



# **Kooiker Talk**

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## **Training as a Search and Rescue Dog**



You might say: “Isn’t the dog too small in order to be able to work as a Search dog?” I also hear the following statement: “I thought the breed is noise sensitive and reserved with strangers”

Well, yes some if it is true but you would be surprised how well those small and agile dogs can do in disaster and wilderness searches. They are highly motivated, fast, willing to learn and want to please.

But it all depends on the personality of your dog. Shirley M. Hammond said that the ideal Disaster Search Dog must be very self-confident, energetic, and have a high hunt/prey/retrieve drive. The dog must be capable of independent work, be sociable, in good health, be structurally sound, and capable of ignoring the typical loud noises of a disaster site. You want to select a dog that will be agile and able to tolerate lots of physically demanding activity. Disaster agility involves skills needed

to negotiate various obstacles that the dog may encounter during a disaster incident-walking and climbing on concrete rubble, rebar, broken glass, hanging hazards, dust and other building materials. Puppy behavior or temperament evaluations can give very helpful information in choosing a potential search candidate since you can test for some of the selection criteria mentioned above. It will by no means give you an absolute guarantee that the dog will succeed. This previous paragraph is a brief intro to the disaster search dog.

The Search and Rescue dog, also called the area search or wilderness search dog, is used to search a specific area by covering or gridding large geographic areas, while sampling the air currents for traces of human scent. Most SAR dogs work off-lead and will range far away from the handler while quartering back and forth through the area, searching for human scent that is carried in the air currents. The handler is assigned a search area and is responsible for covering the area, documenting the area covered, and reporting back to the search base when the assignment is complete. This dog will demonstrate a trained alert behavior that indicates to the handler that the dog has made a find. The SAR dog typically searches in a natural environment which may include some natural hazards, such as rushing rivers, wild animals, blackberry patches, and poison oak to mention a few. Some special agility training should be included in the overall SAR dog's training program. The dog must be able to climb and move around logjams, fallen trees, and navigate across slopes with loose, slippery rocks or large boulders along the river. SAR dogs and DSDs differ in the type of training they receive and the environment in which they must search.

There are other types of search dogs which I will not elude on further, for example the trailing dogs and human remain search dogs.

In the US, both SAR and DSD training is very time consuming and very rarely are dogs certified and ready for mission in both types of searches.



We participate in weekly trainings with the Monterey Bay Search Dogs and were recently accepted as new members. Amica is now 9 months old and is doing great. It is hard to say if she will be able to become a certified Search Dog but as long as she has so much fun training and progresses, we will do our best to support that and continue.

We started training Amica when she was 10 weeks old. Different people in the field have different opinions. Some think that doing baseline obedience and scent training for the first year of life is better than exposing a puppy to rubble and

wilderness. Others are convinced that the early exposure and training in that environment are helpful in shaping a well-rounded dog in order to prepare for missions.

Currently we are training her in both areas, disaster and wilderness. The near future will tell if we continue doing both or if we should focus on either disaster or wilderness.

The way of alerting in the disaster environment is a bark alert, in wilderness it is the Bringsel.

Our 14 year old Kooiker Nelle is a retired Search and Rescue Dog and was trained in both disaster and wilderness back in Germany. Over there, bark alert is used for disaster and wilderness. Since the search areas here in the US can be bigger and more dense, a bark would not travel appropriately in the air to be heard. The dogs for wilderness searches in our group here are taught the bringsel alert. The bringsel is used as an indicator of the found object. The bringsel snaps on the dog's collar and looks like a small leather bumper. When the dog has located the missing object or person, he grabs the bringsel into its mouth and returns to the handler. The dog is required to keep the Bringsel in the mouth until told to "give" by the handler. The handler un-clicks the Bringsel from the collar and tells the dog "show me". The dog should track the similar path back to the victim followed by the handler. The training takes on average 2 years until both handler and dog complete certification and are mission-ready.

