

Nancy asked:
"Please don't forget
to thank the
American people for
all the concern, love
and support they
gave our dogs
during and after 9/11.
Semper Fido..."



NAME: **Jazz**

BREED: German Shepherd Dog
Certified Cadaver Search,
Wilderness Live Find

Nancy Brooks

Ramapo Rescue Dog
Association

Fresh Kills Landfill



*"Search and
rescue dogs
and their
handlers are
attached at
the heart, not
the end of a
leash."*

Nancy and her dog Jazz were called out to work at the Fresh Kills site with the Ramapo Rescue Dog Association. After three cancellations they were finally deployed to Staten Island to work with the Canine Recovery Task Force.

Nancy said Jazz must have sensed the tragedy of 9/11, as her emotional state was "I don't like this, but I'll do my job." Jazz has a very strong work ethic and so was very willing to work despite the intimidating work environment.

"On her first day out she worked well on the areas she was tasked to search. At least two of her finds were verified as human remains. In training when Jazz makes a live find, the first thing she does is go to the subject, wagging her tail, and licks his face. Then she returns to me (just as Lassie did with Timmy) and if I ask her did she find, she will spin wildly around, wagging her tail. Then she happily returns to the subject, looking back over her shoulder as if to say, 'Come on, hurry up, let's go!'

"After all the work she did that first day, she still loved meeting all the new people. Most seemed surprised that a German Shepherd could be so friendly and loving. Some even asked to have their picture taken with her, and Jazz happily posed with anyone who stood beside her."

On her second day of work Jazz developed diarrhea, so Nancy took her off the site and worked her on her second-most-important job...boosting worker morale. Jazz visited everyone assigned to her work area—US Army, NYPD, FDNY, FBI—anyone connected to the worksite. Everyone needed the warm and fuzzy distraction, and Jazz lapped up all the attention.

Nancy said she does consider Jazz a hero. "She is an ordinary search and rescue canine that performed in an extraordinary situation far better than any of us could have imagined, as did all of the canines that reported to Ground Zero, the Pentagon and Fresh Kills. We knew the dogs were good, but they surprised us all by doing the wonderful job that they did. It reaffirmed the reason to train, train and train some more, on all those freezing, hot, humid, rainy, snowy, miserable days, when we all say, 'And we're doing this because...?'. Then there's the memory of 9/11, and the complaining stops and the day's training doesn't seem so bad after all. The bond that develops between a dog and handler is one few people would understand. It was very special before 9/11, but it has only gotten stronger since that time."