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### Puppy Jake Foundation Trains Dogs and Raises Awareness

If you ever see a yellow lab walking around campus with a red collar that says ‘Puppy Jake Foundation,’ that is Ronald, a one year old service dog being trained by members of the Bulldog Tails organization on campus.

Bulldog Tails is a student run organization that trains service dogs for people who need them. Right now they are working with Puppy Jake Foundation in Des Moines.

“[Puppy Jake Foundation is] a non-profit organization that trains service dogs for veterans with PTSD and mobility issues. They provide fully trained dogs with no additional fee, other than application fee, to the veteran,” said Emily Munech, co-president of bulldog tails, via phone.

Puppy Jake Foundation was founded in 2013 by Becky Beach. According to the Puppy Jake Foundation website, Beach comes from a long line of veterans in her family. Her love for animals also led her to become a certified trainer from the Animal Behavior College.

“I started PJF with a plan to have extensive training for service dogs so they are able to help the veterans as much as possible. I saw a need in the community for trained service dogs,” Beach said, via email.

Bulldog tails was founded in 2018 to give students real- life experience in training animals for and to inspire dedication and responsibility, according to drake.edu. They train dogs through Puppy Jake Foundation but they also spread awareness about service dogs.

“We also advocate for people with service dogs that don’t speak out about it but also spreading awareness about what a service dog is versus what a therapy and emotional support dogs are,” said Jessie Rudin, member of Bulldog Tails.

According to the Americans with Disabilities Act, “service animals are defined as dogs that are individually trained to do work or perform tasks for people with disabilities.”

In comparison, a therapy dog is trained to provide emotional and psychological support and an emotional support dog provides a comforting connection, according to TheSprucePets.com.

“The biggest issue is making sure people are aware of what a service dog is and how to approach someone with a service dog,” said Rudin.

Bulldog tails will continue to raise awareness but they also hope to get more dogs to train and also train dogs for different needs, like seizures and blood pressure dogs. They hope to have this happen by increasing membership and the number of people trained to take care of the dogs.

“You have to go through a process of multiple orientation sessions and a boot camp to be able to train and handle a dog. There’s a lot of cues and hand signals for the dogs so you have to go through orientation to learn everything,” Rudin said.

The group also needs more space for the service dogs in training. Some members of the Executive Council own a house off campus but they simply don’t have the resources to take on

another dog at the moment. They are working with Drake University and Puppy Jake Foundation to be able to train more dogs, said Rudin.

People wishing to be apart of Bulldog Tails can reach out via Facebook or instagram and can even reach out to Ronald's handler if seen on campus. Bulldog tails has meetings where members can get involved in training dogs and also raising awareness, Munech said. They will also be at activities fairs and Dogtown After Hours. Puppy Jake Foundation is also looking for people to help train dogs.

“PJF is always eager to have volunteers - as foster parents for the dog, puppy sitters and help at all the events. There is lots of information on the website as to the responsibilities for the volunteer positions,” said Beach.

Even for people not looking for a huge commitment when it comes to training service dogs, being aware of them and their needs is just as important. Simply educating oneself on how to approach a service dog and common etiquette is necessary.

Jessie Rudin \*completely forgot to take photo

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