

# Susan Jakobs



## **Certified evaluator for:**

- AKC
- B&B Therapy Dogs

## **Contract Trainer for:**

- Sterling Police Department
- Chicago Public Schools
- Edward-Elmhurst Hospital
- Palos Community Hospital
- OSF St. Anthony's Hospital Rockford, IL
- CGH Medical Center
- Paws 4 Therapy
- River Ridge Animal Hospital
  
- Member of the Association of Pet Dog Trainers 2002-14
- Certified as a Professional Dog Trainer 2009-2013
- Bachelor of Science
- Secondary Education Degree
- 320 hours Master Trainings Course
- 25 hour Defense Training
- 100 hour Tracking Training
- 60 hour Detection Training

## **Past Honors:**

- Service Dog trainer for the US Dept of Veteran Affairs
- Approved Drug Dog trainer for US Department of Justice
- Member of Therapy Dogs, Inc. from 2001-2010

Susan Jakobs founded Wag it Forward to combine her local dog-training business, Sauk Valley Dog Training, and her statewide business, Dog Builders. She is a Professional Dog Trainer with a degree in Education and specializes in contract dog training and private coaching.

Since 2001, Susan has performed over **3,600** hours of running group obedience classes. She has screened and evaluated over **5,570 dogs** and has trained and certified more than **5700 dog/handler teams** specifically for acute care environments. She created the screening and training programs for 9-acute care facilities and continues to train with 5 hospitals. She established dog policy, for two residential healthcare facilities and several educational facilities.

Susan continues to study and perform research regarding dog behavior to further build her skills and increase her dog knowledge. She has published over 25 articles, is a paid speaker, and hosted a monthly radio program on WSDR.

Susan trained with 3 master trainers to develop her own specialized method of dog and owner training. Her foundation includes marker training, tracking, therapy work, puppy training, obedience, scent detection, and protection training. Canine course work included Ethology, Animal Behavior, and Genetics. She has worked with over 100 breeds ranging from the Chinese Crested to the Irish Wolfhound.

## **Philosophy**

Susan's goal is to find the right method for the dog and the family. She educates people about what equipment to use and the pros and cons of each method. While the foundation for each dog is similar, the approach to training is defined by the ability of the owner and the age and temperament of the dog.

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I have enjoyed training over 40 dogs for families across the United States. Locally, I have run dog classes year-round since 2001.

Facility	Year Implemented	Number of dogs
Community Service Dog (Brinkley)	2017	1
Private Facility Dog (Moby)	2017	1
Private Service Dog (Noodle)	2016	1
Private Facility Dog (Sunny)	2016	1
Private Service Dog (Jack)	2014	1
Private Service Dog (Charlie)	2013	1
Taylor Hospice House	2013	15
CGH Love on the Leash	2012	20
Chicago Public School (Louie)	2012	1
Elmhurst Hospital	2012	45
Private Service Dog (Puzzle)	2011	1
St. Vincent Seton Hospital (Grover)	2010	1
Arabella House (Logan)	2009	1
OSF St. Anthony (Rockford)	2008	98
Palos Community Hospital	2008	105
OSF St. Francis Peoria	2007	16
Northwest Community Hospital	2007	90
Edward Hospital	2002	215
Linden Oaks Hospital	2002	25