** 

Learn how you can help sponsor DFL's Howl-O-Ween Pawrade

Gold Star Mothers & Next Gen Veterans of Indian River County

## 

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Dogs For Life, 1230 16th Avenue, Vero Beach, FL 32960 (772) 567-8969 • www.dogsforlifevb.org

# NEWSPRINTS TO THE STREET AND A STREET AND A

#### What's New?

Dogs For Life's Annual Howl-O-Ween Pawrade will feature vendors on October 19, 2019, making it the DFL Howl-O-Ween Pawrade and Pet Expo. DFL has expanded its Educational Program Series.

#### **Pages & Sections**

Ve

Veterans Training Veterans. Veterans teaching others who are looking forward to companionship on all levels



**Teams and Training.** The importance of working together for a common goal of recovery and support



**Money/Funding.** How DFL makes it possible through understanding the programs and respectfully communicating their valuable benefits

11

**DFL Sponsors.** Who they are and what they make possible on a daily basis

Tribute/Memorials. Thanking veterans for their service

12

**Organizations.** Gold Star Mothers and Next Gen installs Indian River County Chapters





(Left) DFL Director and USAF Veteran Perry Martin, with Sassy DFL certified service dog at the U.S. Navy SEAL Museum (Right) 2018 Panrade participants have a howling good time

### From the President

#### **Dear Teams and Friends,**

As you know, our Veterans answered the call to serve our great nation. We are proud to have graduated 13 service dog teams so far this year.

When our brave young men and women joined the military, they never asked for anything other than an opportunity to serve and protect our country. But bad things happen in the



President Kathi G. Schumann and Prinz.

world and sadly, some of these men and women leave the military disabled for the remainder of their lives.

For some, injury is physical and affects their mobility. For others it's damaged hearing. And for others still their injury is Post-Traumatic Stress.

Why am I telling you this? Because we as a community need to help them. Because we owe these men and women a debt of gratitude. We need to help because it's the right thing to do.

## Founder and CEO



Founder & CEO Shelly Ferger and her pup Sir Georgia Sunshine, aka "Sunny"

id you know that there are only two reasonable questions you are legally allowed to ask someone entering a business with a dog?

- 1. Is that dog a service dog or a pet?
- 2. What is the dog trained to do for you?

Any questions beyond the two above could be interpreted as harassment or interfering with a service dog, which is against the law.

Americans are well served by the Americans with Disabilities Act, (ADA) enacted in 1990. This Federal law protects any person with a disability who has self-trained their own service dog. Proof of certification, such as a vest or identification card are not required by law to identify a service dog. There were many valid reasons that the federal law was enacted.

An untrained dog in a public place can be dangerous to the public and to a disabled person with a trained guide, hearing or service dog. A person without a disability that takes their dog into a public place, misrepresented as a service dog, is breaking the law.

The key word is "trained". If a dog in a public place, identified as a service dog, behaves in a way that is out of control of its owner, aggressively lunges, destroys property or eliminates indoors, the business entity is legally allowed to ask the owner to remove the dog from the premises. A service dog in a public place usually is not noticed unless it is coming, going or performing its trained task.

In addition to being obediencetrained, service dogs must be tasktrained to mitigate a person's diagnosed disability. For example, if a person is deaf or hard of hearing, the dog is trained to alert its person to sounds the person does not hear. For mobility, the dog might be trained to pick up something dropped or to carry something in its mouth or a backpack. If a person is diagnosed with disabilities such as anxiety, fear, or hypervigilance, the dog is trained to perform a task that eases these symptoms.

n Emotional Support Animal is legal when its owner is acquiring housing or is traveling and possesses a physician's statement that its owner benefits by being accompanied by their animal. A Pet-Assisted Therapy dog is a dog that, with permission, visits places such as nursing homes, hospitals or schools. Emotional support and therapy animals do not have public access rights.

Dogs For Life, Inc., (DFL), is one of five non-profit organizations in Florida accredited by Assistance Dogs International to certify service dogs for people with disabilities that travel internationally or are Veterans qualifying for benefits for their dogs with the Veterans Administration. Since 2002, DFL has trained service and hearing dogs in Indian River and St. Lucie Counties primarily for Veterans. Our program requires at least a sixmonth to a year commitment. If you or someone you know could benefit from an assistance dog, please contact our offices.

