

June 1, 2011

Dogs On Call Inc.

Did you know:

- a dog's sensation of cold is more intense than its sensation of heat.
- the adult tick is waiting for a whiff of butyric acid, a fatty acid emitted by our dog.
- a tick may wait two weeks or eighteen years in suspended animation for that whiff and then drop from its perch onto the dog.
- That ticks have no eyes and no stimulation to sound.

Note From the President

Dogs on Call, Inc. has had a very busy spring filled with many events and new visiting opportunities. The Dogs at the Dorms and the Helen C. White Library events were very popular and attracted a large number of students and staff alike. I am sure these events will continue to grow even larger every year. See more in Liz Morrison's article on page 4 in this newsletter. If you weren't able to participate in either of the two functions, you have another volunteer opportunity coming up this fall at a Dogs at the Dorms event. All volunteers love these events because the students are so appreciative.

Karen Peckham, our Meriter and University of Wisconsin Hospitals coordinator has been very busy getting the U. of W. hospital program up and running. The hospital even held a special 'orientation day' just for our Dogs On Call, Inc. members. Thank you to all who attended this special training day and a big thank you to Karen. If you were not able to attend the orientation and are interested in volunteering at U. of W. Hospital, there is still time! See Karen's article on Page 10.

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The R.E.A.D. (Reading Education Assistance Dogs) program is growing fast and DOC, Inc. has been receiving many requests for teams to 'R.E.A.D.' at local libraries and schools. If you are currently a R.E.A.D. team and are not visiting, I would be happy to help you start a program. Just contact me (See the end of the newsletter for contact info.) If you are interested in becoming a R.E.A.D. team, we will be holding a R.E.A.D. workshop this fall. Remember – you can purchase your R.E.A.D. training manual from DOC, Inc. at a reduced rate. Again, contact me for more information.

Keep reading in this newsletter for all the happenings at DOC including classes, a unique evaluation involving mini-horses, coming events and much more! Also included in this edition is the first installment of an article by Sheldon Schall about his journey with his Pet Partner, Presley. We will continue his story in following newsletters.

Welcome to new members and welcome back to those who recently recertified. Have a wonderful summer!

Laura Kuchta (Kooper)

Four Paws UP for Our New DOC, Inc. President, Laura Kuchta



Although she became President of Dogs On Call, Inc. this past March, Laura Kuchta has accepted the challenge and is keeping our organization moving forward by spreading the word about DOC and its goal of helping people through therapy animals. Laura is used to having a lot going on in her life and keeping things running smoothly. She is the mother of four children; two boys already out of high school, one in the workforce and one attending the University of La Crosse, a daughter who graduates this year and is headed for the University of Wisconsin and her last child, another daughter, who will be in eighth grade next year. As she also runs her own day care business, she is used to having plenty of people and lots of action going on around her home. Then add in Kooper, her therapy dog (a Sheltie), two cats and usually some other small pets, her children's activities, oh, and a husband, and this lady is always busy.

When asked how she got started with therapy animals, Laura said when her mother was in the hospital dying of cancer, she wanted to see the family pets. At the time animals weren't allowed in hospitals so Laura's family wasn't able to take the pets to see her. Sometime after her mom passed away, Laura saw a newspaper article about Bob McKee (a DOC member) and his dog Scout and their visits to the St. Clare Meadows nursing home in Baraboo. She said she cut the article out and pinned it on her bulletin board to remind her that some day she might be able to visit like Bob and Scout and help someone who wished to see a pet. At a Badger Kennel Club Dog Fair (located at that time in the Marriott in Middleton) Laura was looking at different breeds of dogs for a possible addition to the family, when she walked by the Dogs On Call booth and picked up a brochure about DOC and Delta. After getting Kooper and feeling he might make a good therapy dog she took the DOC /Delta class, passed the evaluation and achieved her dream of working in hospitals and nursing homes with a therapy dog.

Laura joined Dogs On Call, Inc. and has been a board member for three years and the vice president for almost two years. She and Kooper visit the St. Clare Hospital in Baraboo and they are also a R.E.A.D. team (Reading Education Assistance Dogs) and visit the Reedsburg Library and the Baraboo Library. She's also the R.E.A.D. director for our organization and last summer she became a licensed R.E.A.D. I instructor. Let's not forget Laura is also an evaluator for the Delta Society® Pet Partner test. She's also the newsletter editor!

In her spare time (what spare time?) Laura and her family like to camp and hike in the Baraboo Hills. She also takes violin lessons, sings at school functions, does scrap booking and enjoys keeping memories for her family and friends.

With her leadership and her ability to organize and get things done, Dogs On Call, Inc. will continue to grow and be one of the elite therapy animal organizations in the country.

Four Paws Up for Laura Kuchta.

Jan Hoffman (Griffin and Ryder)

R.E.A.D. Across America

No one could have been more thrilled to have three Reading Education Assistance Dog (R.E.A.D.) teams visit Waunakee's Prairie Elementary than my seven-year-old daughter, Alexis. After all, she was the first to suggest the idea to her reading specialist and principal almost a year ago. Joining Disney and I on March 3-4 for a special Read Across America Week celebration were Laura Kuchta and Kooper, and Artie Berning and Henry. Although a new concept to the school and district, Alexis helped convince them that there was, in fact, great value in exposing her classmates to the joys of reading to a dog.



