

## PoL Grace Wings to Florida

**News Release**  
**March 11, 2008**

Ames, Iowa — PoL Grace started her new life today with Sue Thomas, a K9 handler in training with Florida Task Force 1.

Grace, a yellow lab mix, was found in August of 2007 scavenging for food in Des Moines Iowa. A kind man took her to the Animal Rescue League of Iowa. Grace's condition was shocking, she was literally skin and bones. She was an adult lab but weighed barely 20 pounds. Her toe nails were curled up into her pads and she was covered in feces. She looked as if she had been living in a confined area without food for sometime and finally made her break that day is a desperate search for food.

Grace's condition was so desperate that the ARL placed her in a special program to help rehabilitate her. The volunteer who took her in spent the next three weeks feeding Grace a quarter cup of cooked chicken and vegetables every two hours. This was all that Grace's system could handle without her becoming ill. Grace slowly put on weight, was temperament tested and it was immediately recognized by all that Grace would be a great working dog.

A few more temperament tests followed and Rhonda, our K9 Temperament Evaluator, suggested that Grace was a potential for disaster search work. Sue Thomas found PoL on the internet, contacted us and after going through our screening process, adopted Grace. On March 11, Grace and Sue started their new life together.

"Grace played tug with everyone in the Fire Chiefs office this morning, and barked at them for the toy. You have done a great job with this very special dog, she is so outgoing and the same time attentive and alert to me. She did actually prevent me from possibly getting a bite from a water moccasin yesterday while we were at the park, the snake was sunning itself on the handrail and I didn't see it, Grace saw it and darted away and yelped alerting me, thanks Grace! I must say, you are correct, this dog is so smart!" exclaims Thomas.

Grace just might be the paws of life for someone.

The **Paws of Life Foundation** is a registered non profit that is dedicated to the education of search and rescue (SAR) dogs and their handlers. PoL works with responders at the local levels to assist with dog placement and training to become a reliable and valuable resource for law enforcement and public safety agencies in the case of lost or missing persons. When someone you care about goes missing, these are the people your local sheriff, police chief or fire department calls to assist in the search. For more information go to <http://www.pawsoflife.org>.



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