# 2019

### Service and Hearing Dog Graduation Ceremony

On April 6, Dogs For Life, Inc. held our 2019 Service and Hearing Dog Graduation and Volunteer Awards Ceremony at the DFL Training Center located at 1230 16th Avenue in Vero Beach. Over 100 friends and family attended our Graduation ceremony, where 13 owner and dog teams were certified by Dogs For Life. All owners and dogs have met the standards of Assistance Dogs International (ADI) for service dogs. ADI is the leading authority in the Assistance Dog industry and DFL is proud to be one of only five Assistance Dog

programs in the State of Florida accredited by this incredible organization.

To graduate, each of our owner and dog teams has devoted hundreds, if not thousands of hours, to training together. Ranging in size from 15 pounds to 84 pounds, each of our graduating dogs are AKC Canine Good Citizens and each can perform at least three tasks to mitigate their owners' disabilities. We know that these teams will represent Dogs For Life well as they spend the remainder of their careers working to make their owners' lives better. We are so proud!



(Above) William Moruzzi, USA Ret. with Remington, Roxane Pagliaroli with Swag, Michael Bores, USA Ret. with Bandit, Dave Klosterman, USAF Ret. with Arapahoe, Kelly Colmey with Joey, Suzzame Bergmann with Spencer, Michael Stewart, Ret. First Responder with Good Girl, Judith Ricard with Fützgerald, Eleanor Bengyak with Rufus, Judy Schmidt, USAF with Bentley, Cassie Ford, Trainer.

# Service Dog Impacted One Veteran's





udy has had an amazingly diverse career starting as a First Lieutenant and Nurse in the US Air Force while previously dabbling in Interior Design, as a Staff Education Coordinator, a Director of Nursing, and a Case Manager for a County Social Service Department. Now, we're proud to say that Judy and Bentley work as volunteers at Dogs For Life and as ambassadors within the Veterans Community for DFL service dogs. Judy said she first heard about Dogs For Life at a Veterans luncheon about 3 years ago when one of the women sitting at her table told her that Dogs For Life trained service dogs for disabled Veterans.

By late 2017, Shelly Ferger, Founder of Dogs For Life, called Judy in for an interview. And in Judy's words, "this handsome dog (Bentley) was crated across the room and I thought who is your Mommy!" After a few minutes, Judy says Shelly brought Bentley over and sat him down beside

her and said he could be mine if I wanted him! According to Judy, "It was love at first sight."

Bentley started his service dog career as a rescue dog. At the time Bentley met Judy he was 8 months old. 11 months later, Bentley graduated from training and became certified as Judy's trained service dog. Some of Bentley's trained tasks include pushing or pulling doors open, picking up dropped objects, bracing when Judy goes from sitting to standing, and assisting her with balance when she transitions to her walker. Bentley will be 2 years old in April 2019.

According to Judy there are other benefits to having a service dog beyond the trained tasks. Bentley has encouraged her to resume a more active life. Judy says Bentley "has brought a lot of laughter into my house". Bentley "brought me companionship, love, laughter, kisses and a whole lot of stuff I haven't asked him to get! He is a retriever after all. He is truly a joy to have in my life."

(Above) Judy and Bentley. Bentley started his service dog career as a rescue dog.

## **Educational** Program

for Clients, Volunteers, Veterans

ith growth comes expansion of programs and Dogs For Life has found itself in need to add group educational programs to consolidate day to day appointments. Have you ever heard... "there is just not enough

time in a day"? Well, we're finding ourselves with not enough time in a week!

With applicants tripling in the past year, so has the need to interview potential clients for service and hearing dog training. We've grouped the applicants for an initial introduction to our Service Dog Training Program. Many who already own dogs will be informed of the criteria for service dogs and then be set up for a dog temperament evaluation later. Others will be placed on a waiting list until an appropriate dog is found. Potential clients and future volunteers



(Above) Service Dog Training can start at 8 weeks of age.

and
Dog
Park
Members

are scheduled for our Veterans Training Veterans Program, that will prepare them for the Service Dog Volunteer Trainers Program, Fund Development and Special Events Programs. Families that wish to enroll in Dog For Life's Foster Dog and Puppy Program sign up for this workshop

and then eventually attend the Service Dog Volunteer Training Program.

