



# K-9 Capers Dog Training Academy

## *and Paws of Hope Assistance Dogs*



After many years with Therapy Dogs International (TDI), we have decided to evaluate dogs for Therapy Dogs United (TDU).

Mostly, it was due to the recent changes in the TDI staff and the communication issues with both the evaluators and the testers.

We are also happy to announce that we have added Leann Lambert and Andrea Horton from our staff as new TDU evaluators.

We are excited to be adding more classes and evaluations in 2026! See our latest schedule at: [www.k9capersTraining.com](http://www.k9capersTraining.com)

### 2026 Goal

We are looking to gift a service dog to a veteran in the next coming new year.

If you know of a veteran, we are interviewing a future recipient and want to rescue a dog from our local shelter.

You may be a part of this exciting opportunity by volunteering to help train, and socialize a dog, or contact a veteran. You may also partner with us financially through our Paws of Hope Program, a non-profit program for our service and therapy dogs.

Any amount helps. If you write a check and want a 2025 write-off, please have it postmarked by Dec., 31st 2025

Katie's Kidz  
d/b/a K-9  
Capers Tax ID  
#74-3180128



### IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Meet Grace, a wonderful beagle rescued by the Bentleys! She was selected to represent North Carolina in the National TDU 2026 calendar.

Here is her profile written by her handler and dad:

*From rescue pup to hospital hero, Grace, the beagle, has touched hundreds of lives with her wagging tail and gentle spirit. In February 2025, she earned her official therapy dog certification through Therapy Dogs United in*

*partnership with K-9 Capers. Just a month later, she began her volunteer service at Atrium Cabarrus Hospital.*



*Since then, Grace has completed 31 hospital visits, bringing comfort to more than 700 patients, caregivers, and staff members. Nurses, patients, and hospital team members alike cherish her gentle presence, warm demeanor, and natural calmness.*

## GRACE-TDU DOG GRADUATE AND VOLUNTEER

*Grace truly embodies the qualities of a therapy dog: compassion, patience, and a devotion to lifting spirits. We extend our heartfelt thanks to K9 Capers Dog Training for their guidance and support in helping Grace reach this milestone.*

*We are deeply grateful for the joy Grace brings to everyone she meets, and we look forward to the many lives she will continue to brighten in the hospital and beyond.*

H.Bentley

If you would like to know more about Therapy Dogs United or our training classes and testing, please contact us at 704 721 6757 or [k9capers@gmail.com](mailto:k9capers@gmail.com).

Visit us on our website for updates on classes and testing at [www.k9capersTraining.com](http://www.k9capersTraining.com).

To order your calendar go to [www.therapydogsunited.org](http://www.therapydogsunited.org) . Proceeds go to support the non-profit organization TDU. All handlers and dogs are strictly volunteers and do not get paid for therapy visits.



Grace- The 2026 representative for NC in the TDU National Calendar(August)



**PAWS OF HOPE**  
ASSISTANCE DOGS  
BY K-9 CAPERS

Paws of Hope is a non-profit division of Katie's Kidz d/b/a K-9 Capers. We started working with at-risk youth in 2003 through Teen Court in Cabarrus County. Today, we continue that effort of using animal-assisted therapy at the

Youth Development Center (formally Stonewall), in Cabarrus County.

In the near future, we have plans of expansion of this program to train others across the nation to work with the at-risk whether it is the prison, or schools, or therapy work, or our service dog division.

Last year we trained and gave a fully trained dog (Molly Hope) from the shelter to Gary Ritter, a war veteran. We have been working on fundraising to train another dog to give to a veteran in

2026. Any amount helps towards that goal!

Please feel free to share with veterans that we are looking for a recipient!

If you write a check and want a 2025 write-off, please have it postmarked by Dec., 31st 2025

Katie'sKidz d/b/a K-9 Capers  
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## GARY AND MOLLY HOPE- RECIPIENT OF A TRAINED SERVICE DOG

Gary Ritter was our 2024 recipient of a fully trained, rescued shelter dog for a service dog . She is still doing well, and is constantly by Gary's side at work or home.

Help us find a 2026 recipient! Volunteers appreciated as well as funding!



WALTER AND MADDIE  
A SERVICE DOG TEAM  
TRAINING IN PUBLIC

### Service Dogs in Training

After many months of training, our students will be tested using the Federal Government's standard required by the American Disabilities Act (ADA) Department called the Public Access Test. It is quite extensive, and takes time to achieve. We train in many public spaces such as restaurants, grocery stores, museums, malls, bus stations, and more.

We must also meet the states' requirement of training and register through the NC Health Department upon completion of the training. A trainer, must verify the handler and dog are in compliance with the training hours and required tasks.

### Fake Service Dogs

Regulations in the service dog industry are in place, however, many people, and some trainers are NOT in compliance which poses problems and safety issues with seeing-eye dogs, mobility dogs, and other service dogs. Violations could mean jail time/or

fines. We are certified service dog trainers. Let us guide you to make certain you meet federal and state regulations.



### Choosing a training method

Our methods of training are positive reinforcement meaning, we use food, toys, petting, praise, and places they want to go-like the park! We use this method as we want to train a dog not to react, but to use cognitive reasoning.

### What classes do you offer?

We like to start all of our puppies in our Puppy Development Program we have designed for our service dog puppies. In this program, we go on field trips, have play groups, and work on specific issues,

It lays a great foundation for all puppies, including pet dogs.

We also offer all American Kennel Club classes, including the AKC STAR Puppy, the AKC Canine Good Citizen, and beyond.

### Therapy Dog Prep Classes

We offer therapy dog group classes and testing 3-4 times a year.

Therapy dogs must pass the AKC Canine Good Citizen and the TDU test.

### AKC Scent Work

We now offer the AKC Scent Work class. It is a competitive class based on police detective work.

We have group or private lessons. All dogs of any age can do this class!

Contact us at:  
[k9capers@gmail.com](mailto:k9capers@gmail.com) to get started!

## Calendar

**Closed- December 24th, 25th & 26th**

Merry Christmas!

**Closed -Thursday -January 1st**

Happy New Year!

**Therapy Dog Training classes**

Starts January 29th 6:30 PM

**March. 12th at 6:30 TDU test**

Therapy dog and CGC test night!

**Office closed Friday  
February 20th**

## In the spotlight!



LOUIE  
PASSES HIS  
AKC STAR  
PUPPY TEST



MADDIE -  
SERVICE  
DOG

Walter and  
Maddie  
successfully  
completed their

Public Access Test in 2025

