

Honored for service

Over the years Sage has received recognition for the services she has provided in partnership with her best friend, Diane.

- 2002** Milagro Award, presented by Ali MacGraw
- 2002** AKC ACE Humane Fund Award, Honorable Mention
- 2008** New Mexico Veterinary Association Hall Of Fame Award
- 2009** AKC Award for Canine Excellence, Humane Fund Award, Honoree

Expect the best

Everyone says we should prepare for the worst so we can survive if it comes. Sage's story shows what you can achieve if you also prepare for the best.

There are many remarkable dogs like Sage being born who could provide loyal, life-saving help in the face of disasters as yet unimagined by us. If we work together to provide the safety net they and their handlers need, who knows what amazing things we may yet see achieved by future generations of American canine heroes.

Into the future

Just before she turned two, Sage gave birth to seven beautiful Border Collie puppies. Three of them are carrying on Sage's remarkable tradition of service. Two of them are Certified FEMA K-9's today, and the third grew up to become a certified service dog for the disabled.

Only with your help...

The success of The Sage Foundation For Dogs Who Serve will depend largely upon informed people like you helping out with services, money, and ideas to find ways to ensure that these valiant dogs receive the medical care they need and a protected retirement when they are too old or too sick to serve.

Here's what we need right now:

Information about K-9 service dogs who need help with medical or other services, such as retirement placement.

Veterinary services, free or discounted.

Contributions to help pay medical and related costs, use PayPal button on our website, or make out check to Sage Foundation for Dogs Who Serve and mail to address below.

Adoption resources to help place K-9 service dogs in need of retirement homes.

Photography, printing, video services, free or discounted.

Contact us at:

info@sagefoundationfordogs.org
www.sagefoundationfordogs.org

The Sage Foundation for Dogs Who Serve
PO Box 3514, Roswell NM 88202



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MEET SAGE: AMERICAN HERO

Veteran: Iraq War

Veteran: Katrina

Veteran: 9/11

When our country needed Sage she gave her best in one disaster area after another. But in 2009, when she got cancer after working many hours in contaminated areas at 9/11 and Katrina, our country wasn't there for her. Sage and Diane Whetsel, her owner/handler, were on their own.

Sage is one of the thousands of dogs who have given hard, dangerous and loyal service beside their human handlers only to be abandoned to an uncertain fate when injured, ill, or too old to work.

Introducing

The Sage Foundation For Dogs Who Serve:

This is a new organization that exists to promote the welfare of dogs who have faithfully served (often in harm's way) in wars, police work, crime prevention, and rescue efforts, through education and increased public awareness.

***Diane and Sage:
One of many
K-9 partnerships
in trust, training,
and vital service.***

Diane Whetsel is a K-9 Officer in the Security Threat Intelligence Unit at a corrections facility in New Mexico. She has advanced certification as K-9 Unit dog handler, and as a trainer of K-9 dogs and their handlers who provide support for law enforcement agencies in criminal matters as well as emergencies, disasters, and military action.



Sage, a Border Collie puppy from the U.K., started training to become a K-9 disaster specialist for FEMA at 16 weeks. Diane found Sage to be an unusually bright and eager learner--in fact, she was able to pass her certification test on her very first try. A few months later, when 9/11 occurred, Sage was ready to go to work in its aftermath at the Pentagon.

For the next few years, Sage worked with various law enforcement agencies looking for missing persons and as a forensic K-9 dog in homicide investigations. In 2005, she was sent to Mississippi to provide search and rescue for hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Sage and Diane deployed to Iraq in 2007 to search for missing soldiers who may have been killed by insurgents. The team spent six months covering the area where the soldiers had been ambushed, including farm fields, homes, and industrial areas. Sage and Diane were also involved in several air assaults, water assaults, and ground operations

during their tour in Iraq. In the end, Sage was as comfortable riding in a Blackhawk helicopter as she was in her own car at home.



Diane and Sage in an armored naval assault boat heading down the Euphrates River.

"Even though (Sage's) job was to search for fallen soldiers, everywhere we traveled (in Iraq) she brought a little piece of home to our troops. She was a warm body to hold and even sometimes just some friendly fur to cry in. She was there to lick a dirty face or play a game of Frisbee whenever there was time and a safe place to rest."

Diane Whetsel



Sage and a Marine buddy sharing a little down time and a game of tug in Fallujah.

Once a year, Sage has her blood drawn and Xrays taken as part of a 9/11, K-9 study conducted by the University of Pennsylvania to gather data about health issues that have arisen among canine responders to this disaster. The American Kennel Club, one of the main sponsors of the study, hopes to learn about the health problems human responders experienced, as well. Meanwhile, Sage is looking forward to her next adventure.