Finally, DFL off-leash dog park members will be organized to attend a Dog Park Ambassador Program where they will introduce new members to dog park protocol, canine behavior and become mentors to make them feel welcome at the park.

If you are interested in attending any of these workshops, please contact our office at 772-567-8969. All workshops are on-going and scheduled within six months.

## DFL Educational Program Series

Assistance Dog Hearing / Service Dog Training / Veteran Dog Program

Program for disabled Veterans or non-veterans interested in qualifying for a hearing or service dog. Qualifying criteria:

- 1) Diagnosed hearing, mobility or post-traumatic stress disability
- 2) Own a dog that could be trained to mitigate the disability or
- 3) Able to apply for a dog through Dogs For Life
- 4) Resident of Indian River or St. Lucie Counties
- 5) Able to commit to six-months to one-year training program

#### **Volunteer Training Programs**

Veterans Training Veterans Volunteer Program

Six-week introductory course for volunteers, including the following:

- Overall introduction to the DFL non-profit organization
- Guidelines set forth by Assistance Dog International
- Classroom introduction to dog behavior and training
- Prerequisite for the following Educational Programs:
  - Service Dog Volunteer Trainers Program
    - Four-week course designed to introduce volunteers to DFL's service and hearing dog trainers under DFL training guidelines.
    - Prerequisite for the Foster Dog/Puppy Program
  - Foster Dog/Puppy Program
    - A course for families or individuals to qualify as a foster home for puppies or dogs in training with DFL as service dogs.
    - Qualifying criteria: Must also attend Service Dog Volunteer Trainers Program
  - Fund Development / Special Events Program
    - A course designed to help with fundraisers and special events to support the organization.

#### Dog Park Ambassador Program

A course designed to teach volunteers to be mentors for new DFL dog park members and help acquaint them to the 4 acre off-leash dog park.

- Qualifying criteria:
  - 1) Be a DFL dog park member
  - 2) Have knowledge of dog behavior and communication
  - 3) Available to supervise play groups with individuals or groups of dogs



#### **Sponsorship**

### SAVE THE DATE

#### **Annual Howl-O-Ween Pawrade & Pet Expo**

Do you want to be part of an 18-year Vero Beach tradition and show your support for Disabled Veterans at the same time? Join us as a Corporate Sponsor or Vendor for the 2019 Dogs For Life Howl-O-Ween Pawrade & Pet Expo.

October 19, 2019 from 2 PM - 5 PM

Demonstrate and sell your products. Your sponsorship allows your business advertisement on the DFL Facebook Page, DFL Website, and on the day of the event. Come and see a Military Color Guard and K-9 Law Enforcement Demonstration. Great entertainment, raffle prizes, a silent auction and exciting vendor displays will make this the best expo ever!

Your participation helps Dogs For Life, a 501(c)(3) non-profit, tax-deductible organization, continue our mission to train and certify service and hearing dogs for our disabled veterans.

#### Pawrade Sponsor \$5,000+ Premiere Location

- Your Corporate Name and Logo prominently displayed on ALL dog vests worn by a DFL Service or Hearing Dog-In-Training for one year
- A Semi-Annual Visit and Photo Opportunity at your business with a DFL Service or Hearing Dog In-Training
- A Commemorative Photo Plaque with the picture of a DFL Service or Hearing Dog In-Training for display at your business
- A Gold Benefactor Leaf with your Company name will be added to the DFL Donor Tree on display in our lobby
- An Extra-Large Corporate Donor Bone will be engraved and prominently displayed at the main entrance to the DFL Campus for one year then permanently displayed in the DFL off-leash dog park
- A VIP Guest Invitation for you and a guest to attend the Annual DFL Graduation Ceremony for Service and Hearing Dogs and the Howl-O-Ween Pawrade
- A Half-Page Ad in the DFL Semi-Annual NewsPRINTS
   Newsletter, as well as being featured on the DFL Facebook
   Page and DFL's Website.















