

# Puppy Love

October 2020

Newsletter of *Belle Amore Dachshunds*

Volume 10, No.10



## S'MORES

S'mores had only been home two weeks when Rhonda West and her mother Rosemary discovered that he was no ordinary dog; he was an angel in disguise, with fur. He immediately adapted to his new family and especially loved participating in the daily activities of caring for the horses. One evening he refused to go to the barn with Rhonda and adamantly insisted on staying by Rosemary's side and he became dedicated to licking Rosemary's wrist. That is the last thing Rosemary remembers. When she regained consciousness Rhonda was leaning over her asking how she felt. S'mores determination to stay by her side and his insistent licking was his way of warning her that she was in trouble. Rosemary is a diabetic and had experienced a low-sugar episode. But, his miracle behavior doesn't stop there. He somehow unlatched the screen door, dashed out to the barn, and alerted Rhonda that Rosemary was in trouble. If he hadn't intervened Rosemary could have slipped into a coma or even died. Service dogs can be trained to use their uncanny sense of smell to detect chemical changes that occur in the human body as blood sugar drops. But, S'mores behavior is nothing short of miraculous. He reacted completely by instinct with no formal training. He was just trying to protect his mom. What a good dog!



Claire Reese is being cuddled and loved by her wonderful family in South Carolina.



## DOGS4DIABETICS™

Our Dogs Save Lives.

Mark Ruefenacht has been a type 1 diabetic all of his life. He worked professionally for his century-old family business in quality metrology. But, because diabetes was personal for him he had a desire to make life better for people with this condition. He founded *Dogs4Diabetics* in 2004, making him a leading pioneer for Medical-Alert Service Dogs for Diabetics. He developed and promoted D4D's high training standards worldwide by speaking at international conferences and helped other organizations create their own training programs. Ruefenacht believes any dog with a good nose has the capacity to detect changes in human blood sugar levels and can alert a person to developing problems. He says, "As with any scent-based training, you can never expect a dog to be 100%, but "they can have a very, very high success rate."



## What About All of That Sniffing!

Sniffing is a dog's primary form of communication. When a dog greets another dog through sniffing, for example, he's learning an intricate tale: what the other dog's gender is, what he ate that day, whom he interacted with, what he touched, what mood he's in and -- if it's a female -- if she's pregnant or even if she's had a false pregnancy.

## Phenomenal

Dogs are amazing sniffers. They have 220 million scent receptors (humans have 5 million) that can smell things that seem unfathomable to us, they can even process countless subtleties within scents. A dog is sniff capable of detecting changes in a human's body chemistry.