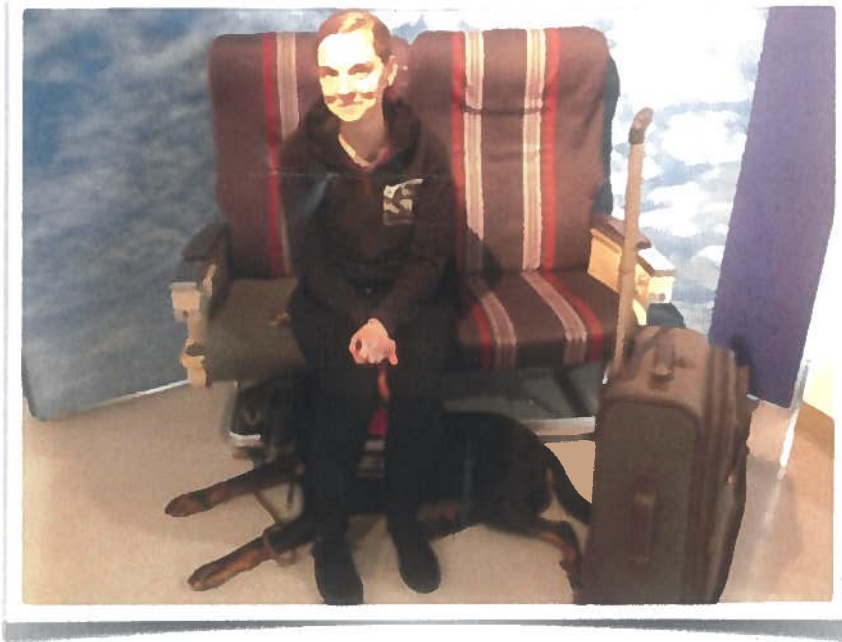




# Service Dog Tutor



## Service Dogs Are Changing Lives

Labrador retrievers, German Shepherds, Poodles and Mixed Breed dogs are positively shaping the lives of clients. They give clients stability when they have mobility issues, retrieve dropped objects, foster social interaction, diminish signs of depression, decrease the risk of falls, and ameliorate debilitating anxiety. Through the 1-2 year training program students develop deep bonds with their dogs and find new friendships with their peers.



**Family Dogs**  
Obedience training and socialization



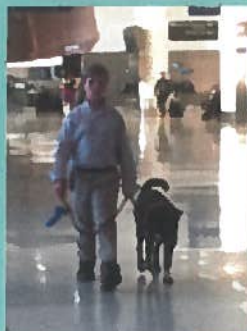
**Psychiatric Dogs**  
Training for anti-anxiety tasks



**Public Access Training**

**CALL TODAY**  
650-593-9622

**YOU CAN HAVE  
THE BEST DOG  
ON THE BLOCK!**



Confused about the best dog for your family or for your disability? A one-hour consultation will help you find the right match for you.

## CONGRATULATIONS!

Five of my service dog teams completed the rigorous testing for canine good citizenship certification this year. This is the first step to becoming a reliable service dog team.

Completion of this certification is a reflection of months of consistent practice and personal growth for both the dog and the handler. These service dog teams will now be concentrating on polishing their public access skills and customizing the tasks that the dog needs to do for them. Several of these dogs have already completed successful trips on planes, BART and other modes of transportation. They are working on being excellent ambassadors in our communities.

**Katy Smith** and her dog **Kenai**, a black lab, are training as a mobility team. **Kenai** accompanies Katy everywhere, including pubs and camping expeditions.

**Evie Noel Michaelson** uses her dog, **Louisa**, to help her cope with stressful situations in the public. Recently Evie and her service dog, **Louisa**, attended the premiere of the *Star Wars* movie and are preparing for their first airplane flight.

**Susan Thaxton** received her hearing dog, **Radar**, last December and has been working with him to enhance his public access skills.

**Laura Gottsman-Kessler** has been training her son's dog, **Bear**, to help **Teddy** bridge social gaps and calm him during emotional and physical crises.



**BIG congratulations** is in order for **Leslie Samuelson** and **Oscar** as well as for **Evie Michaelson** and **Louisa**. Both teams have demonstrated proficiency in public access skills. Oscar is working as a mobility dog for Leslie's husband who has Parkinson's. Louisa's skills at interruptive behavior, deep pressure therapy and blocking are providing confidence for Evie to experience crowds.





# TRAINING TIDBITS

## Dog Park Visits

If you are taking your dog to a dog park or another public place to practice retrieving, use a hard rubber ball instead of a tennis ball. The rubber ball won't hold sand, dirt, fertilizer and saliva from other dogs, so your dog is less likely to get sick. Carry your own water bowl to decrease exposure to parvovirus.

