



**BUTLER**®

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A PUBLICATION FOR OUR VALUED VETERINARY CUSTOMERS

# REVIEW

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# **BUTLER** **TO THE RESCUE**



The newest member of The Butler Company is not allowed on the sofa...but he can climb the rungs of a ladder one by one and sniff out survivors. Gator, a recent graduate of the highly regarded National Disaster Search Dog Foundation, has been adopted by associates of the Company. Gator is one of four dogs sent to Ohio following graduation from the NDSDF in June; the first group of dogs sent to the state by the NDSDF.

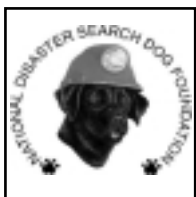
As the leader in the field of canine disaster search training, The National Disaster Search Dog Foundation rescues dogs from breed rescue groups and shelters and trains them with firefighters and other professional handlers to become FEMA certified canine search teams.

Following the tragic events of September 11, 2001, The Butler Company made a charitable contribution to the American Red Cross. Associates expressed an interest in supporting other charitable organizations, so the Company sought to find an organization which closely matched its commitment to animal health and welfare. The

Company found that match in The National Disaster Search Dog Foundation, a non-profit organization that trained 33% of the FEMA certified search teams deployed to the World Trade Center after September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001.

Gator, an 18 month old black Labrador Retriever, now lives and works with Athena Robbins, a firefighter and paramedic with the Bellbrook, OH fire department ([www.bellbrookfire.org](http://www.bellbrookfire.org)). Robbins is a member of Ohio Task Force-1 whose goal is to develop the expertise needed to respond to urban search and rescue efforts due to structural collapses. Robbins and Gator will continue to train in the areas of agility and verbal and non-verbal directionals as they seek FEMA certification in the upcoming year.

The initial training period for the rescued dogs is approximately \$10,000 per dog. The Butler Company's associates' goal for 2002 is to raise funds for the NDSDF through "jeans days" and t-shirt sales, and other events, such as recycling drives, held across the country at their distribution and telecenter facilities. Kevin R. Vasquez, Executive Vice President and COO, stated "After witnessing the tragic events of 9/11 and the subsequent heroic efforts of firefighters, rescue and law enforcement personnel, military personnel and concerned citizens, the employees of our company wanted to do more to demonstrate our support of these efforts. Support of the NDSDF became a reality after an exhaustive search by our Human Resources department and we are proud to support Gator as he aides in saving others. What is truly unique about this program is that the animals that become rescuers have actually been rescued themselves from shelters and homelessness. So, the rescued becomes the rescuer.....what a great concept. The employees of The Butler Company are proud to support this effort and we only wish we could do even more." Should the associates reach their goal, the Company will also make a contribution to the NDSDF. The Butler Company is the first Ohio-based company to support The National Disaster Search Dog Foundation and is proud to be partnering with such a dynamic organization.



### **How Can You Help?**

The Federal Emergency Management Agency estimates that less than half the number of needed disaster search dog/handler teams are available for deployment in the United States. Your contribution will enable the NDSDF to continue their efforts to search for qualified dogs, rescue those dogs and train them to rescue others in need. If you would like to "Be Part of the Search", please make a donation to The National Disaster Search Dog Foundation by contacting Fran Christiansen toll free

at 888-646-1242 or online at [www.SearchDogsUSA.com](http://www.SearchDogsUSA.com). Tell them your friends at Butler sent you!



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