There is not a formal assessment process for the suitability of the human part of the team. In order to become a disaster dog handler, people must be prepared to make a large time commitment to classes, training, meetings, and eventually, deployment. The handler needs to be able to pass certain courses and tests. Basic First Aid and Cardiac and Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) are at the top of the list, however it is useful to take the Red Cross Emergency Response Class or to look into

becoming an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT). Rescue Systems I, Confined Space Awareness, and Hazmat Awareness, are important classes that can be obtained by team members through Fire Departments or the US&R system. Critical Incident Stress classes are very important for the mental health of team members. This is supposed to give you a glimpse of what our dogs are able to do-even the Kooikerhondje.

If you have any questions or would like further information, please feel free to contact me. Susanne Martin ; [susannepkmartin@gmail.com](mailto:susannepkmartin@gmail.com)

## **Member Profile**

### **Terry and Barbara Glancy**

Let's meet up with the Glancy's twenty five miles southwest of Miami and four miles west of Homestead, Florida just two miles east of Everglades National Park. This is where you will find Terry and Barbara Glancy and their Kooiker named "Puppy".



It's early morning as we creep up the rural gravel roads. We find a tin roofed house surrounded by dew drenched foliage and a Kooikerhondje sitting on the driveway mouthing a small red latex ball with nose pointed to the sky as two Air Force fighter jets cut through the blue skies. Barbara and Terry Glancy are expecting us. Barbara carries a blanket over her arm and begins the walk to the forest that surrounds their house; Puppy follows as this is the sunrise routine at Pine Ridge Sanctuary and Terry encourages us to follow. Terry explains that we are walking on one of several fire breaks used to maintain this fragile ecosystem. These lanes are especially useful during controlled burns that are prescribed every three to five years. This is a fire climax ecosystem and fire is an essential forest management tool. Terry explains that he and Barbara have been managing this ecosystem for thirty-six years and just recently received the Forest Owners of the Year award for the entire State of Florida for 2012. This is their second time in ten years that they have received the designation and this has never happened before. The Pine Rockland is recognized as globally G1 and State S1 endangered. Back in the 50's an easy local government, dim sellers, and greedy developers flattened the high elevation ground with pine trees and its associated ecosystem to build shopping centers, housing subdivisions, office buildings, parking lots, and fruit tree groves, row crops, field nurseries, and greenhouses. Land sold for as little as \$48 an acre in 1940. Schools, parks, and infrastructure to support development would come later and gradually South Florida saw their fragile and endemic ecosystem vanish. The Pine Rockland fragments are now compared similarly to a Galapagos of North America - nine miles wide and twenty seven miles long. Once over one hundred thousand acres, the remaining ecosystem fragments have shrunk to less than 1,000 acres since the mid-50s. Twenty thousand acres remain in Everglades National Park but according to the experts we are sitting on the best example of Pine Rockland in the State and the World and the Glancy's have managed to do this after years of determined restoration and

rehabilitation, in part by introducing fire into the management plan. They were the first in the county to do this on private lands.

We are just sitting here listening to the flickers and the woodpeckers, cardinals, and blue jays. Families of purple martins are frantically raising their young in the many houses installed around the property within our sight. It is spring so we smell the fragrance of blooming plants on the slight breeze and marvel at the color of all the wildflowers and the heather colors of the grasses. A babbling brook, two ponds, and a 40' pool offer the feel of waterfront property to the Glancy's environment and a source of life to all creatures that would struggle during a winter dry season when little water would be present. It is not uncommon to see a visiting Heron, a passing Osprey, Great Horned owl, or Bald Eagle. Puppy and our dogs (you all brought your dogs) sniff and watch, scratch the ground and finally lie down to chew on old palmetto fronds or pine cones as rabbits escape in the distance undetected by distracted Kooikers.