**Artie & Henry, Staci & Disney
Laura & Kooper,
Debbie (Reading Specialist)**

As parents, we had suspected that our math brilliant child had reading struggles beyond those typical of an evolving reader. Alexis was formally evaluated at age six and diagnosed with Dyslexia. We were referred to The Dean Foundation Reading Clinic in Madison, and paired with a wonderful group of professionals equipped to address the learning needs of young Dyslexics. At first Alexis didn't embrace their teachings and suggestions, preferring to fall back on her unique learning style and round-about strategies. Attempting to alter the overall mood of her homework sessions, I decided to start incorporating Disney. As hoped, a shift started to occur. To keep the momentum going, I asked Alexis to help Disney work on his training to become a R.E.A.D. dog. She took this very seriously, and together their respective skills improved. Disney became a R.E.A.D. dog in April of 2010. In addition to visiting his friends at Meriter Hospital and sessions with Alexis, he now also meets with many readers each month at the Waunakee Library. Since incorporating Disney into her sessions at home, Alexis' progress has been impressive. She credits Disney's involvement with helping her most. In combination with other interventions, he has played a priceless role. He is "the magic". She is a walking R.E.A.D. advertisement, proud to tell anyone who will listen about how these special dogs help kids improve their reading skills and confidence.

I am forever grateful to Artie and Laura for going above and beyond to make this unprecedented event possible, and so successful. It is extraordinarily positive, and a true testament to the reputation of Dogs On Call, Inc., R.E.A.D., and Delta, that the Waunakee School District believed enough in our mission to welcome us to read to students from kindergarten through the fourth grade at Prairie. Disney and I are still relatively new to the Pet Partner/R.E.A.D. world, so without the help, guidance, and participation of Laura and Artie, this amazing opportunity would never have evolved into a reality.

Our three R.E.A.D. teams split up and managed to visit 26 classrooms and 550 students in 1 1/2 days! Laura and Kooper, Artie and Henry, and Disney and I, spent twenty minutes in each classroom. Each team shared a bit of information about their dog and the various work they do, read a special Dr. Seuss story to the class, demonstrated the dog's special R.E.A.D. training, promoted literacy, allowed the students to pet the dog, answered a few questions, and handed out either bookmarks or stickers. The visit was so well received that we were extended an invitation, before the first day was even over, to participate again next year. What a compliment to our teams and the quality of work we do.

As a volunteer and substitute within the district, not a day goes by since our reading experience that I am not approached and asked when Disney, Kooper, and Henry will visit again. They are famous at Prairie! Parents often come up and express how much their child enjoyed interacting with our teams, and share many nice things their child related about the experience. It has been encouraging to hear stories of children starting to informally read to their own pet at home, and know that we modeled a fun new way for them to enjoy reading. Obviously our visit made a lasting positive impact on many. For that I am thankful and proud. Proud of what we do, how we do it and proud to have great teams in DOC. I look forward to expanding our success, and reaching new heights within the Waunakee Schools and beyond. To Laura, Artie, Henry, and Kooper...thanks a million for joining Disney and I! Your brilliant expertise in bringing a big vision into a workable reality for this school will go down in history.

Staci Daugird (Disney)



**Charlotte,
the French bulldog,
and Liz Morrison's
daughter Maggie**

Dorms, Med School and the UW Library, Oh My! Dogs On Call, Inc. Is Spreading Kindness to Students

I was asked to write a short article about DOC, Inc. at the University of Wisconsin dorms and library programs for the Dogs On Call newsletter. I don't have a lot of experience doing this sort of thing, but I think I can describe for you some of my experiences.

I have been blessed with a little yellow dog named Charlotte Rose or "Piggy" to her friends. She has been my impetus to be involved in DOC, Inc. and I do my best to see that she is allowed to do her work, which is giving unconditional love and affection to anyone who needs her. She has shown me what it means to be open to any and all possibilities and also to accept and be attentive to the needs of others and to give back some measure of kindness.

The "Dogs at the Dorms" program brought out all sorts of people; dog lovers, individuals in need of some respite, curiosity seekers and even some people afraid of dogs and wondering if it was time to make some kind of change. Early in the dorm program, such an individual approached one of our dog teams at Bradley Hall. She was from Southeast Asia and had been afraid of dogs most of her life. But she thought she might be able to break through that fear. The dog team she approached was very patient and open to her. She came closer and closer until she was actually touching the dog. Next, she was petting the dog. She knew her family back home would never believe she had actually touched a dog, so she had a picture taken of her and the dog and sent it home to them. Of course her family was very surprised. A connection was made between the young woman and the dog team and it probably changed her life forever. All of the students in the dorms loved the dogs and at each dorm the dogs were petted by a crowd of students. The DOC teams loved the students, too.

"Dogs at the Med School" was another event that reminded me of just how powerful the dog-human connection can be. Five dog teams were present but we could have used five more!! The medical students were a little older and more mature than the students at the dorms and also had a few more life experiences. Still, they clearly enjoyed sitting on the floor with us and petting the dogs. For a few short minutes, they were kids again, reliving childhood memories of their own dogs, recalling fond times of dogs now gone but still near and dear in the memories of their hearts. The stresses and pressures of medical school took a back seat to enjoying being with a dog again. We were thanked over and over again for bringing our dogs in to visit. Dr. McBride, the Dean of the Medical School, has already invited us back for the fall exams. Hopefully this experience will be remembered by these future doctors and they, too, will help open doors for others to experience therapy animals.

