



THE VIEW

A PUBLICATION OF VISTA DEL MAR CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES
REISS-DAVIS CHILD STUDY CENTER JULIA ANN SINGER CENTER
HOME-SAFE FAMILY SERVICE OF SANTA MONICA



PUPPY LOVE

For the young people who live at Vista, the days are typically filled with school, and teachers, and therapists, and counselors, and parents and any number of other people there to help, to lend an ear or a hand. But, for a few weeks this past year, the children had a chance to be there for someone else, someone who would not judge them, or ask hard questions, or do anything other than look adoringly at them. The dogs from K-9 Connection (rescued from local animal shelters) came to Vista for training by the kids. The bond that formed between the children and the dogs was truly incredible. At the graduation, the children put their pups through their paces and everyone came out a winner. Our thanks to Katherine Beattie and Pat Sinclair, co-chairs of the K-9 Connection.

In their letter following the training they wrote back to us that, "from the first day, we noticed an impressive difference in the Vista K9 connection students from the majority of our previous participants. The kids were attentive, enthusiastic, respectful, helpful and responsive. They were supportive of their dogs and their fellow K9 participants. It takes great fortitude and patience to stick with our program...it is a big deal to come every day for two hours, sit in class and be challenged mentally, and then to go train a shelter dog that has had an abusive background and may be stubborn, not listen, but will always give love..."

