

## In love and memory of IC – East Bay Stand Down’s first Therapy Dog



IC came into the world with a challenging beginning. She was abandoned by her mother she was the only survivor of the litter. In addition, she was born with kidney disease. To watch her, no one would have ever known. IC was born with a purpose. Herding dogs need a job. IC's job was to serve Thomas as his PTSD service dog. IC was a natural. Not only did she serve Thomas, she served almost everyone she met. She loved people and instinctively knew how to serve each person she met. She did this until the end of her life with joy, delight & an Aussie wiggle butt.

IC was well known at the Concord Vet Center and East Bay Stand Down. She was the first service/working dog allowed to attend EBSD. She worked with Thomas as he volunteered at EBSD. She served in the Wellness area with Thomas meeting and greeting all who came there. In addition, she was an ambassa-dog of good will at Stand Down. She loved to travel with Maria Murray in the cart meeting, greeting and lifting the spirits of participant veterans, volunteers, staff, coordinators and generals. The value of her service at EBSD was recognized. This led to the introduction of therapy dogs at EBSD and the evaluation & care of the dogs of EBSD veteran participants. The therapy dogs' successful work with the vets at the wellness tent, led to the beginning of the therapy dog program that is now a part of EBSD. Therapy dogs not only serve vets at the wellness tent, they move throughout the EBSD campus visiting & serving veterans during EBSD weekend.

IC succumbed to her kidney disease June 30th 2014 & crossed over. Thank you for your service IC girl. You are free.

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