#### Best In Show Sponsor \$2,500+ 20x50 Vendor Space

- A Visit and Photo Opportunity at your business with a DFL Service or Hearing Dog In-Training
- A Commemorative Photo Plaque with the picture of a DFL Service or Hearing Dog In-Training for display at your business
- A Large Corporate Donor Bone will be engraved and prominently displayed at the main entrance to the DFL Campus for six-months then permanently displayed in the DFL off-leash dog park
- A VIP Guest Invitation for you and a guest to attend the Annual DFL Graduation ceremony for Service and Hearing Dogs and the Howl-O-Ween Pawrade
- A Quarter-Page Ad in the DFL Semi-Annual NewsPRINTS Newsletter, as well as being featured on the DFL Facebook Page and DFL's Website

#### Top Dog Sponsor \$1,000+ 20x40 Vendor Space

- A Visit and Photo Opportunity at your business with a DFL Service or Hearing Dog In-Training
- A Large Corporate Donor Bone will be engraved and prominently displayed at the main entrance to the DFL Campus for six-months then permanently displayed in the DFL off-leash dog park
- A Business Card Size Ad in the DFL Semi-Annual NewsPRINTS Newsletter

#### Big Dog Sponsor \$500+ 10x30 Vendor Space

- An Invitation to the DFL Campus to observe our Service Dogs In-Training
- A Medium Donor Bone will be engraved and prominently displayed in the DFL off-leash dog park
- A Business Card Size Ad in the DFL Semi-Annual NewsPRINTS Newsletter

### Good Dog Sponsor **\$250+** 10x20 Vendor Space

- A Small Donor Bone will be engraved and prominently displayed in the DFL off-leash dog park
- A Business Listing Ad in the DFL Semi-Annual NewsPRINTS Newsletter

#### Puppy Dog Sponsor \$100+ 10x10 Vendor Space

A small Donor Bone will be engraved and prominently displayed in the DFL off-leash dog park

#### Vendor \$50+ 10x10 Vendor Space

Vendor Space

#### Toy Sponsor \$25+ Donation













# Bridge Tournament



FL held its 9th Annual Bridge Tournament fundraiser February 25th, at the historically-renowned Vero Beach Country Club. The event was cochaired by DFL Director Eleanor Bengyak and President Kathi Schumann. Players dined on a delectable luncheon and bid on an array of exciting and stunning silent auction items. The tournament raised over \$20,000 for our Veterans Training Veterans Program. Tournament winners received a gorgeous orchid floral arrangement donated by Mrs. Schumann. The overall Flight A winners were Beverly Kinkead and Beverly Taylor and overall Flight B winners were Linda Ferrari and Gerry Vaughn.



(Top Left) Nancy Barnhouse Party Bridge Winner with Eleanor Bengyak, DFL Director and Tournament Director. (Top Right) Peggy Lyons Party Bridge Winner. (Bottom Left) Silent Auction Items. (Bottom Right) Deborah Kelly and Carol Critchell with DFL Service dog Ranger Poziomek.



# **Volunteer Awards**Ceremony

n April 6th, Dogs For Life, Inc. held our 2019 Graduation and 2018 Volunteer Awards Ceremony at the DFL Training Center. We were pleased to recognize Mrs. Kathi G. Schumann with our 2018 Individual Philanthropist Award for her continued generosity towards Dogs For Life. Eleanor Bengyak was presented with the Kathi G. Schumann Award for her tireless efforts to further DFL's mission in Co-Chairing the Annual Bridge Tournament Fundraiser. We also recognized Jeff and Suzy Gomez, Coast to Coast Landscaping; Colton Williams & Reamy LLC; and Heather Stevens VCA Florida Veterinary League with Corporate Philanthropist Awards. Volunteers are involved in every aspect of DFL's programs such as the front line reception desk, training dogs and other Veterans, fostering puppies and dogs, organizing fund raisers and marketing.

If you are interested in volunteering for DFL, please contact our office manager Shirley Bell at 772-567-8969.



# GOLD ST R

n Saturday, April 13,
Dogs For Life was
proud to host the
first meeting of the
Indian River County
Chapter of the American Gold Star
Mothers. Our own DFL Board Member
and Gold Star Mother Michelle Dale is the
Chapter's Founder and first President.

Many outside the military don't know what a Gold Star Mother is. When an active-duty service member dies, his or her mother automatically becomes a Gold Star Mother. It's a distinction that no mother wants, but it's one they wear proudly.

During World War II, a blue star was placed on flags and hung in homes and businesses to represent a living active-duty service member. As some of these men were killed in combat, a gold star was placed on top of the blue star to honor their ultimate sacrifice for their country. Eventually, the mothers of fallen service members became known as Gold Star Mothers.

