

HAPPENINGS



Canine Country Club Trains Diabetes Alert Dog

Splenda, the diabetic alert dog trained by Jeff Murphrey and the folks at Canine Country Club and donated to 8 year old Landon Lischka of Bellville, is now living and working full time with Landon. Recently, Splenda began attending school with Landon and Jeff had the opportunity to address Landon's classmates at O'Bryant Primary School. The kids learned about service dogs in general and Splenda in particular.

Splenda alerts Landon when his blood sugar drops below a level specified by his doctors by nudging him and barking. Her training involved first teaching her to discriminate between sweat and saliva samples taken from Landon when his blood sugar was normal and those taken when his blood sugar was low (when blood sugar

drops, systemic changes in the body cause changes in sweat and saliva perceptible to dogs). Splenda was taught to perform her indication only when she was presented with a "low" sample. Next, she worked directly with Landon both utilizing samples and doing "live" work when his blood sugar dropped.

During one exercise at Landon's home, Jeff enlisted one of Landon's relatives to help and to everyone's surprise Splenda repeatedly indicated on the relative. After some discussion, the relative's blood sugar was tested and found to be quite low. It served to reiterate what Jeff often says, "trust the dog, they rarely lie".

Needless to say, we are thrilled for Landon and Splenda: their companionship is a gift that just keeps on giving back!

FREE VETERINARY DAY

Pets of the Homeless Event January 13



Pets of the Homeless will receive a FREE Pet Health Care Day, Sunday, January 13, at 1 pm at James Bute Park located at 512 McKee St., 77002. Free rabies and distemper vaccinations, dewormer and veterinary exams will be provided by a local licensed veterinarian to dogs and cats of low income families and the homeless. Free dry dog and cat food and pet supplies will be distributed at the event.

To participate, bring your pets and RSVP to petsofthehomelesshouston@gmail.com. Pets of the Homeless is a national nonprofit that provides pet food and veterinary care to pets of the homeless and less fortunate across the United States and Canada.

PARROT FESTIVAL

Annual Event January 25-27



Bird lovers rejoice! It's once again time for the annual Parrot Festival, January 25-27 at the Doubletree Hotel at Intercontinental Airport. The event includes educational demonstrations by international speakers, shopping for bird supplies such as toys, cages and other parrot paraphernalia. In addition, be sure to participate in the raffles and auctions that are utilized to support bird rescue.

The event is sponsored by the National Parrot Rescue & Preservation Foundation. For vendor details, ticket sales and other information, call 713.557.2473 or visit www.parrotfestival.org.