

Husky performs as rescue dog, companion and teacher

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some relief from whatever crisis they are going through.

There is even more to Jag's good works. Lisa and Jag go into schools and provide dog education through the Bonnie L. Hays Animal Shelter. They teach pre-schoolers through fourth graders how to meet, greet and approach strange dogs and what to do if a strange dog attacks. Kids come up to Lisa when they see her and repeat what she and Jag have taught them. Lisa is also working with Washington County Juvenile authorities to have Jag sit with kids so they won't be so alone when they have to testify in court.

Jag is very handsome, with a thick, lustrous red and white coat and one blue eye and one brown eye. Siberian Huskies are working dogs and can become bored and destructive

without enough activity and exercise, but Jag's work and activities with Lisa keep him happy and healthy. He can be pretty fun-loving and an independent thinker, but is all business once he has on the green vest that identifies him as a Therapy and Crisis Response dog.

What Jag does is pretty amazing, but working with Jag is only part of Lisa's activities. In addition to family life in Vernonia with husband, Mike, and nine year-old son, Brandon, Lisa is the Vernonia contact for the American Red Cross. She responds to fires and other disasters and calls in other volunteers, including Jag, as needed. Lisa also runs a home-based business she took over from her father, manufacturing circuit boards for fork lift chargers.

In March of this year, after encouragement from friends, Lisa started teaching basic dog obedience classes in Vernonia. You may have seen her with her class at the covered basketball court by Washington Grade School on Tuesdays from 7 to 8:00 p.m. She is also mentoring two high school students; one is working to get a dog certified in Therapy as her high school project, the other is involved in training a seeing



Lisa Orth with talented and willing Jag

eye dog. When Lisa is not busy her family can probably be with all these activities, she and found out riding their dirt bikes

somewhere.

All the dog-related activities came naturally. Lisa grew up with a Samoyed and currently has a border collie, Joker, and another Siberian Husky, Sasha. The dog certification process started after Brandon asked her to bring Sasha to his school for "show and tell." Lisa wanted to be sure Sasha would be safe for the kids to approach so she found the Delta Society training and off she went. Sasha was the first Therapy dog Lisa had certified. After two-and-a-half years Lisa could tell that Sasha was bored with working, so Jag took over and, two years later, Jag is showing no signs of being tired of his work.

Jag asked us to pass on these reminders:

- Always ask before petting someone else's dog.
- Respect Service/Working dogs.
- Always be kind and gentle with animals.

Jag is looking for help in his activities, such as sponsors to provide the handouts for the school education program. For information on obedience classes, to schedule school dog education, or to sponsor one of Jag's activities, Lisa and Jag can be reached at 503-429-3018.

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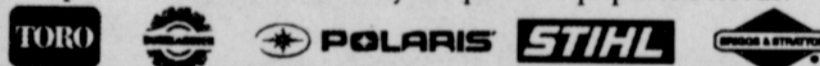
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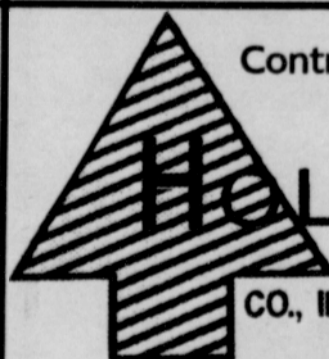
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