



Rotary Club of Centennial Colorado



Centennial, Colorado

April 3, 2018



Michelle Ostrander, CEO and President of Freedom Service Dogs, is demonstrating some of things the dogs are trained to do.

Freedom Service Dogs has been in business for 31 years and recently moved into the facility where the meeting was held. This facility is ADA compliant which is important for some of their clients.

Freedom Service Dogs rescues dogs from shelters and trains them as service dogs. Only about 20 to 25 percent of the dogs pass and become service dogs. The dogs that fail are put up for adoption. The cost of adoption is about \$400.

When they get a dog, they isolate the dog for about 2 weeks to make certain it does not have any diseases that would contaminate their kennels. Once the dogs are shown to be healthy, they are sent to prison for obedience training. The prison has a training program that last about 6-8 weeks, which trains the dogs and helps the prisoners. Total training of a service dog is about 5 to 7 months depending on the training that is needed. They currently graduate about 30 dogs per year, but they have a goal of 55 dogs per year.

Freedom Service Dogs only does positive reinforcement training, which means they go through a lot of dog treats.

The three biggest needs for their service dogs is for vets with PTSD, children with autism, and kids and adults with mobility issues.

Here is one of the dogs removing laundry from a washer.

Michelle related two stories of their dogs.

A vet with PTSD was driving with a pistol in his lap and he was contemplating suicide. His service dog was in the back of the vehicle and the dog sensed something was wrong and jumped into the front seat and put his paws on his master. This was enough to prevent the vet from committing suicide.

In the second case, a vet would suddenly have a rapid drop in his blood pressure that would cause him to faint. He was living with another person who left for a vacation. The vet's sister came over to help. The vet had passed out from a drop in blood pressure and the dog tried to get the sister to help. Twice the sister shooed the dog away as she was working on the computer. The dog went back to the room where the vet was passed out and dragged the vet out to the sister so she could help.

Freedom Service Dogs will present upto 3 dogs to a client and see which of the dogs is a best match for both the dog and client. The selected dog will then be trained for the specific needs of the client.

Freedom Service Dogs give lifetime support for the dog owner, even travelling to where they live to help with additional training for the dog, if needed.

2015-2016 Club

Officers

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UPCOMING EVENTS

APRIL 10-DAVE WALCHER, ANNUAL FOUNDATION BD RPT
APRIL 12-STATE OF THE CITY
APRIL 13-RALLY FOR KIDS
APRIL 16-PRIME TIMERS LUNCH GEJO'S
APRIL 17-CLUB ASSEMBLY
APRIL 24-CYNDEE LUTZ, WHEN YOU HEART BELONGS TO A DRUG ADDICT
MAY 8-CLASSIFICATION TALK: KAREN FLECK
MAY 15-EVA DOYLE, THREE THINGS YOU BEST EMPLOYEES WISH YOU WOULD DO
MAY 19-29, ROTARY DISTRICT CLEBRATION, HYATT DENVER TECH CENTER

CLUB MAKEUPS:

<http://bestrotary.com/gallery-collections/video-galleries>

www.rotaryclubone.org



Outdoor kennel area.

With autistic children, they will provide a dog to the child as soon as the dog is out of obedience school at the prison. Once a week the child and dog come to the Freedom Service Dog facility for training. The dogs are trained for specific needs the child might have. A child might only want the dog to put a paw on the child, while other may want the dog to sleep next to them or on top of them. The dogs are trained to meet the child's wants and needs.

It costs approximately \$30,000 to train a dog. Donations are accepted. They have 8 fulltime and trainers and about 200 volunteers.

Never approach a service dog and try and pet it without first getting permission from the owner. Some owners will allow petting of the dog while others will not. Those that do allow will sometimes give a command of "Visit" which tells the dog they are off duty.

They never give human names to the dogs and they will not repeat the name of a dog for ten years.

IKEA donated furniture for a make belief apartment which is used for training the dogs.

CLUB ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Bring a Friend to Rotary is going to be April 24.
- Rally for Kids is April 13.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

1860— the Pony Express debuts.