"Dogs at the Helen C. White Library" was held on Tuesday, May 10th. This was our third year there but the first time we've been able to be outside on the Library Mall. This was good as the air conditioning inside the building wasn't working well and it was very warm and stuffy. Over a four-hour period, about twenty dog teams visited with students. Once again, the students swarmed around the dogs, laughing, talking, petting and telling stories about their own pets. Many expressed how nice it was to take a break from studying for finals, and to walk outside and pet a dog. In fact many students made a special trip just to see the dogs. Some stayed around campus even though their finals were finished so they could see the DOC, Inc. dogs. I couldn't believe it when one person walked up and said, "Oh good, Charlotte is here again." This woman remembered Charlotte from last year's event. Other dog teams had the same experience.

Dorms, Med School and the UW Library, Oh My! Dogs On Call, Inc. Is Spreading Kindness to Students—continued

Many pictures were taken. Charlotte was even interviewed by a local T.V. station. It was all enjoyable, but I did have a little "media darling" on my hands for a few days after the library story ran. She's back to normal now. A really great picture of Daisy, the wonderful Papillon, was in the Wisconsin State Journal on Wednesday. Those great butterfly ears were displayed in all their glory. I wish we could have copies of all the pictures.

I could relate many, many more stories, but I think you get the jest of what the UW programs are about and what it means to the students to have Dogs On Call, Inc. at the dorms, at the medical school and at the library. I know the program is going to grow and become more popular than it is now. We'll be invited to many more events and touch many more lives. It's a testament to how dear to our hearts we hold this human-animal connection.



"Hands on Ryder"
Helen C. White Library

So, dear friends, have a great summer. I look forward to talking to you all in the fall again when the University of Wisconsin invites DOC, Inc. to help their students ease their stress and anxiety during exam time. For my part, I think of it as a time when a little yellow dog might just touch one heart in need of some peace and quiet.

Liz Morrison (Charlotte)

Editor's note: Liz Morrison is the Dogs On Call, Inc., coordinator for events with the University of Wisconsin

Dogs On Call at Barnes and Noble

Once again, many R.E.A.D. teams volunteered their time for a book signing with authors Allen and Linda Anderson. The authors read parts of their book, *Dogs and The Women Who Love Them* and signed copies at the Barnes and Noble, East Town Mall, in Madison. Then Laura Kuchta, Kooper and Caleb read a book as part of a R.E.A.D. (Reading Education Assistance Dogs) demonstration while other R.E.A.D. members either encouraged mall shoppers to stop and talk about R.E.A.D. dogs or assisted the authors with their presentation. Whenever Allen and Linda Anderson do a book signing they always seek out R.E.A.D. teams to attend and have a 'reading' of their own. Their books are usually a series of short inspirational stories about dogs, cats, horses and other animals that have been dearly loved during their short life span. Allen and Linda are the founders of the Angel Animals Network and donate a portion of proceeds from their book sales to animal welfare organizations. They are from Minneapolis.



**Laura Kuchta watches
as Caleb and Kooper
read together at the
book signing**

**Members of Dogs On
Call, Inc. with authors
Linda and Allen
Anderson**



Giving Back, My Journey With A Therapy Dog



This is the first installment of an article written by Sheldon Schall, member of Dogs On Call, Inc. since 2001. The next installments of his article will be in following newsletters. Sheldon was also a board member and the developer and editor of the first DOC, Inc. newsletter and only 'retired' from that position two years ago. Currently he is Chief of the Storage Regulation Section (flammable and hazardous materials) with the Department of Commerce.

Through childhood and college days, my wife Maeline and I both grew up with dogs in our life. However, it was not until our second son left for college that we added a dog to our household. We were fortunate to have raised three healthy boys who were very active in sports from an early age and into high school and college. Year-round sports, including weekend baseball and basketball tournament trips, was the reason we did not have a dog in our household earlier. Presley, a ten-week old, female Bernese Mountain Dog, joined our family in the spring of 2000. From that day until Pearl Harbor Day 2009, Presley was a loving part of our family.

The Bernese Mountain Dog (BMD) breed came to my attention when I took an Internet quiz designed to match personal interests with a dog breed. The answers I gave resulted in a match of three breeds, one of which was the BMD. Being unfamiliar with the breed, we attended several events hosted by the Bernese Mountain Dog Club of South Eastern Wisconsin and fell in love with the big black, white and bronze colored dog. We assessed many breeders and as my wife once said, "We could have adopted a child easier than getting a Berner." After almost a year we were fortunate to get a Berner puppy from Stonehill Bernese Mountain Dogs, Hartland, WI, and we chose "Pink Girl" as the pup was identified by her pink collar.

During my mission to add a dog to the family, the compromise with my wife Maeline was that she had naming rights. The Bernese have a mostly black wavy coat and, with Maeline being an Elvis Presley fan, she chose the name Presley, which fits a female dog much better than "Elvis." Attending one of the Bernese club events to learn more about the breed, I met a husband and wife from Indiana who had a huge male Berner. During our conversation they mentioned they were involved with their dog in therapy work at several nursing homes. The therapy dog experiences the couple shared with me were very moving and involved a wide range of individuals with various disabilities. The element that struck me was the personal satisfaction they expressed when describing these visits. That conversation stayed with me for a long time; possibly because I had a younger sister, Karen, who was diagnosed with Von Recklinghausen's disease at the age of 12 and died at the age of 26, blind, deaf and with a significant loss of mobility from the shoulders down. For the better part of Karen's major medical challenges she had a dog who was her companion even when she eventually was confined to a wheelchair and then to a bed. While her major debilitating health problems occurred after I left home for college and continued on to my career, I must admit I carry guilt about not being a better communicator to her during her illness, not trying hard enough to understand how her life was impacted from her disease and not being a more interacting brother to her. That fact, and having three healthy boys, I realized that participating in animal assisted therapy was a way the Lord was providing me with a mechanism "to give back."