There's a Veterans service organization these Gold Star Mothers can join for support,







known as the American Gold Why do women join American Gold Star Mothers? Easy... to give support and receive support from others who know their hardship and pain.

Gold Star Mothers raise funds for veterans, active-duty service members and their families, as well as other Gold Star families. They're active year-round, visiting Veterans at homes and hospitals, taking them snacks and gifts, reading them stories and letting them know someone is always there for them. Around the holidays, they raise funds for Wreaths Across America.

Quoting one Gold Star Mother,

"We want to honor all the Veterans who have fought and died for this great country. We want to give back, because this is what our children did – they gave. This is to keep their memories alive." Any Gold Star Mothers interested in joining American Gold Star Mothers can contact Michelle at mdale61449@gmail.com.

(Above) Newly Installed Chapter Members Left to Right: Michelle Dale, President; Roma Anderson, Vice-president; Diana D'Angelo, Secretary/Treasurer; Tammy Thurber, Chaplain; Laura Clement, Historian

**(Top)** JoAnn Maitland, Gold Star Mothers National Service Officer installs Gold Star Mothers Indian River County Chapter

# Veterans of Indian River County

he Installation of Officers for the
Next Generation Veterans of Indian River
County was recently held at
Dogs for Life, 1230 16th Avenue,
Vero Beach, Florida, 32960.

Officers were installed by Navy Veteran, Scott Keele, former commander of the Next Generation Veterans of Indian River County (NGVIRC). Officers installed are Marine Veteran, Jason Patzer - Commanding Officer; Army Veteran, Jay Harris - Executive Officer; Air Force Veteran, Nicole Haagenson - Secretary; Air Force Veteran, Melanie Tarnoff - Treasurer; and Army Veteran, Telly Antona - First Sergeant.

The Next Generation Veterans are those Veterans,

reservists, National Guard, or active duty service personnel who have served after 1990. Their purpose statement is to create a network of Veterans to combat misconceptions about returning Veterans, provide a venue for social support, and to represent their generation by positively engaging with the community.

The NGVIRC's monthly meetings are held at the American Legion Post 39, 1535 Old Dixie Highway in Vero Beach, 32960. Meetings are held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 6:00pm beginning in July.

Plans are currently in the making to hold meetings for PTSD support at Dogs for Life at 1230 16th Avenue, Vero Beach, 32960. Contact Telly Antona at 772-999-6401 for more information. □



#### (From left to right)

Melanie Tarnoff, Jason Patzer, Nicole Haagenson, Telly Antona, Jay Harris; Jay's daughter, Luci Harris; former NGVIRC Commander, Scott Keele.

# honored and humbled when she received the eagle head cane on Dale's behalf. PRESENTATION

n January 26, 2019
Dogs For Life
Board Member and
Gold Star Mother
Michelle Dale was honored at
The National Navy UDT Seal
Museum annual Purple Heart
Cane Ceremony. At the event,
custom carved eagle head
canes made by the Indian River
Woodcarvers were presented to
Purple Heart recipients from all
branches of the military.

Michelle's son Dale received his Purple Heart award posthumously for fatal injuries he suffered during combat operations in Afghanistan

in 2010. She added that for her to be among so many brave men and women whose sacrifices to their country stretched back to World War 2 was overwhelming at times, but as she remembered her son, she tried to be "strong, like he was strong."

Dogs For Life, a perennial sponsor of the annual event, was present for Michelle's award at The National Navy UDT Seal Museum. From our booth, we provided information on our service dog program to the Veterans' community. Events like this give the public an opportunity to see our Dogs For Life service dogs up close, as well as speak with their disabled Veteran handlers about the benefit of having a trained

(Top) Michelle Dale was presented with a Purple Heart cane given to her in honor of her son, Spc. Dale J. Kridlo, USA at the Indian River Woodcarvers Club Purple Heart Cane Ceremony (Bottom) Michelle Dale with the Purple

(Bottom) Michelle Dale with the Purp Heart cane given to her in honor of her son, Spc. Dale J. Kridlo, USA service dog. Present at the event were DFL founder Shelly Ferger, Board Member Perry Martin with Sassy, along with service dog teams, Judy Schmidt with Bentley, and Michael and Gala Stewart with Good Girl.

