



Dogs On Call, Inc.

March 1, 2011

Welcome to 2011!

With January and most of February behind us, this year promises to be very busy.

We've had a tremendous kick-off with a 2 day Delta Pet Partner class, our very first R.E.A.D. Workshop, a Dog Bite Prevention Workshop and that was just in January alone!

With an ever increasing and VERY active membership, comes more effort in coordinating our volunteer endeavors.

We have added coordinator positions and expanded responsibilities.

Welcome to our new R.E.A.D. Director and Workshop Instructor, Laura Kuchta, coordinators Katie Kuntz and JoAnn Holston. Jen Phipps will be our Events Coordinator, with a great team of volunteers heading up specific events. Facilities Coordinator will be Jan Hoffman, Membership Artie Berning and Meriter Hospital, Karen Peckham.

Karen Peckham and JoAnn Holston are busy working on a Dogs On Call Membership Manual, while I finish up with our new web site and a possible new logo.

I hope you have all had an opportunity to check out our NEW member forum! This communication tool will allow members to check in with what's new, plus allow for conversation, questions, all while keeping your personal e-mail from being flooded with DOC mail. You will also have the capability of privately messaging other members as well as the moderators. The success of this great tool depends on your participation, so use the "Misc. Questions and Answers" to let me know how you like it!

Jan Hoffman is busy working on the Dogs On Call "Education Funding" criteria and application. This will enable our members to get financial assistance to become a Delta Instructor/Evaluator or to attend qualifying seminars or classes!

There is a serious effort on the part of all of us to make Dogs On Call Inc., a well respected, well run organization with an emphasis on education and reputation.

It is my goal as President in 2011 to provide our clients with the best educated, safe, reliable Pet Partner/R.E.A.D. Teams available. Truly the "professional volunteers".

You can count on a busy year with Dogs On Call, your participation and commitment is GREATLY APPRECIATED!

Polly Cisco

Inside this issue:

| | |
|---------------------|-----|
| Meriter News | 2/3 |
| Safety Sunday | |
| R.E.A.D. News | 4 |
| Dog Bite Prevention | 5 |
| Barb Wolf Retires | 6 |
| Pet Oxygen Masks | 7 |
| Swing & Deb | 8 |
| Gateway Tech | 9 |

Meriter News (for everyone)

-- Welcome to three new teams who are now spreading joy at Meriter Hospital:

--Jen and Cooper, a Goldendoodle, a happy guy whose tail never stopped wagging and a smile never left his face during his whole visit.

--Mary and Isabel, a Newfoundland, who lets you know you are in her favor by leaning against you.

--Liz and Charlotte (aka Piggy), a French Bulldog, whose head-down, butt-in-the-air call for petting was very successful.

--Liz & Charlotte and Bonnie & Snickers (Cavalier King Charles Spaniel) have also started visiting at Meriter's Child & Adolescent Psychiatric Hospital.

-- Take a look at the great new Dogs On Call page on Meriter's Web site. Go to meriter.com, click on the "Patient & Visitor" tab, then "Dogs On Call" on the left side of that page. Read the bios, look at the happy pictures of current teams, and read about the exciting and growing pet therapy program at Meriter.

We can always use more teams visiting at Meriter. If you've ever thought about trying hospital visits with your Pet Partner, contact Karen Peckham, Dogs On Call / Meriter Coordinator, at kpeck.k9s@gmail.com for more information.

Stay Tuned.....

At the end of February there will be a meeting between Dogs On Call and the University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics.

We will be conducting a facilities assessment along with discussing our exclusive role in providing Animal Assisted Therapy and Activities.

Stay tuned.....future developments will appear in the Membership Forum!

Polly Cisco

Safety Sunday at Madison Children's Museum – Another Fun Event!

Thirteen Dogs On Call Pet Partners teams delighted and educated Madison area children at the Safety Sunday event on February 6, 2011. The event, organized by Safe Communities and hosted by the Madison Children's Museum, included community groups with displays on many areas of safety, such as: fire, bicycle, water, traffic, heart, electricity, and first aid. I'd have to say our "display" on dog safety was one of the more popular ones. Many dozens (hundreds?) of children asked "May I pet your dog, please?"