There are several national animal assisted therapy organizations that test and register dog/handler teams for animal assisted activities (AAA) and animal assisted therapy (AAT). After talking with several people associated with two of the hospitals in Madison, I selected the Delta Society. Several Delta Society teams were involved with animal assisted physical therapy which really impressed me.

Giving Back, My Journey With A Therapy Dog—continued

Lynn Malayter and her Yellow Lab Murphy were pioneers in therapy dog activities in Wisconsin and one of my mentors. I passed the Delta Society written test and Presley and I as a team passed the evaluation practical test involving skills and aptitude. We were ready to go. We were invited to join the local Delta Society organization called Dogs On Call (DOC); a great group of people and dogs involved in animal assisted activities and therapy. Most animal assisted activities are conducted at nursing homes and hospitals. Within DOC, Inc. there are several teams that participate in physical rehabilitation therapy at Madison's Meriter Hospital. In my opinion, the ultimate in animal assisted therapy, Meriter was the first hospital in Wisconsin to use AAT in physical rehabilitation. For over seven years Presley and I were fortunate to perform animal assisted activities and therapy in nursing homes, hospitals, Alzheimer's care facilities and mental healthcare facilities where we visited children, adolescents and seniors. There have been and will continue to be studies on the therapeutic benefits of the animal – patient interaction. Early studies focused primarily on dog therapy in nursing homes and those studies reflected that therapy dogs are effective in calming elderly patients. More recent studies have involved children. A study presented in an issue of *Children's Health Care Journal* suggests that dog visits do not make the kids any calmer during their hospital stay, but the visits do give the kids a boost because they became eager to visit with the dog and were found to be happier with dog visits than when they were given organized play time.

Preparing to become involved in therapy dog activities and during the study and exam process, I had no idea how many interesting people I would meet or have the experiences I am writing about. I wrote this not only as a mechanism to deal with the loss of my dog, but also hoping that people who read this will get involved with animal assisted activities/therapy either by being an active participant or by supporting existing therapy dog organizations. I started my therapy dog visits at Waunakee Manor. This is also the facility where Presley made her last visit prior to retiring due to arthritis impacting her mobility on tile and wood floors. Early in our volunteering, we regularly visited the manor and one evening I received a telephone call from Pastor Norm Parsons, an associate pastor from my church. He stated that during his pastoral visits to the manor he frequently heard people talk about a tall man and a dog who came to visit. When he learned that same man was a member of his church he investigated and found Presley was a therapy dog.

The point of his call was to express how much our visits meant to the people at the Manor and he asked if I would bring Presley to a Deacons meeting to explain our therapy dog activities. A few weeks later I attended a Deacon's meeting and several months later I was asked to serve as a Deacon. I joke that the Deacons wanted Presley but had to take me along with her. Subsequently, Presley was given the official title as First Presbyterian Deacon Dog along with an identification badge. That led to an article in the national *Presbyterians Today* magazine titled, "Going To the Dogs – Wisconsin Church's Deacons Recruit a Canine Helper." Sometime after the article appeared our senior minister, Pastor Mortledge, was attending a function in California and when hearing he was from Wisconsin, another participant asked if "by chance it was his church that had the deacon dog?" Presley was also a hit with the congregation the Sunday that Pastor Mortledge had her accompany him as he conducted his children's sermon.

I find that family or friends visiting a resident or patient at a nursing home or hospital also enjoy a dog visit as much or more than the patient. I believe that when a dog enters a room it changes the atmosphere by diverting conversations through or about the dog. During the visit everyone is smiling and many times discussions are often about dogs, including memories of dogs in the patient's life. Presley had a great temperament and tolerance for therapy work, but the activity of people interactions, moving out of the path of wheelchairs or walkers, and responding to my commands to shake hands, etc., she had a limit of about sixty minutes before she would begin losing interest. I found that if I went to the community dining room of the assisted living residents just as they completed their evening meal, it was easier to interact with more people in her working hour. I was fortunate with the strong aroma of food around Presley did not stick her nose on a table.

Giving Back, My Journey With A Therapy Dog—continued



There were several residents who were members of my church so I would always visit their rooms and give them one-on-one time with Presley. Ruth, a lady in her 80s enjoyed the visits so much that she would get down on the floor with Presley. During one visit the phone rang and Ruth told the caller that they would, "Have to call back because she was visiting with Presley." I am speculating that the caller asked who Presley was because I heard Ruth say, "Presley is a dog and you should call back in an hour."