Occasionally dogs and people look up when a gust of wind comes in like a wave and the tall pines sway above. We are all gathered in natural meditation. A Red Shouldered Hawk waits in "The Field" perched on a tall irrigation post and mated pairs of Swallow Tailed Kites hunt the low sky in acrobatic formation while Turkey Vultures sway back and forth much higher up. Barbara notices the serenity and states that "This Is It! We got it and please all of you, enjoy it."

The Florida sun warms the air quickly and now three hours later we all stretch and want to move forward to enjoy a snack and water. Terry offers the cool fans of his one acre greenhouse filled with orchids and their amazing floral scents - the orchids are all in bloom for Mother's Day sales. <http://www.PineRidgeOrchids.com>

Barbara and Terry are tea sommeliers and gather teas from several areas around Asia seeking tea growing region ecotones sometimes only locally known for teas grown and hand processed with delicate and refreshing flavors in mind. Terry says “Wine may have a few hundred distinctions but tea has over 4,000.” Barbara has made tea cold with pure water they create on site. Using whole leaves in large glass vessels that are chilled in her fridge for six hours, she then pours tea. On open trays are arrangements of locally grown fruits, many from the Glancy’s property - Litchi, mango, Jak Fruit, Black Diamond Waxy Apple from trees imported from Taiwan, orange, Key limes, avocado, papayas, passion fruit, rare red Annonas, tiny sweet bananas, and Carambolas that are too delicate to ship.

After our feast and moisture break, Terry suggests we walk to the last place where we might find what is left of last night’s cool air before the mosquitoes find it. We all follow tails wagging to our next adventure - “The Field”. It is where all the big planted stuff grows. Tropicals from all over the world include palms, bamboos, and exotic fruit trees. The canopy of shade is cool and dark with a slight breeze and the diversity of frond shapes and heights is mesmerizing as we look up towards the crown shafts and fruiting bodies. Terry explains how 8 years ago you could have pulled these plants out of the ground like weeds they were so small but hard work and constant farming vigilance shows little failure. Barbara says “This is South Florida on twenty acres. We bought this five acre piece to act as a buffer to the fifteen that has our endangered ecosystem. We knew it would never be possible to take a scarified field once used for growing tomatoes and okra and turn it back into Pineland, so we planted a field of palms, tropical clumping bamboo, and fruit trees. Now we occasionally see Florida panthers as they venture out of Everglades National Park on route to Biscayne National Park on the coast some 15 miles to the east.”

As we part, the Glancy's wave goodbyes to every last car down the drive. Their pronounced southern determination and hospitality will be remembered.

Terry and Barbara make sure all know how much appreciation they both extend to breeder Sheryl Fuller and the entire Fuller family at *Waterbound Kooikerhondjes* in Alvin, Texas. Puppy is a terrific dog in a unique home - being close to nature trains well in a dynamic environment! Terry and Barbara have one son Chris who flew in from California in December 2011 with his fiancée Tiffany to meet Puppy and to help with the 2011 prescribed burn. Puppy was under five months at the time and was honored by the local Florida Forest Service with the title of Fire Dog. Puppy is now under ten months and continues to love life and trains to meet the criteria of Canine Good Citizenship. His favorite toy is a red latex ball; his favorite activity is sharing with all dogs and people, helping with botanical monitoring, and exotic plant removal on the preserve and all the other chores around the house, garden, and farm. A respectful and eager to learn Puppy sends a parting goodbye bark.



## **Congratulations New KSA Champions**

**UKC/ARRB/KSA CH HART VAN ROTTERDAM RN CGC**



**KSA/UKC CH REDGOLD'S BODIE ON MY MIND BN RE OA OAJ CA CGC**



**UKC/KSA CH VONLIN'S TEMPLE OF THE WINDS CGC**



**UKC/KSA CH WATERBOUND HUNTER'S EDGE CGC**



**UKC/KSA CH WATERBOUND MANUSIA MR BOJANGLES CGC**



**Photo Gallery**







## **Editors Corner:**

Thank you for the articles and pictures! Please continue to send them as well as your ideas for articles to be included in future issues. Next issue, please send pictures of your “Kooikers Competing”.

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