

K-9 Capers Dog Training Academy

and Paws of HOPE program

2024 Year of Hope, of Giving, and Serving Our Community

Annual review Newsletter

December 2024

Four Service Dogs Graduated in 2024

We had four service dogs to finish training and graduate in 2024.

We offer Hearing, Diabetic Alert, PTSD, and Mobility service dog training.

See Page 2, 3 & 4

Veteran awarded a service dog

We awarded a veteran a fully-trained service dog at no costs to him or his family thanks to generous donors. more on Page 2 & 3



33 Therapy Dogs were certified through Therapy Dog International

Giving back to our community by training and certifying therapy dogs.

Prison Dog Program



Animal Assisted Therapy programs are proven methods for changing lives for the better. pg 2 & 3

New Puppy Coach Program

New program to potentially save lives and to create a better family dog. visit us at

www.K9capersTraining.com for more information on our new Puppy Coach Program. Page 2

Adopt Me-Shelter program

We offered free training sessions as well as training programs for volunteers to help train dogs from the shelter.



Looking Back through 2024

Though inflation impacted our bottom line in 2024, K-9 Capers accomplished the original motto of our non-profit Katie's Kidz/b/a K-9 Capers; **Love people, Love dogs, Love Life.**

Amazingly, we had four service dogs to graduate and raised enough funds to provide a service dog to a war veteran at no cost to the veteran or his family.

In addition, with the help of many volunteers, we tested and certified over 30 dogs through Therapy Dogs International that will serve our community by offering emotional support at cancer care units, schools, counseling, hospitals, nursing care facilities, and more.

We have also provided Animal-Assisted Therapy to the NCDPS Cabarrus Youth Development Center (CYDC) a youth detention center in Concord, N.C.

Our 2025 goal is to have the youth help us train and certify the next service dog for a war veteran at no cost to the veteran.



Sophie successfully met her goals for socialization and training, earning her the AKC STAR medal and AKC certificate

New programs to help save lives

Do you know what the number one killer of dogs under the age of three is?

The American Veterinary Society of Animal Behavior reported the *number*

one reason for euthanasia is behavioral issues. (PetTalk.com)

Because of the outcome stated in a recent study that suggests that 20% to 50% of dogs are euthanized under the age of two years old for behavioral issues; such as aggression towards people or animals, we felt it was time to create a new program to address the problems **BEFORE** they start. Any dog, any breed can become aggressive if the early development is not addressed properly. Other factors play a role as well such as parent's temperaments and DNA. Apparently, more work needs to be done to solve the general overpopulation issue as well with a whopping 3 to 4 million pets being euthanized EACH year.

As a result, we developed two new programs; **Puppy Coaching Program** to address issues with one-on-one training as well as the **ADOPT-ME shelter program.**



Molly Hope's Story

This story would be good just on Molly's rescue alone. Volunteers from the Cabarrus Humane Society nursed two-year-old Molly Hope, a boxer and retriever mix dog, back to health after she was found abandoned in a home. Soon after her recovery she was evaluated by us for the **Paws of Hope** program aiming at not only saving a shelter dog, but training dogs for various types of service dogs for our veterans or other clients with special needs.

Molly Hope successfully graduated in the spring of 2024 and was awarded to a veteran that served two tours in Iraq.

We are planning to look for another shelter dog or two for training beginning in 2025. We still have some funds to raise to reach the \$18K goal. If you would like to help, any amount is appreciated and is tax-deductible. You can contact us at k9capers@gmail.com or 704 721 6757 . (cont'd page 3)



Cabarrus Youth Development Center (CYDC)

The very foundation of CYDC (formally Stonewall Training School) is based on learning a trade and education for the betterment of the incarcerated youth to be successful in the world when their term has been completed.

Paws of Hope by K-9 Capers offers life skills for career and character building through service and therapy dog training such as:

- *Service Dog Obedience and Task Training

- *Empathy for both the recipient and the dog in training

- *How to set goals, write training plans, and track successes

- *Shift focus from self-centered concerns to caring for others

- *Careers with animals in such industries as R & D, Purina, Veterinarian, Vet Techs and

Pet services, training, and grooming. (Cont'd page 3)



Giving back to our community

Western North Carolina floods have touched us all.