As a result of a fall resulting in a broken a leg and a fractured hip, Esther was a resident in nursing care and had been advised she would not be able to go home. She would move to the assisted living side of the facility when she improved and she wasn't happy about the situation as she wanted to go home. When we visited with Presley one of Esther's friends told me my visit was very timely. When Esther was able to walk she would take us to visit other residents, some in nursing care and some in assisted living. To be sure that I had time to visit specific people I

would visit Esther last because she wanted all her friends to meet Presley. Esther maintained a stash of treats that she brought from the dining room for Presley. I had to be creative to covertly check them out before she gave them to Presley because the treats were not always edible by the time we visited. Esther went through dementia and was moved to another care facility when Alzheimer's became severe and the manor could no longer care for her. While walking down the hall two years after Esther moved away Presley would still stop at the door to what used to be Esther's room. I joked many times that if Presley ever wandered away from me in the Manor I would find her at the door to Esther's room.

To be continued in the September Dogs On Call, Inc. newsletter

Red Cross Animal CPR/ER Certification Class

An Animal Red Cross CPR/ER Certification Class will be held July 16, 2011 at:

The Dog Spot
846 Madison St.
Lake Geneva, WI 53147
262-248-3901

The class is for lifetime certification and an incredible ER manual all covered by a fee of \$52.50

The class is from 1PM to 5PM

Please contact The Dog Spot at 262-248-3901 to reserve your place for the CPR class

The Dog Spot also offers doggie day care if you would like your pup to spend the day there while you're in class. Make your reservations in advance and early. \$12.50 for a half day. If you are using the day care, please bring a copy of your dog's inoculation records and record for kennel cough.

Madison Veterans Hospital and Dogs On Call, Inc. Starting Pilot Project

Starting mid June, Dogs On Call, Inc. will be visiting the Veterans Administration Hospital (VA) as part of a pilot project. Led by DOC member and founder, Lynn Malayter, the project is initially to run for three months and will focus on the inpatient psychiatry unit. While the pilot is not open to all members of DOC, Inc. at this time, hopefully when completed and after evaluation, more members will be able to visit at the VA. DOC, Inc. members participating in the pilot are: Lynn Malayter and Tootsie, Nancy Thorne Cahill with Iris and Luna, Artie Berning and Henry, and Karen Smith with Zombie and Shaka.

The road to opening the doors at the VA has been a long one but because of the perseverance of former DOC, Inc. members Roy Blair and Susan Nehls, the program has finally been set into motion. As Susan (Suzi to friends) is an employee of the VA and her husband Roy is a veteran, they began six years ago to establish a visiting animal program at the hospital. After investigation, they found the hospital had no policy regarding visiting animals or service dogs. Susan said there was no plan on what to do for a service animal if the veteran/owner had to stay overnight for medical treatment. Looking at other programs throughout the US, Roy then wrote a policy for the hospital containing separate segments regarding service animals, therapy animals and other visiting animals. The policy Roy wrote went through many hospital and veteran affairs committees and the program looked to be moving along and allowing visiting animals into the hospital. Then the liability question came into the conversation. Although the visiting dogs would be covered by Delta, Susan said because the VA is a federal government facility, the opinion was that the hospital would be liable if there were an incident. So the project stalled.

Even as former members, Susan and Roy thought Dogs On Call, Inc. would be the perfect organization for the hospital and continued to pursue getting visiting animals into the VA. Through their efforts and the policies written by Roy and those of VA social worker Sarah Rogers, LCSW, Dogs On Call, Inc. is finally getting in the VA door. It isn't easy getting every department on board and to agree to a project like this one but at a recent meeting it was evident the VA personnel were as excited about this joint effort as were the members of DOC. As the pilot is just beginning I'll include more information about its progress in future newsletters.

Jan Hoffman (Griffin and Ryder)

We Need Help as HospiceCare Inc.

The DOC association with the HospiceCare Inc. inpatient unit in Fitchburg began more than five years ago. Since that time, several Delta-DOC teams have had a rewarding relationship with the guests and staff at this facility. Currently, however, the number of teams visiting on a regular basis has fallen to a new low, and Amanda Pischke, Inpatient Volunteer Coordinator, is looking for more help from our DOC members.

Human team members are required to go through an intensive volunteer training program before they are cleared to begin visiting with their animals. But once the training is completed, the teams are qualified to serve as a regular HospiceCare Inc. volunteer as well as with their 'critter' as a pet partner therapy team.

For more information, contact Jim Lackore (jlackore@sbcglobal.net), DOC HospiceCare Inc. Coordinator, or Amanda Pischke, Inpatient Volunteer Coordinator (amanda.pischke@hospicecareinc.com).

Jim Lackore (Mitsy Sue)

UW Hospital's Inaugural DOC Pet Partners Visit – Party on the 4th Floor!

Two dogs, each visiting thirty people in one hour – you do the math! That's what happened on the first-ever Dogs On Call visit at the UW Hospital on Saturday, March 26, 2011. As soon as Yellow Lab Vincent (with Polly Cisco) and Golden Retriever Raider (with Karen Peckham) arrived on the 4th floor Rehabilitation Unit, the parade of staff escorting patients to the dayroom for a visit didn't stop.

The program at the UW Hospital is different than most hospital therapy dog visits, in that the patients come to the dogs in the unit's dayroom. DOC, Inc. teams "hold court" and visit with patients who are eager to enjoy the unique experience we all know about. Having the dogs in the dayroom is a motivation to get the patients up and moving. As an added bonus, the UW Hospital provides a volunteer Visit Captain, to administer hand gel to patients, arrange wheelchairs, and assist the attendees. DOC Teams can then focus on the dog/patient interaction.