Michelle said she was both

Whether it's for a mobility issue, hearing loss, or PTSD, Dogs For

Life is proud to be one of only five organizations in the State of Florida accredited by Assistance Dog International to certify service dogs. All of our trained service dogs must pass an extensive list of milestones before they can ever put on a service dog vest and appear in public.

Those milestones include the AKC Canine Good Citizen test, the Assistance Dogs International Public Access Test, as well as performing multiple tasks to mitigate their owners' disabilities.

If you want more information about Dogs For Life, would like to donate towards training a service dog for a disabled Veteran, have a dog you believe could become a service dog for a disabled Veteran, or want to volunteer, please contact us at 772-567-8969. You can also find us on Facebook at Dogs For Life, Inc. Vero Beach.

#### Tribute/Memorial Gift Listing

#### In Honor of

In Honor of Donovan & Brenda Schumann Kelly Early

In Honor of Gene & Martha Schumann Kelly Early

In Honor of Greg McCollum
Pat McCollum

In Honor of John & Kimberly Schumann Kelly Early

In Honor of John & Kathi G. Schumann Shelly Ferger

#### In Honor of Kathi G. Schumann

Michelle Dale
Mae Frances Garrett
Virginia McKeown
Mark and Lisa Poziomek
John Schumann Jr.
John and Kim Schumann III
Donovan and Brenda Schumann
Gene and Martha Schumann
Mark and Cheri Schumann
B.A. Waggaman

In Honor of Mrs. Reo Cheshire
Bob Cheshire

#### In Honor of Perry Martin

Suzzane Bergmann
Mary Bleau
Jon and Jenny Dunn
Shelly Ferger
Alan and Joan Freeman
Opal Maier
Trent and Pam Martin
Gary Mills
Mark and Lisa Poziomek
Bruce and Barb Ramsey
Judith Ricard

In Honor of Richie & Gigi Elaine Heile

#### In Honor of Rufus Bengyak

Patti Schell Pet Sitting

**In Honor of Schumm** John and Marcella Stanton

#### In Honor of Shelly Ferger for Christmas John and Kathi Schumann Jr.

In Honor of Chris Taylor Family
Patti Schell Pet Sitting

#### In Memory of

In Memory of Chelsea Martin Bonnie and Ital Veron

In Memory of Grace D. Davis Marc and Sharyl Ogle

In Memory of Jane Boswell Robinson
Don and Sally Schultz

#### In Memory of Marilyn C. Link Tigger's Dogmother Beth Stryker

In Memory of Max Sherrie Davidson

#### In Memory of Mitzi Bengyak 8/15/06 - 8/10/18

Patti Schell Pet Sitting Eleanor Bengyak

In Memory of Rosie Sherrie Davidson

In Memory of Sandy Giani Doris Tropf



NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION

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ornell University calls it a more "natural" canine training system. At Dogs For Life we call

it a "life saver" system for people and dogs, and we highly recommend this product. From the name Gentle Leader® you should know that it is a gentler way to teach your dog to walk at your side.

Traditionally, the training collar, also known as the choke collar, was a prerequisite for dogs in training classes. The most serious problem with the training collar is that if it is not the correct size or put on the dog improperly it can cause injury to the dog. Injury can also occur to the person on the other end of the leash.

The concept behind the Gentle Leader® is "control the head - control the body". The leader fits the head much like a halter fits a horse. There is a strap that fits across the muzzle of the dog and a connecting strap that fits behind the dog's head. The muzzle strap does not restrict the dog's mouth in any way. Dogs can still eat, drink, and catch a ball. We recommend plenty of treats the

the body". The leader fits the head much like a halter fits a horse.

'The concept behind the Gentle

Leader® is "control the head - control

first few times you use the Gentle Leader®, so that a positive association can be formed from the start. The Gentle Leader® can be purchased at pet stores and online.

The only drawback to the leader is that, at first glance, the head halter may resemble a dog muzzle. If you are asked "Why is your dog wearing a muzzle?", consider it an opportunity to educate someone as to the benefits of the Gentle Leader<sup>®</sup>. While gently walking your dog without choking of jerking, you can sing praises of the Gentle Leader® Head Halter.

Anyone with a large dog, a small dog that pulls, a bad back, knees or shoulders, or even children that want to walk their dog should strongly consider this excellent product.