



10th Anniversary Tribute to the Search & Rescue Community of 9/11

WHAT IS FINDING ONE ANOTHER: COURAGE BEYOND MEASURE?

Finding One Another: the 10th Anniversary Tribute to the Canine Search & Rescue Community of 9/11 (www.findingoneanother.org) seeks to honor canine search and rescue teams on the 10th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks. A series of recognition, commemorative, celebratory, educational, and public events and programs is planned, spearheaded by Tails of Hope Foundation, a New York-based nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing the fields of veterinary and human medicine through a comparative medicine approach. Finding One Another (FOA) seeks to educate the public and raise funds to support the needs of the search and rescue field, including the individual canines, their first responder human partners, and the veterinarians and VMATs (veterinary medical assistance teams) who treat them, by contributing to the establishment of standards of practice, care, and research needed to safeguard all those engaged in this work.

The yearlong commemoration of the work done by the canine search and rescue community began in September, 2010, and will continue through the 10th anniversary of 9/11. Among the events planned are educational programs designed to create a clearer public understanding of the work toward elevating the human/animal bond toward peace and mission of the search and rescue community. Included in these will be an exhibit of photography and artifacts depicting the SAR community's work at the 9/11 sites and elsewhere, when curators from the National September 11 Memorial & Museum will be evaluating the materials for possible inclusion. Finding One Another will also co-sponsor the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine (Penn Vet) International Working Dog Conference 2011 and a Recognition Ceremony on September 11, 2011, in Liberty State Park, Jersey City, NJ, across from Ground Zero.

Funds generated by Finding One Another will provide financial assistance to:

- underwrite veterinary expenses for those SAR canines in need,
- increase the number of specially trained SAR-focused veterinarians,
- expand targeted research benefitting working dogs and their human partners through the Penn Vet Working Dogs, and
- develop and implement programs to educate the public, both children and adults, to the work and ongoing needs of the SAR community, while elevating the human/animal bond and fostering a dialogue toward a more peaceful future.

Finding One Another's Advisory Committee includes veterinary and human medical experts, search and rescue volunteers, acclaimed artists, educators, business, trauma and nonprofit professionals, many of whom served at the 9/11 sites and all of whom are dedicated to honoring the canine/human partnership.

As the 10th anniversary of 9/11 concludes, Finding One Another will continue to focus attention on and provide support to the working dog and SAR canine community who put themselves at risk in dangerous situations for the benefit of others, most without pay or acclaim. They and other rescuers are the true heroes.

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ABOUT SEARCH AND RESCUE (SAR) AND OTHER WORKING DOGS

Most people are not aware that canine SAR teams are made up mostly of volunteers. These citizens give up their time and money and often put themselves in dangerous situations to find victims of accidents, earthquakes, and other disasters.

“We are honoring the entire working dog community who worked during that terrible time,” said Linda Blick, MSW, National Co-Chair of the 10th Anniversary Canine Search and Rescue Tribute. “These canine teams worked right alongside the police, firefighters, and many others at each of the terror attack sites in New York, Washington, DC, and Pennsylvania, and were exposed to the same risks.”

According to Penny Sullivan, President of Ramapo Rescue Dog Association, based in Bergen County, NJ, and 10th Anniversary Canine SAR Tribute Advisory Board member, “Most SAR teams are entirely volunteer. They give freely of their time and service ‘so that others may live.’ We are definitely in need of programs to benefit our working dogs and handlers—programs such as those to fund medical research to address the many health issues affecting our dogs over time.”

Over a 10-year period of time, these average citizens not only volunteer their time, but incur expenses ranging from \$50,000 to \$100,000 to purchase their working dog, train, equip, and certify themselves and their canine partner, provide veterinary care, etc. “It’s expensive and time-consuming,” said Linda Blick, who is also a founding board member of Tails of Hope Foundation, based in Orange County, NY, “but they do it out of the goodness of their hearts to benefit and strengthen our society.”



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HIGHLIGHTS OF TRIBUTE YEAR, 2011

Recognition Ceremony at Liberty State Park, 1p.m. September 11, 2011, Liberty State Park, Jersey City, NJ. Details pending..

Historic Registry. During 2011 and beyond, Finding One Another is compiling a historic registry of those in the SAR (search and rescue) community, including the veterinarians, Veterinary Medical Assistance Teams (VMATs), and civilian, law enforcement, and military working dogs and their partners who served at the 9/11 sites. The registry will be housed on the Finding One Another website, the National September 11 Memorial & Museum, the Library of Congress, and the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine (Penn Vet). Those who served on 9/11 as part of the SAR and working dog community are encouraged to register at www.findingoneanother.org and to sign up for an oral history project to be conducted by the Museum.