The organizers of the event were awestruck and very appreciative of the great turnout by Dogs On Call participants. We had a great collection of dogs, from small to large, for the kids to practice on. Karen Peckham, event coordinator for DOC, would like to thank the Dogs On Call teams who attended:

Sara Stanger & Tazzie (French Bulldog)
 Katie Kunz & Sophie (Standard Poodle)
 Michelle Duke & Melody (Schipperke)
 Carol Mahlik & Montana (Golden Retriever)
 Debbie Schoene & Swing (English Springer Spaniel)
 Kay Lynse & Daisy (Golden Retriever)
 Katie Chen & Ellie (Goldendoodle)
 Karen Smith & Shaka (Akita mix) & Zombie (Dutch Shepherd) *only one dog at a time!*
 Staci Daugird & Disney (Bichon/Shih Tzu mix)
 Sue Heidrich & Molly (Chocolate Labrador Retriever)
 Pat Lawlor & Colleen (Goldendoodle)
 Helen Noncek & Daisey (Shih Tzu)

Also thanks to Lynn Malayter and State Farm Insurance for donating "Fido! Friend or Foe?" coloring books for the kids' goodie bags.

Karen Peckham



Karen Smith & Zombie



Katie Kunz & Sophie



Staci Daugird & Disney



Carol Mahlik & Montana

R.E.A.D. Workshop

On January 22 Polly Cisco and Laura Kuchta, both licensed R.E.A.D. instructors, held their first Dogs On Call R.E.A.D. workshop for doc members only. Of the twelve attending members, three of them were already R.E.A.D. certified and the other nine came to learn about R.E.A.D. possibilities. The day started at 9:00 and ended at 3:00, so a lot of information was packed into those six hours!

Everyone came away from the class knowing if their dog and the R.E.A.D. program would be a good fit. The class participants were given statistics from studies on animal assisted therapy as well as some great success stories from current R.E.A.D. teams. Polly explained how to focus the attention of a Pet Partner on a book as well as doing a 'paw stay' on a page. These two actions from a Pet Partner keep young readers even more interested in a R.E.A.D. session. Another topic discussed were the many different ways that we can position our Pet Partners while having a successful R.E.A.D. session.

Laura ended the day by giving the class information on how to take the test to become a R.E.A.D. team.

She also talked about how DOC can help new R.E.A.D. teams get started in schools or libraries.

Polly and Laura look forward to their next R.E.A.D. workshop. If you missed this class watch the newsletter and the website for dates and times of the next one. You won't want to miss it!



Dogs on Call currently has requests for R.E.A.D. teams at the following facilities:

Columbus Library
Lincoln Elementary—Madison
Madison South Branch Library
Fitchburg Public Library

If you are able to help please contact
Laura.deltadogs@charter.net

Kooper and I went to our monthly R.E.A.D. session at the Baraboo Public Library and were surprised by the local newspaper being there. This photo was on the front page of the Baraboo News Republic the following morning.

Photo is of Laura Kuchta, Kooper and Aaron Swenson.

Photo taken by Tim Damos

DOC receives many requests for R.E.A.D. teams and unfortunately we can not fill all of those requests. If you are considering becoming a R.E.A.D. team please contact me so we can talk! We would love to have you join the wonderful work of R.E.A.D.ing!

Laura Kuchta—laura.delatdogs@charter.net

Dog Bite Prevention Seminar

This past January president Polly Cisco instructed around 15 Dogs On Call members in a Dog Bite Prevention seminar at Meriter Hospital. Assisted by Artie Berning, the seminar prepared members to teach children how to avoid being bitten by a dog. After watching an instructional DVD, attendees role-played as if they were children in a classroom. The members practiced “standing like a tree” and “being like a rock” when encountering a strange dog. As the attendees stood like a tree or crouched like a rock, Polly and Artie led their dogs, Vincent and Henry, through the ‘trees’ and ‘rocks’ as if it were a classroom presentation.

In a national study it was found that 75% of school age and under children have been bitten by a dog at least once in their lives. Unfortunately, not all children use appropriate behavior when around a dog. At times kids will try to pet or tease a dog when the dog is eating from a food dish or children will push their fingers toward a dog in a fence or approach a car with a dog sitting inside. All of these behaviors are possible dog bite situations. During the Dog Bite Prevention class for children, kids are instructed about behavior around dogs and are given key words throughout the presentation to reinforce appropriate actions such as: *Dog in Car, Stay Away* and *Dog In Yard, Stay Away*.

Also included in the seminar were instructions for members on how to prepare for the Dog Bite Prevention Class. Subjects such as time schedules, how to include students who are fearful of dogs while respecting their fear, and books that might be included in a program were discussed. Polly also illustrated how hand puppets can be used as props to explain parts of an animal to the kids.

The goal of the seminar was to inform members on how to get Dog Bite Prevention information out to children in a fun way. All participants had a great time and are now trying to spread the safety word to children in schools and libraries. Thank you Polly and Artie.



