

## **Duke Abrams**

May 22, 1999, to October 31, 2014. Duke, a Cavalier King Charles Spaniel, began his Crisis Response Work in January 2002 with HOPE Animal-Assisted Crisis Response in Portland, Oregon. He and Lois Abrams, Ph.D., his handler became the first HOPE AACR team in California. Duke helped build the Pacific Southwest Region for HOPE AACR. He modeled his training at the first PSW workshop organized by Lois in June of 2002. In 2002 Duke responded to the Williams Fire in the Angeles National Forest in California and The Sunset Hotel Fire in San Bernardino. Duke traveled to New York and worked at the Ground Zero Memorial fenced area in August 2002. Herb Abrams, Ph.D., also handled Duke. In 2003, The Old Fire, was one of the largest wildfires in San Bernardino County with over 2,000 people housed in an old airport hangar. Duke helped a boy who was ill and abandoned by his family. Duke received the first American Red Cross Bravo for Bravery Award given to an animal in 2004 in Orange County, CA for the comfort he gave to that boy. He worked approximately 600 plus hours in crisis response. Duke attended memorials, school shootings, and suicide recovery processes. At the fires Duke worked fire camp and the shelters. Duke's handler gave keynote presentations at five national counseling and psychotherapy conferences in Denver, CO, San Antonio TX, Washington, D.C., Anaheim, CA, and San Diego, CA. Duke retired from HOPE AACR on January 1, 2013. Duke was the first Seeing Heart Dog in the PSW Region of HOPE AACR.