

ADI's Bud Souza Rescues Hurricane Katrina Survivors

The Assistance Dog Institute is proud of one of our college instructors, Bud Souza, and his search and rescue dog, Kane (pronounced Connie). Bud spent three weeks in New Orleans searching for survivors from Hurricane Katrina.

Bud trained his golden retriever using the Early Puppy Education methods that are taught at the Institute. This idea was new to search and rescue certifying organizations, and he had a difficult time convincing rescue professionals that training a dog at a young age was possible. Kane nearly lost out on the chance to undergo the certification trials due to his young age. Yet, when Bud and Kane passed the tests to become FEMA certified with flying colors, surpassing the abilities of other dogs who had been working for years, Bud received respect and admiration for the quality work of his dog.



Bud has spent countless hours to train his dog since he got Kane at eight weeks of age. Everyweek they do additional training at rubble piles and fire department training grounds to continue to hone their skills.

All of Bud's and Kane's hard work paid off when they located three elderly people who had been trapped in their attics for two weeks. Although they had food and water to initially sustain them, these people were near death. Unable to walk or communicate, they would have died if Kane hadn't found them. In addition, Bud found many dogs who had been left behind in abandoned homes and reported them to the Humane Society so that they too could be rescued.

In addition to his search and rescue duties, Kane was also invaluable for social/therapy work. After an exhausting day of hard and dangerous work, many of the rescue workers sought out Kane to pet and get some relief from the stress.

Bud is a retired firefighter/paramedic and has shared his expertise with our students and clients. He teaches canine CPR, first aide and puppy raising techniques. Just before being deployed, Bud also taught students in the Institute's first Masters class in search and rescue techniques. He received this year's ADI/ADUC Innovation Award for "Innovations in dogs that help save human lives."

Bud and Kane truly exemplify the Assistance Dog Institute's mission of *"Helping Dogs Help People."*