“Trees”

“Rocks”

Barb Retires



Barb Wolf, one of the founding ‘mothers’ of Dogs On Call, Inc., recently retired from our board and her position as secretary. When Dogs On Call first began, Barb was among those wonderful women who saw a need in the community for therapy animals and filled it by starting the organization we have today. Two other founders, Lynn Malayter and Nancy Cahill, were present at the ‘retirement’ gathering in honor of Barb. A host of stories were told that night relating the first beginnings of DOC and how, from a very small group of people, it has grown to its present size. Many changes have happened since the inception of that first therapy dog group and Barb has been a part of the board since the beginning. She is also a certified Delta therapy dog evaluator and has evaluated many member and their dogs since the beginning. Barb has told us she will still continue with many member activities and evaluations. We wish her the best and will miss her on the board.

Funding Available From Dogs On Call, Inc.

Because of continued donations to Dogs On Call, Inc., our organization is able to offer partial funding for members who wish to take educational classes or attend a conference directly benefiting Dogs On Call. Those members who seek a scholarship for instructor or evaluator classes will have first priority. Eligibility for funding includes being a member for a minimum of one year and have volunteered for at least 25 hours. (This may include not only visits to facilities but also R.E.A.D. volunteer hours and/or volunteering at Dogs On Call events, evaluations and/or classes). The class must be of direct benefit to Dogs On Call, Inc. No college classes or classes of that nature will be considered.

To receive guidelines and an application for educational funding, please contact:

The Educational Funding Committee
deltadoglv@gmail.com

or by U.S. Mail
Educational Funding Committee
P.O. Box 284
Baraboo, WI 53913

Funding Available From Dogs On Call, Inc.

Dogs On Call annual dues are due on March 1st. If you wish to have your membership remain current, please make sure your payment is received ASAP. If you need another membership form please contact Artie at deltadogs@gmail.com

Sauk County EMS to receive animal oxygen mask kits



Most pet owners consider their furry, feathery or scaly pets to be important members of their family and in the event of a fire they want to make sure their special little pals are okay. If there is no physical evidence of a burn it's easy for people to assume their beloved animals are fine but that assumption could be wrong. DOC member Bob Biege and his Australian Labradoodle, Max, are leading a charge with the Baraboo Rotary Club to ensure that every fire department in Sauk County is equipped with animal oxygen mask kits. Biege said oxygen administered to an animal after a fire could save the life of an animal from smoke inhalation. If smoke inhalation goes untreated it could lead to a pet's death within a day

or two of exposure, even if the animal doesn't appear to have symptoms immediately afterward, Biege continued.

Matt McGlynn, a local veterinarian, said, "Any kind of oxygen to an animal or a person who has been in a fire can be an absolute lifesaver." "Unfortunately," he added, "smoke inhalation can worsen over time if proper care is not taken immediately. Initial treatment, such as use of an oxygen mask on the scene, could be the difference between life and death."

Finding kits small enough for animals and getting them to the right people was a problem for Biege. Then he found Wag 'N Enterprises, a company that markets pet safety gear and also it's 'O2 Fur Life' program. The company offers three different mask sizes and can fit animals as small as snakes, birds and hamsters up to dogs the size of St. Bernards.

The Baraboo Rotary recently purchased several O2 Fur Life kits and hopes to distribute them to all twelve Sauk County fire departments and EMS. "The biggest problem," said Josh Kowalke, president of the Sauk County EMS Association, "Is to provide the necessary training to firefighters and EMS personnel." The O2 Fur Life kits come with training videos and basic instructions. The Wag 'N website also has a demonstration video on how to place the cone-shaped mask on a conscious animal and what to do if the animal is unconscious. The video also shows how to calm a frantic animal in order to provide emergency oxygen.

Biege said, "Any pet surviving a fire or inhaling a significant amount of carbon monoxide should be taken to a veterinarian immediately, even if symptoms are not obvious."

***Reprinted and Edited from the Reedsburg Times Press of 1/22/11
Photo taken by Ken Leiviska***

Swing & Deb



In addition to becoming a Delta Society pet partner and Dogs On Call member about a year ago, Swing, an English Springer Spaniel, is an enthusiastic pheasant hunter and field trial competitor. Thus he and I found ourselves spending the weekend at the recent Pheasantfest in Omaha, Nebraska. This annual expo, which is sponsored by the organization, Pheasants Forever, focuses on wildlife conservation, habitat improvement, upland bird hunting and wildlife habitat management as well as initiatives aimed at getting youth unplugged from electronics and turned on to the outdoors. Pheasantfest features over 900 booths with a variety of nature-related themes ranging from hunting and the gear that goes with it, artwork, seed mixes, planting equipment, hunting destinations/lodges, and dog breed information. It was the latter category that brought Swing and I to Omaha; we worked the booth of the English Springer Spaniel Field Trial Association, which is the parent club of the breed. Our role was to educate the 22,000 attendees about the nature of English Springer Spaniels and their talent as the premier pheasant dog in this country. The floor plan of the expo is typically set up in such a way as to concentrate all of the dogs in close proximity to one another which makes it easy for the public to see the various breeds. Consequently, this area is one of the most popular and is always teeming with families who are anxious to pet the dogs.