Recently, we added visits to the Psychiatry unit with the help of Liz Morrison and French Bulldog Charlotte. Visits in both the Rehab and Psych Units will continue on a weekly basis. As more DOC Pet Partners Teams join the program, plans are for visits to expand to the Neurology Unit and possibly others.

We really need more teams to participate – Raider, Vincent, and Charlotte can't keep this pace forever! Contact Karen Peckham, kpeck.k9s@gmail.com, to learn how to join this popular and unique program.

Karen Peckham (Buddy and Raider)

Meriter Hospital Adds More Areas to the DOC Visit Roster

As DOC teams cruise the halls of Meriter Hospital, we often receive requests for visits from family members we meet along the way – sometimes for floors that aren't on our "approved for visits" list. The Surgical/Orthopedic floor had a significant number of requests and we were able to get that unit added to our list of allowed places to visit.

Also, the brand new surgical waiting area on the main floor is dog-visit friendly. As families and friends wait for someone in surgery, a visit from our Pet Partners is a welcome distraction and way to pass the time.

Those additions bring to 13 the number of units DOC teams can visit at Meriter. Within those are a wide variety of units, from the soothing visits in Adult Psych, to delicate visits in ICU, to the boredom relief visits on the general medical floors, to the playful visits at the Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Hospital – something for everyone!

If you'd like to get some variety in your therapy dog visits, consider joining us at Meriter Hospital. Contact Karen Peckham at kpeck.k9s@gmail.com.

New Teams Visiting at Meriter

Welcome to Sharon Grinyer and Cockapoo Ty. Ty's bright eyes and soft coat won her many friends on her first visit.

Carol Mahlik and Golden Retriever Montana. Puppy-faced Montana impressed everyone with his ever-wagging tail.

DOC Could Use A Dog Sitting Co-op!



Wanna come play with us?



We're really nice girls!

Those of you who travel understand how hard it is to leave your furry friends at home. Many of our vacations are spent with our dogs, but there are situations when we must leave them at home. Paying for a competent sitter can be very expensive, especially in cases where there are multiple dogs. And I will admit that in the 35 years that I've owned dogs, I have never placed one of them in a kennel. I have always been able to do trades, pay friends, have relatives watch them or have someone stay at my home. I guess I've been very lucky. So several months before we are to leave, I arrange for care. Everything is set, we're ready to head out on the road and then we get that dreaded call. "I'm so sorry to tell you that my relative is sick, and I have to leave town. I can't take care of your dogs." Wouldn't it be nice if there was a good backup plan?

So.... are there any Dogs On Call members out there who are interested in forming a dog sitting co-op? If yes, here are some thoughts. We will establish a list of names with contact information of members who are interested. We'll publish the list so DOC interested members will know who to call. We understand that we will need to get together before the drop off day so that our dogs can meet one another to make sure there are no incompatibility (or other) issues. We will call or email to book as early as possible. We'll return the favor when asked. This only works well if exchanges take place.

I have been dog sitting for approximately 20 years. I'm ready and happy to watch your dogs and hope that you'll be interested in the same. Please let me know if any of you would like to be included in our coop. Send me your email address and a phone number that you're willing to share with your fellow DOC members. If the interest is there, I'll put a list together and send it out. Perhaps in the future the DOC website (member's only forum) might have a system where we post dates when we'll need a sitter and members respond by doing a trade (you sit for me this week and I'll sit for you another chosen week). This can work very efficiently. I'm open to other suggestions as well. Thank you!

You can reach me at: ntcahill@yahoo.com & 608.437.0073

Nancy Thorne Cahill (Iris and Luna)

Mini's Join Dogs On Call



A few weeks ago Artie Berning, Gina Smith, Laura Kuchta and neutral dog Kooper had the unique opportunity to evaluate three mini-horses owned by Carolyn Peterson. Finding a facility that allowed horses and was appropriate for evaluation use wasn't easy. As Carolyn is from Balsam Lake, WI and we're from around the Madison, WI area, we decided to meet in Durand which is a couple of hours south for Carolyn and a couple of hours north for Artie, Gina and Laura. The team also evaluated Carolyn's golden/lab, Ruby. The three mini's, Smokey, Promise and Tink plus Ruby all passed with flying colors.

Welcome Carolyn and crew to the Delta Society and Dogs On Call, Inc.

Artie Berning (Henry)



Pet Fest to Benefit the Sauk County Humane Society

DOC, Inc. was once again invited to participate at the Sauk County Humane Society Pet Fest in Baraboo, WI. As a prize in the silent auction, Dogs On Call donated a spot in a Pet Partner Class won by a local couple who are owners of a silky terrier. They are planning on taking the class later this year. As always, the DOC booth was a hit with all visitors to the Fest. DOC members attending the Pet Fest were: Artie Berning with Henry, Laura, Aleah and Tiana Kuchta and Kooper, Karen Smith and Zombie, Barrie White and Happy, Jen Nehls and Cooper, Deb Doob and Mickey, Gina Smith and Button, Bob McKee and Dawn Brauner.

Artie Berning (Henry)

Deb and Mickey



Laura and Tiana Kuchta with Kooper, Artie Berning and Henry, Gina Smith and Button



Artie and Henry



Button



Jen and Cooper

Safety Town – June, July 2011



Safety Town is a two week program held in Madison, WI sponsored by the Police and Fire Departments, which teaches new kindergarteners how to be safe in their community. Dogs On Call, Inc. will be using Pet Partner teams to help teach the children animal safety. DOC, Inc. will be participating in four sessions; June 24, July 1, July 15 and July 22 at Edgewood High School. If you would like to help with Safety Town please contact Artie Berning.