9/11 SAR Tribute Charms. A "tribute charm," featuring a German shepherd, was designed by SAR James C. Pearson of the Ramapo Rescue Dog Association to honor these magnificent working animals and will be available before and after the anniversary commemoration on the FOA website and at events; additional breeds are being added to the line going forward to continue support to the working dog community. The recycled lead-free pewter charms, fixed to an eco-friendly flexible silicone band, are put together by Americans with disabilities and come with information about both Finding One Another and the SAR community, including the fact that most SAR teams are volunteers who incur tremendous personal operating expenses while serving. The charms cost \$10 each. There is a "Give a Gift, Get a Gift" program, for just a \$20 donation, whereby the donor may purchase an additional one, which will be presented, along with a personalized message, to a SAR team at the September Recognition Ceremony. Retail programs are available for those wishing to sell the charms. Please contact Charity Charms.

University of Pennsylvania Veterinary Penn School Vet Working Dog Center 2011 International Conference, co-sponsored by Finding One Another, September 7-9, 2011, Pearl River Hilton, Pearl River, NY. The theme of this conference is "Defining, Developing, and Documenting Success in Working Dogs." Attendees from numerous countries, including Australia, Belgium, Canada, England, France, and the United States, will be present. The conference is chaired by Cynthia M. Otto, DVM, PhD, DACVECC, Co-Chair of the 9/11 Tenth Anniversary SAR Tribute, Associate Professor Critical Care, University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine. Underwritten by the Pearl River Hilton and others.

About the Penn Vet Working Dog Center. Established in 2007, the Penn Vet Working Dog Center (www.pennvetwdc.org) at the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine addresses critical issues through collaborative research, shared knowledge and application of the newest scientific information and veterinary expertise. The mission of the center is to serve as a consortium to bring together programs that employ dogs to detect threats to local, regional, and national security. Goals include collecting and analyzing genetic, behavioral, and physical data; integrating the latest scientific information to optimize the success and well-being of detection dogs and developing a detection-dog breeding/training program that will implement, test, and disseminate the knowledge gained.



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HIGHLIGHTS OF TRIBUTE YEAR, 2011 (Continued)

SAR Photography & Artifact Exhibit, mid-August through September, 2011. Palisade Center, West Nyack, NY. An exhibit of photographs, large banners, and artifacts will depict the SAR community's work at the 9/11 sites and elsewhere. A reception will be held on September 9 and will include the presentation of colors, artistic performances, SAR and VMAT demonstrations. Portions of the exhibit will be donated to the National September 11 Memorial & Museum. Underwritten by Palisades Center and others.*



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TRIBUTE EVENTS DURING 2011

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Orange County Choppers-sponsored Bike Run, "Riding to the Rescue,"c with concert and "Meet and Greet" with 9/11 canine SAR teams, September/October, 2011. Details pending.

Historic Registry, year-long. Finding One Another is compiling a historic registry of those in the SAR (search and rescue) community, including the veterinarians, Veterinary Medical Assistance Teams (VMATs), and civilian, law enforcement, and military working dogs and their partners who served at the 9/11 sites. The registry will be housed on the Finding One Another website, the National September 11 Memorial & Museum, the Library of Congress, and the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine. All dog teams who served during 9/11 are encouraged to register at www.findingoneanother.org and to sign up for an oral history project to be conducted by the Museum.

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FOUR TRUE STORIES OF CANINE SAR TEAMS AT GROUND ZERO

The following stories of canine search and rescue teams are excerpted from the 10th Anniversary Edition of *Dog Heroes of September 11th: A Tribute to America's Search and Rescue Dogs*, by Nona Kilgore Bauer (Kennel Club Books, 2011).

Cowboy

Border collie, certified wilderness, avalanche, and water search
Handler: Dave Richards, Utah Task Force 1.

Cowboy was born on a ranch in Idaho, a pup from championship herding lines. Dave bought him as a youngster for an ultra-marathon companion. Their future together held much bigger challenges.

The two were deployed to the World Trade Center on the day of the attacks, but transportation problems delayed their arrival until September 16. . .

Dave said, "When Cowboy first got to the pile, he went into sensory overload with all of the strange sounds and smells, heavy equipment and new people. But he understood that his job was to search and went right to work.

"There were remains all over; they were like pieces of a carpet mixed in with all the debris and the dogs were trying to sort through it all to find live. . .