Swing is a good ambassador for the breed as he remains calm no matter how chaotic his surroundings are...in his mind, the more hands available to scratch his belly, the better! At certain points during the weekend, I was convinced that **all** 22,000 attendees had laid hands on him or his fellow Springers! In spite of the cacophony of noise, sights and smells, all the dogs did their “job” flawlessly and I was pleased by the positive comments I heard such as “I never knew Springers could be so laid-back...” and their surprise to learn that an active hunting dog can also be a “therapy dog”.

Our other reason for appearing at Pheasantfest was to educate anyone who hunts with a dog—of **ANY** breed—about the dangers of infections from barbed (awned) seeds, particularly Canada Wild Rye. Typically, these seeds are inhaled and travel through the dog's body, creating infection from bacteria they bring in with them. They usually settle in the chest cavity, where they do a tremendous amount of damage (in addition to infection) to the lungs and/or heart. Many hunters are already familiar with foxtail and cheatgrass which also have a barbed seed; these plants are primarily found in the western U.S. and are invasive weed species. Canada Wild Rye, on the other hand, is actively cultivated as an effective cover crop for other, slower-to-establish grasses. It features a particularly aggressive awn. Popular with state and federal conservation authorities, and bird and habitat preservation organizations due to its low cost, it has become widespread through the Midwest and Mid-eastern states over the past ten years.

Unfortunately, an infection from a grass awn is not easy to diagnose. Veterinarians who do not see many working dogs in their practice may not consider this a possibility in their early workup and consequently, the dog declines rapidly and dies with the cause unknown. Even if diagnosed early, treatment in most cases is expensive....surgical costs can range from approximately \$1,000 to \$12,000. In this tough economy, many people may be forced to make a choice as to whether they can afford to attempt treatment which is a heartbreaking state of affairs when the life of their best buddy and hunting companion is at stake.

Swing & Deb—contintued

Swing's presence drew people to the booth where I could then talk to them about the dangers of Canada Wild Rye..... and not just to hunting dogs.....pets can be at risk too as this grass can be found along roadsides and rest areas. I was gratified by the number of people who thanked me profusely for opening their eyes to the problem and asked what they could do to convince conservation groups and local and state municipalities to drop it from their seed mixes.

By the close of the expo Sunday evening, Swing and I were both tired and looking forward to a few days of peace and quiet, absent of any talking and outstretched hands! But, by this time next year, we'll be ready and willing to do it again when, rumor has it, Pheasantfest 2012 will be held in Kansas City.

Deb Schoene

Doc teams at Gateway Technical College

Lola and I have been working with Gateway Technical College for a few years now trying to establish events and programs into the curriculum. Based on the experience of DOC at the University of Wisconsin at Madison, Lola and I helped develop a program for students and staff for finals week of December 13-17th 2010.

It was a great success and we were asked back to the college for spring finals week!

It was amazing how the students and facility responded to us being there!

Our DOC pals who helped make this program a success were Debbie Schoenne with Swing and Adam Mielke with Princess.

Lola and I have been asked to help with our first local crisis wearing our HOPE AACR(HOPE Animal Assisted Crisis Response) vest. A couple of months ago a drunk driver killed a child who was waiting for the school bus and the grieving process hasn't been going well. So Lola and I have been asked to help the school.

Are there any DOC members who might be interested in training with HOPE AACR?

If there is enough interest I may be able to have an open house sponsored for WI.

If you are interested please email me...I would love a show of paws!!!

HOPE is looking to open up a Midwest region and DOC has many natural leaders.

Look forward to seeing you at some events,

Lynda Prejna and Lola

Paws@wi.rr.com



2010 Board of Directors

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Laura.deltadogs@charter.net

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DOC NeDOC Newsletter

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Subscriptions

The DOC Newsletter is published bi-monthly and is available by E-mail to DOC members and representatives of organizations associated with DOC activities.

Submission Deadlines:

News, Articles and Advertisements are as follows:

| | |
|---------------------------|---------------|
| <u>February 15</u> | Done |
| <u>May 15</u> | June 1 |
| <u>August 15</u> | Sept 1 |
| <u>November 15</u> | Dec 1 |

Articles written by members of the DOC on any topic/subject that may be of interest to DOC members are welcome. Non copyrighted articles or those that can be reprinted with permission are welcome as well.

Any article that is submitted may be edited for proper grammar or clarity.

Send all to: Laura Kuchta

Laura.Deltadogs@charter.net