



# Arizona Search Dogs

Arrowhead Kennel Club Members,

Thank you for your unbelievable donation and support!!!! You have no idea how much your generosity will help move our group forward! Finding pups that have the drive and ability to be strong and healthy search dogs is a tremendous challenge. Our partnership with Penn Vet Working Dog Center continues to grow. Penn Vet invests thousands of hours into the training of their search pups. Their main mission is to study how dogs learn, document and publish those findings and start all over with another academy class of pups.



From before they are a twinkle in their parents eyes their lives are filled with love, human interaction and professional training unseen anywhere else in the world. Foster families provide them with trips to airports, busy malls, traffic, crowds and above all constant interaction with people and new surroundings. Pups are dropped off at the Working Dog Center a minimum of 5 days a week. There

their training goes into full warp speed including gentle exposure to agility, obedience, odor detection and rubble!!!!!!!!!!!!

Before a Penn Vet dog comes to our group their new handler will be required to spend years working with our experienced dogs, help train our newer pups and being a mock victim hundreds of times. The end product is a team consisting of a dog and human handler you would want searching for your family!!!!



We still train our own pups too!!!! Last December we brought and 8 week old pup into our group. Over the next two years this little guy will go from learning to go outside to use the restroom to being an awesome disaster search dog!!! Please consider coming out again in the Fall to see how much Reef has learned!!!



If that is not enough then each dog and handler must pass a FEMA Disaster Search Dog certification evaluation. I can tell you from experience this evaluation is not an easy process to pass. You have two rubble piles that have four to six victims buried in the rubble, distractions of food and clothing are placed throughout the testing area and a false alert results in a failure. One rubble pile is searched with full access allowed to handler. The other requires the

dog to search on their own with the handler secluded out of sight. Don't forget a tremendous amount of peer pressure is present :-). There are usually 20 or more fellow handlers watching you test and of course results of this process are posted on the internet...



Once...or if, you pass then the real training begins. The certification evaluation is looked at as a ticket to the dance. You are deployable, but that certification is similar to a graduation from Junior High School. Before your recertification test the dog and handler will be exposed to multiple mock victims in the same area, winter, summer, rain and every curve ball we think you might see on game day. By

the time you pass your recertification test you are considered a search team that has the ability to perform at almost any level. Unfortunately the service life of your new canine partner is now almost 25 percent behind you. Most dogs retire at 10 years of age. They still want to search, experienced beyond comprehension and are at the top of their game, but the physical requirements of working rubble causes us to force them to slow down.

Our gratitude and appreciation to all of you cannot be put into words. We all work for a living and today even \$10 is considered a lot of money! For all of you to come together and donate \$2,000 is unbelievable!!! We are planning the next addition to our group now. Once this new pup is selected/found we will send you an update and look forward to all of you seeing him/her in person later this year.



THANK YOU VERY VERY MUCH!!!!!!

Casey Rein

Aubrey K