"When Cowboy is searching he is totally focused and cannot be distracted from his work. But one day while we were in the middle of the pile, he just ran off . . . I asked to be excused and took him off the pile . . . The firefighters had just made access to a stairway where there were many bodies, and the overwhelming scent of death may have freaked him out. Also, we were over a huge void at the time and the pile may have shifted and he may have sensed that.

"Ground Zero was filled with acrid smells, smoke and dust, and noise and death all around. Still, if you walked past someone with a dog, everyone wanted to pet the dog, and life somehow would be normal for a couple of minutes.

"Cowboy loved the firefighters. He always found a piece of wood or a stick and would throw it down in front of them, wagging his tail, and demand that they play with him. . . He really did his part in making those firefighters forget their sadness for those few minutes every day."



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Anna

German shepherd dog, live find

Handler: Sarah Atlas, New Jersey Task Force 1.

Sarah and Anna arrived at the World Trade Center with NJ-TF1 on the afternoon of the attack.

“Anna’s emotional state that first day at Ground Zero was hectic; we were desperate to find a survivor,” Sarah recalled. “She later calmed down and worked in a less frenetic way. After our shift was over, we would march past the hundreds of eyes, all wondering if we had found one of their brothers.

“After the first day, Anna became very quiet and her attitude went down because she was finding only human remains. I believe because I was tired and drained, she picked up on my emotions. Anna was also a certified therapy dog, and getting hugs and pats from the firefighters, police officers and other rescue workers helped to keep her spirits up.”

Anna was trained as a life-find dog, but she also had some training in cadaver work. “On our last shift she had two confirmed finds in a stairwell that were later identified as the bodies of FDNY firefighters,” Sarah said.

“I believe all the dogs that worked at the World Trade Center were true American heroes,” Sarah reflected, “and that includes the many therapy dogs that were available. My dog’s search work made me realize how proud I was to live in this great and free country. These dogs worked tirelessly, never quitting. They were our companions, our working partners and our strength.”



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Lolli

German shepherd dog, certified cadaver search
Handler: Penny Sullivan, Ramapo Rescue Dog Association

Before arriving at the Fresh Kills landfill, Penny had already spent a ten-day tour at Ground Zero with her German Shepherd Quest. Three days later she and Lolli were deployed to Fresh Kills to search for victim remains. They worked until September 29, when the canine search at the Fresh Kills site was officially closed. . . .

“As soon as the loads of debris were spread out on the field in front of us, we would start our search in an assigned area. A support person would usually accompany each team, carrying a collection bucket into which he would place any remains found. . . . Lolli was happy and enthusiastic whenever she was working. She searched carefully and methodically, checking through the twisted metal and debris. In spite of the myriad scents, she stayed focused on her task. . . .

“At the end of each work period, the dogs were given health checks and shampoos before their well-deserved time out. The dogs had frequent breaks and play sessions with occasional simulated searches with positive training aids to properly reward the dogs.

Many of the workers were amazed at the dogs’ work and their ability to find even small fragments of human remains amid the mud and debris. Lolli and the other dogs also played the role of therapy dogs and offered comfort and stress relief for the searchers sifting through the never-ending piles of debris.

“I think all of the dogs who served following September 11 are true American heroes. In addition to bringing closure to countless grieving families, the dogs provided a real sense of hope to their handlers and to other rescue personnel who were involved in the agonizing search for victims of the attack.”

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Kaiser

German shepherd dog, FEMA Type II
Handler: Tony Zintsmaster, Indiana Task Force 1.

A military truck delivered Tony's task force to Ground Zero; they walked the remaining four blocks to the worksite. . . .

"It was chaos at times, but Kaiser seemed happier when he was working. When a dog really loves his work, in a stressful environment he almost takes solace in doing his job, much as we do," Tony said. "We concentrated on doing a professional job, which helped us to focus on the task at hand rather than the enormity of the event." . . .

Kaiser kept that upbeat attitude back at the task-force rear base of operation (BOO) where he played with the other rescue workers and kept them company. "Everyone was lifted by his positive attitude, and it was good for me too," Tony recalled. "One NYFD firefighter came up to Kaiser and just gave him a big hug. No words were spoken by anyone. They all knew what each other felt. Then there were the four firefighters who decided that Kaiser needed a drink. One cupped his hands while one poured water into them, and the other rinsed Kaiser's face and back." . . .

Although Kaiser suffered a major slice to his right front carpal pad on his second day of work, he was bandaged up and went right back to work every night for the next five days. "Professionalism, selflessness and bravery in the face of great stress is my definition of a hero," Tony said. "When a dog works a pile like that . . . Wow! Just doing 'what feels good' could not carry a dog through that."