For information on Safety Town go to:

<http://www.uwhealth.org/kids-health-and-safety/safety-town-2010/26636>

Theodore Robinson

In April DOC teams had the opportunity to visit Theodore Robinson Intermediate School in Evansville, WI and tell the 4th grade reading classes about what our Delta Dogs do for the community. Every year the classes read the book, *Rosie, A Visiting Dog's Story*, by Stephanie Calmenson and with our help, teachers Mrs. Stricker and Ms. Doyle "bring the book to life".

At the classes, we discussed therapy dog training, places we visit, and the difference between a therapy dog and a service dog. However, according to the children, the highlight of the event was their chance to greet and pet each dog. The teams used this opportunity to teach the children the proper way to approach a dog, ask permission and pet.

It was agreed by all that this would become an annual visit.

DOC teams attending were Artie & Henry, Gina & Button, and Jen & Cooper.

New and Renewing DOC Members for January, February and March

New Members

Nick Artman & Tiki
Kathy Yerk & Bella
Sharon Grinyer & Ty
Loreli Allen & Logan
Arie Smouter & Moxie
Carolyn Peterson & Ruby and her three Mini-Horses
Smokey, Promise, and Tink

Renewing Members

Carol Malik & Montana
Laura Kuchta & Kooper
Adam Mielke & Princess
John Kelly & Gypsy
JoAnn Kessler & Theodore aka Teddy
Kate Richardson & Gwyneth
Jim Lackore & Mitsy Sue
Amy Calvetti & Benji

Lola Takes to The Sky

As a flight attendant for Southwest airlines and a Delta Society Pet Partner class instructor, I have been trying for years to have Southwest Airlines sponsor Delta classes. This would allow Lola and me to travel within the airline system so we could put on classes in the cities served by Southwest. Recently, my new base manager agreed to consider the idea.

First Lola and I had to go through an 'interview' with my base manager, Dave. When we arrived for the meeting at the Midway Airport in Chicago, I asked Dave if he would consider thinking 'outside of the box' for the interview and he agreed. At the airport terminal we no sooner stepped off the elevator than we ran across a very frazzled mom with two crying children. The minute the kids saw Lola, the tears eased up a little. I asked if they would like Lola to give them a coloring book? I handed Lola the book and she presented it to the children. They giggled and hugged Lola. Within a matter of minutes there were happy children and a relieved mom. This got Dave's attention very quickly.

Dave knew Lola had never been to the airport before and she took escalators, moving sidewalks, jet noises and crowds like it was just another day on the job. We worked the gate areas, tended to frightened children and spoke with adults. Dave was blown away by the number of people who approached us. At one time there was such a crowd of people around Lola that even though I had her leash, all I could see was her waving red tail.

We all know the power our animals have over people. I can tell you this particular setting was 'ripe' with opportunities to showcase just what Delta Dogs can do!

By the way, it took only one day to get confirmation that Lola and I could fly the system!!

Lynda Prejna (Lola)



DOC, Inc., MPD and The Salvation Army

At the end of February Dogs on Call was invited to participate in an event planned by officers of the Madison Police Department (MPD). The officers were planning an activity day for homeless families staying at The Salvation Army in Madison, one provider of services to homeless families in Dane County. The Salvation Army is a main provider of family shelter services, offering a full array of assistance to families in need.

Salvation Army Family Shelter Services

Open 7 days a week, 24 hours a day, to provide food, shelter, clothing, and safety to parents and children in need.



- Gatekeeper for all homeless in Dane County, helping find temporary housing at various locations.
- 22 families (about 60 people) in shelter. One-third of parents are working.
- Each family is provided case management, private quarters, three meals a day, evening snack, laundry facilities.
- Stays usually limited to 90 days.
- 160 families served annually; majority find permanent housing at the end of their shelter stay.

(Adapted from: <http://www.salvationarmydanecounty.org>)

Since we did not have a previous volunteer relationship with the Salvation Army, we made sure that the dogs would be a welcome addition to the event by confirming with staff. Once we knew that we were approved to participate, the excitement for the event began to grow. In the words of the evening Shelter Supervisor, Pamela Brunk, "I heard we got the go ahead for therapy dogs. Honestly, I have not seen families this excited for an event here before!"

This was a smaller event for Dogs on Call, Inc. with only a limited number of teams requested for the first effort. We were asked to provide visits for the families and children currently living in shelter, and provide for potential R.E.A.D opportunities for interested children. The dogs were just one part of the event, with other activities coordinated by Madison Police officers including face painting, and games.

The event was held in the small gymnasium of the Salvation Army building. As the families entered the event it was obvious they noticed our four-legged therapy animals, some with exclamations of excitement and some with a bit of fear. Many were initially reticent when approaching the dogs, as they were concerned the dogs would bite or that the dogs were dogs used for fighting. This was a great opportunity to demonstrate to the children and families the joy of the human-animal connection. Teams were able to talk about approaching strange dogs, and once they did the smiles began to appear.

Most of the children went from team to team to meet the dogs. Many had photos taken by staff members to memorialize the day. The event lasted several hours, but the impact much longer, as staff from the Salvation Army relayed the comments of the families for days to come, while Salvation Army staff expressed a desire for future visits.