## Discounts

Pet Food Express offers discounts on food and other products in their store if you register online as an **owner /trainer of a service dog**. Go to this link to fill out the form for professional discount program:

[www.petfoodexpress.com/giving-back/partner-discount-programs/](http://www.petfoodexpress.com/giving-back/partner-discount-programs/)



## The Value of Varying Food Rewards

Change up what you offer your dog for food rewards to keep him interested when he is learning new behaviors or learning to focus while working in a distracting environment. Laura Gottsman-Kessler said her dog's recall improved 50% just by adding a new dog treat to his training bag. She's currently is having good success with Blue Wilderness brand grain-free bison treats.

## Health Insurance For Your Dog

In the past six months two of my service dog owners were beset with \$5000 surgical bills when their Labs ingested plastic and ropes that caused intestinal obstruction. If your dog develops a surgical problem or has an emergency health situation, you could be without of the assistance of the dog as well as a significant amount of money. Here are three pet health insurance companies that offer reasonably priced premiums and reliable veterinary compensation which you can investigate for your dog:

**Pets Best** (better coverage than other plans and 24 hr. assistance assures a smooth claims process)

**Trupanion**

**Pet Plan USA**

## I Have A Lab by Jean Cary

I thought I was living with a beaver when I saw the chewed edges of my patio furniture, but then I remembered I have a Lab.

There couldn't of been more than three inches of water in the only puddle in the field, but my dog veered away from the tossed ball and dashed in for a quick wallow in the mud.  
I have a Lab.

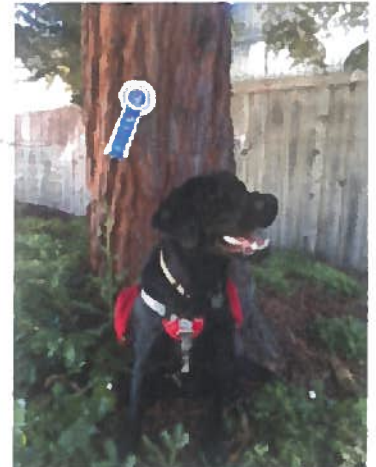
My dog loves everyone she meets. Her enthusiasm might be a problem for me, but I have a Lab.

In spite of the daily vacuuming, there's not a corner of my hardwood floor that doesn't have a swirl of blonde dog hair on it because I have a Lab.

My dog has been with me on buses, trains and automobiles. This might faze other dogs, but I have a Lab.

My dog can carry a package for several blocks, pick up objects on command, pull off my socks and bring the leash and shoes before we go for a walk. She hunts with Allen and brings home pheasants to cook. The first thing in the morning she wakes me up with a whole body wiggle and a toy in her mouth. She approaches each day with the attitude: something wonderful is just about to happen!

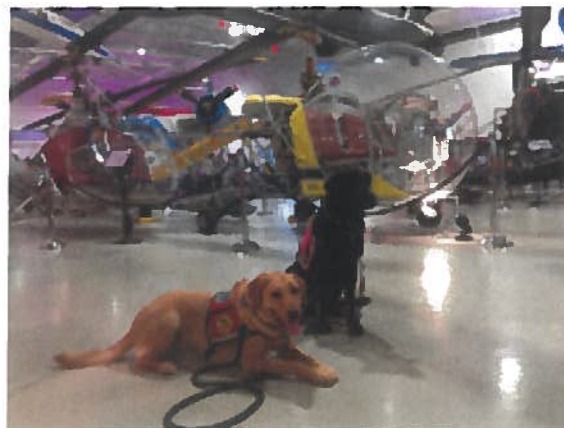
My life is fun because I have a Lab.



Best dog hikes in the area: <http://sanfrancisco.cbslocal.com/top-lists/best-dog-friendly-hiking-trails-in-the-bay-area/>



# Dogs in Training



## Dogs in Training



### Recent Accomplishments By Our Dogs

**Maggie, a 10 pound Cockapoo is carrying messages for Nancy.**

**Dante, a German Shepard, is retrieving contact lens cases for his owner and sits through Mariachi performances.**

**Snickers can find Minna Grace in a store or school building.**

**Bear learned to swim in the Bay with Teddy this summer.**

**Yams is joyfully waking up his owner and motivating him to play.**

**Radar, a Hearing Dog, has alerted Susan to the fire alarm at work and to the arrival of a handyman at her front door.**

**Kenai is pulling the laundry basket for Katy to the washer.**

**All dogs are good dogs, but only special dogs are service dogs.**