Many of us have family or fond memories of those beloved mountains. When we heard about the animal shelters being overwhelmed, we knew we had to help.

Many of our regular customers donated food and supplies that were transported by some caring folks we met.



Wonderful youth from the Harbor Schoolhouse lend a helping hand to provide the truckload of supplies sent to the WNC mountains.

In 2024 we certified 33 dogs through Therapy Dog International to serve our community in hospitals, hospices, colleges, and children's programs.



THANK YOU

As the president and founder of Katie'sKidz d/b/a/ K-9 Capers, I want to personally thank you for being a part of what our vision has always been, to help others and the animals they love, as well as saving as many animals possible from a terrible fate. And to continue to build a better community through learning, sharing and serving the needs around us.

*After over 20 years in this "business", I'm often struck with awe at the people we meet and what they have accomplished and sometimes at the heartache they are determined to overcome. **YOU are my heroes and my inspiration.***

Though we may face hardships or good times ahead, together we can build each other up, help one another through, and maybe save a life along the way.

Donna Rogers

President/Founder

Katie's Kids d/b/a/ K-9 Capers (Dog Training Academy)



Emily and Therapy dog, Cooper
on a college campus

Molly Hope's Story (continued)

Did you know it takes anywhere from eight months to two years to train a service dog? It all depends on how much training the dog may already have as well as what tasks are required for a persons disability. Once a dog learns these tasks, the trainer must



Mobility Service dog at the
conference in Texas

generalize the behaviors in hundreds of situations so that the dog will perform reliably under any circumstance. Often that requires a minimum of two hours a day. It is illegal to pretend you have a service dog and may result in a fine and/ or jail time.

We take our training seriously and recently returned from Texas where we attended a conference on service dog training methodologies.

Cabarrus Youth Development Center (CYDC) (continued)

The program consists of several dogs selected for good temperament and trainability for service dogs for war veterans. The youth are trained in all aspects of the field for *basic obedience to service dog task training.*

Through our Paws of Hope program we plan to house the dogs in training at CYDC kennels.

Paws of Hope would provide food ,vet care and training inside and outside the facility for the animals in the training program.

CYDC would provide the care of feeding, exercising, grooming, and cleanup after the dog(s), charting progress and training of the service dog(s).

Any dog(s) that did not make it all the way through the program would be adopted out as a therapy dog or as a pet dog. It would be optional if the dog(s) became a permanent dog at CYDC or placed for adoption.

Dogs that completed the service dog training would then be adopted no charge to a veteran needing a service dog.



**Please
partner with
us!**

Fundraising is difficult and we work hard to provide training to pet dog owners to offset our overhead.

Any amount helps our community programs. If you mail a check and want a 2024 write-off please have it postmarked by Dec 31st, 2024

Katies kidz d/b/a/ K-9 Capers Tax ID 74-3180128

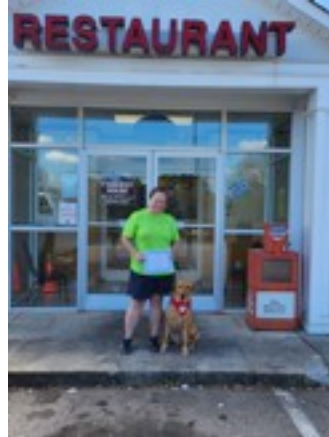
2024 Service Dog Graduates

In addition to Molly Hope, we are proud announce three service dogs and their handlers have met all the requirements for both Federal and the State of North Carolina for certification of the definition of a service dog.

www.ADA.gov) (www.IAADP.org)



Geoff and Sheila -Hearing



Laura & Oakley



Carly & Stevie

K-9 Capers Dog Training Academy

Year-end 2024

Physical address:

995 Warren C Coleman Blvd.
Concord, NC 28027

MailingAddress:

PO Box 1411
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*15% off a bath or grooming at K-9 Capers Dog Training Academy
coupon expires March 31, 2025*