The joy for the teams came with watching the apprehension and fear fade to joyful smiles as the dogs greeted the children. The overall event provided a welcome activity, and break from the challenges facing some of the many homeless families in Dane County.

This is a reminder to me of another of the many ways our Dogs on Call, Inc. teams can provide a little dose of dog therapy to those people in our communities who are living in significantly stressful situations.

Mary Schauf (Isabel)

Touched Twice—What a Bus Ride

Shaka, Zombie and I signed up to work the Touched Twice event April 9. The event helps families and people in need and is held at two neighboring churches on Madison's East side. One church has medical and dental clinics and the other church has haircuts, a clothing bank, lunch and a room for DOC, Inc. The churches are close enough that you can either walk between the two or take a school bus shuttle.

Zombie took the first shift while Shaka waited in my Jeep for his turn. We greeted everyone at our room in the second church and stashed our things. Someone asked if several of us could go up to the other church since they had quite a few people waiting for services and the dogs would be very helpful to the people waiting. Zombie and I jumped into the waiting bus and off we went to the other church.

When it was time to give Zombie a break (and for me to get my lunch), we went out a side door of the church to a waiting bus. There were plenty of people inside but no driver. Zombie and I took a seat and waited. Soon another bus pulled up to the front of the church. I was thinking I should get on that bus but just as I was getting ready to leave our driver hopped on the bus and we took off.



Out the driveway and down the road we went – and past the other church. Big moment of panic for me but really, how far away could we be going? Everything was at the two churches so I assumed the bus was just going down the road to pick up some people who could not get to the churches by car.

Well, it turns out it could be going quite a ways away. As it turned out it was a twenty minute ride from the east side of Madison to the far west side where people were getting care at a dental clinic. It seems several clinics had volunteered their offices to do more extensive dental work required by some of the people. I was just happy we were not going to another town as the thought had crossed my mind several

times as we whipped down the Beltline with no turnoff in sight.

Zombie and I waited patiently as several people got on and off the bus at the dental office. The last people who got on were a woman and her seven-year-old son and they sat by us as we waited for the bus to leave. She told me that her son was in therapy after losing his father and that the therapist had recommended getting a therapy type dog for him. We talked a bit about it but she said the reality was that there was not the extra money in their budget for a dog. As we talked I noticed her son wandering over to Zombie who was, of course, sitting in his own seat on the bus. Her son then spent the next 40 minutes (we had several detours on our way back) examining Zombie in great detail. He was especially fascinated with Zombie's toes and examined each one at length by holding each toe gently in his hands. He even asked questions about Zombie's dew claws. Eventually he sat next to Zombie and just sort of wrapped an arm around him. Later when I had Shaka with me I ran into her son again and he spent 30 minutes or so checking out Shaka in the same meticulous way while his mom hunted for some jeans for him at the clothing bank.

I decided after this that apparently I was supposed to take the wrong bus on a rather lengthy detour from my original destination so that Zombie could meet a child who really seemed to need a big quiet dog who was happy just to lay there and be his friend. Her son said very little the entire time with both of my dogs but was happy just to check them over and sit by their sides. I do, however, plan to be a bit more careful about which bus I get on the next time.

Karen Smith (Zombie and Shaka)





**AMERICAN
KENNEL CLUBSM**

Proper emergency planning can help save the life of your pet. The American Kennel Club has prepared the following checklists to help pet owners pack a portable pet first-aid kit and prepare for an emergency evacuation. Preparedness is important in any disaster situation and these checklists can be applied to any emergency that calls for evacuation from your home.

Evacuation Checklist for Pets

Dog medicine(s), i.e. heart worm, flea, ear mite medicine, etc.
 Dog Bowls
 Dog Food (1-week minimum, 2-week suggested), dog treats, etc.
 Can opener
 Leashes: walking leash, short leash
 Harness (to attach to seat belt)
 Extra dog tag, (masking tape, laundry pen) Cell #, Hotel # and Room #
 Pet records stored in waterproof container or plastic sealable bag
 Crate
 Dog bed/blanket/toys
 Supplies/paper towels, rug cleaner, toilettes, towels, flash light
 Current dog photograph(s) with your notification Information: useful for fliers should your dog go missing or must be left at shelter
 Dog friendly hotel listings/ telephone lists
 Shampoo
 Litter/portable litter pan
 Duct tape
 Bottled water
 Pet First Aid Kit

Portable First Aid Kit for Pets

Water-proof storage container for kit
 Antiseptic/anti-bacterial cleansing wipes/Alcohol prep pads
 Eye wash
 Eye and skin wash in one
 A sock (foot wrapper)
 Latex surgical gloves
 Electrolyte powder (add to water on hot days)
 Emergency space blanket
 Small flashlight
 Bottled water
 Medicated balm
 Leash and collar
 Soft muzzle
 Speak to your vet about what to pack in case your dog has a sudden allergic reaction
 Flexible bandage
 Gauze roll
 Bandage scissors- to cut gauze and to clip hair around wounds
 Wood splint
 Paper towels
 Plastic baggies
 Small cold pack and hot pack (self activating)
 Cotton swabs
 Antibiotic ointment/packets
 Tweezers
 Space for copy of dog's papers & vet records (sealed in plastic bag)

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Subscriptions

The DOC Newsletter is published quarterly and is available by E-mail to DOC members and representatives of organizations associated with DOC

Submission Deadlines:

News and Articles are as follows:

February 15 Done

May 15 Done

August 15 Sept 1

November 15 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

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