

# Paws of Hope

## Assistance Dogs

*A program of K-9 Capers Dog Training Academy*

A Quarterly Newsletter

August 2022

### Mission statement

*To provide the highest quality training and support for pet dogs, service dogs, and therapy dogs in order to alleviate suffering, provide assistance to the disabled, and to provide hope and happiness to those around us.*

### What's New?

PAWS OF HOPE

*A new Program of K-9 Capers Dog Training Academy*



### Positive

*Positive reinforcement methods are a proven method and preferred by PhD Board Certified Animal Behaviorist*  
**Page 2**

### Nozomi Hope



*See the incredible story of resilience...*

### New Fall Classes

*Check out our new classes for the fall at [www.k9capersTraining.com](http://www.k9capersTraining.com)*

*See the latest training tip at the end of the newsletter*



## Nozomi Project

It only takes a few seconds to read a headline or skim the news to feel really hopeless these days. That's why I wanted to share this incredible story not only to share hope, but to let you know no matter your age, disability, or situation, you can always...find hope.

*On March 11, 2011 in Japan the Tohoku earthquake was huge,*



**Sue Takamoto, far right, with the women of the Nozomi Project.**

*measuring a 9.0 on the Richter Scale and the ensuing tsunami caused death and destruction on a scale never seen before, including the meltdown at the Fukushima*

*nuclear power plant. There were nearly 16,000 confirmed deaths. Over 2,500 people missing. Over 120,000 buildings collapsed, and nearly a quarter million buildings half-collapsed. The total economic loss is estimated to be in the neighborhood of \$235 billion.*

### **Nozomi Project is born**

*While sorting through the wreckage in the tsunami's aftermath, Sue Takamoto was overcome by the amount of shattered pottery strewn throughout the streets of Ishinomaki, one of the cities that*

## Nozomi project continued

*was most devastated. Sue, a New Jersey native, and her husband Eric, a Japanese-American born in Hawaii, have lived in Japan since 2001, working for the Christian agency Asian Access. The scale of the tragedy was overwhelming, but in the heaps of broken pottery, Takamoto saw an opportunity.*

*A Nozomi Project worker transforms a piece of broken pottery into jewelry.*

*It was not only an opportunity to provide employment for the tsunami victims, but also a chance to create community and a therapeutic release to some of the women survivors of the tragedy. Takamoto didn't have a business plan—or even know how to make jewelry for that matter—but believed in the strength of the idea. Partnering with others who intentionally moved into the tsunami zone, Sue and her faith-based team called Be One chose the name “Nozomi” because it translates to “hope” in Japanese. And they soon found people willing to donate their time to train the women of the Nozomi Project to craft high-quality pieces for sale online. Each line of jewelry is named by the artisans for a loved one, including relatives who died in the tsunami.*

*(Adapted from chefirvine.com)*

*Buy online at: [NozomiProject.com](http://NozomiProject.com)*



## Why K-9 Capers is Adding a New Program

Several years ago our staff and I began training service dogs for clients in addition to the therapy dogs we were training through our day training, group classes, and private lessons.



We quickly realized we needed more training and a way to organize

our efforts in order to serve our client base.

I have completed training as a **Service Dog Training Coach with SDC Service Dogs.**

We will specialize in PTSD and other Psychiatric Assistant Dogs, Mobility, Hearing and Seizure/Diabetic Alert Dogs.

Previously, I had trained with Little Angels Service Dogs in San Diego, California.

### *Our Dreams, Plans, and Goals*

Our first goal is to let people know you can still live a good life in spite of your losses, whether it be a loss of mobility, or through



another diagnosis, we are here to help you live your best life. We also want to make sure we

offer *hope* and *happiness* with therapy dogs by offering training and support through our local Therapy Dog International Chapter and our training classes.

We will continue to offer training with our drop-off day training as well as private and group classes. We only use positive reinforcement methods based on the science and research behind these methods.

Positive reinforcement methods are a proven method of training by PhD board certified animal behaviorist.

**Here are a few statistics from the CDC regarding service dog needs:**

Currently, 61 Million Adults in the US Live With Disabilities.



That's 26% of the adult population or approximately one in four people.

Additionally, 6.8% have an independent living disability, meaning they struggle to do errands alone.

13.7 % need a mobility dog.

Service dog statistics in 2022 show that we have a long way before every person in need gets a four-legged assistant.



# How You Can Help

*It takes an average of 6 months to 2 years to train a service dog. The costs of training, transportation, veterinarian care can be out of range for some clients. Katies kidz (d/b/a K-9 Capers) is a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization that can help*

## Donate:

You may donate funds to our non-profit side to provide training and care for a service dog in-training. All donations are 100% tax deductible. Contact us at [k9capers@gmail.com](mailto:k9capers@gmail.com)

## Average Costs to Train a Service Dog.

The minimum hours per the Assistance Dogs International and that the Federal Government recognizes is a minimum of 120 certified hours. It costs anywhere from

\$1200-\$5400 with our coaching program depending on how much training a dog has already had at the time of evaluation. Costs are much higher if you are a recipient of a already trained

service dog. The wait can be even longer if you do not use the coaching program. Sometimes the wait is 3-5 years.

## Fundraising:

You can help a veteran or another service dog client in

need by fundraising with bake sales, yard sales, or Go Fund Me pages. The ideas are endless. Contact our office if you are planning a fundraiser so we can help you set up the program properly. (704) 721-6757

## Tip: Teaching your dog to come to you

Training Recalls: An important part of teaching recall is to [make training a game](#) for your dog. Start your training in a slow, low-distraction environment, like inside your house. First, show your dog a [toy](#) or a [treat](#), [praise](#) them as they are coming to you, then [reward](#) them. After a few repetitions, whenever your dog looks at you and starts to move towards you, add



in your chosen [verbal cue](#) ("come," "here," etc.). Make sure to only add in the cue when you are confident your dog is moving towards you.

You can slowly up the ante by asking your dog to come before showing them the treat. But be sure to reward with a high-value treat

like [chicken](#), [cheese](#), or [beef liver](#) when they get to you. Also, try slowly adding distance within your low-distraction environment.

### Recall Games

**Catch Me:** While walking your dog on-leash, get their attention, then turn around and run a few steps. As your pup moves with you, say "come!" or another verbal recall. After a few steps, stop and reward with a treat or a toy. Before you run, make sure your dog is paying attention to ensure the leash does not yank at them.

**Find Me:** Once your dog has gotten the hang of recall, you can build speed by calling them from another room. When your dog finds you, offer lots of praise and rewards. This hide-and-seek-like game is a lot of fun for both pups and people!

**Hot Potato:** Take two or more family members or friends and give them high-value treats. Next, stand apart and take turns calling your dog between you. Reward your companion each time they come to the person who called them. (source :AKC.org)

Trainers:

**Donna Rogers  
Leann Lambert  
Andrea Horton**



## K-9 CAPERS DOG TRAINING ACADEMY

995 Warren C. Coleman Blvd. Concord, NC 28025

704 721 6757 [k9capers@gmail.com](mailto:k9capers@gmail.com)

[www.k9capersTraining.com](http://www.k9capersTraining.com)

**K-9 Capers/Paws of Hope**

**Mailing Address:**

**PO Box 1411**

**Harrisburg, NC 28075**