

Note From the President

As I step outside and feel the crisp cool air I sometimes feel like retreating to the warmth of my house. Then I remember how busy this time of year is for Dogs On Call, Inc. and I grab my coat as Kooper and I head out for our next visit.

DOC has had a very busy fall, with Badger Kennel Club, Barnes and Noble, Touched Twice, Pet Partner Classes, Evaluations, R.E.A.D. Workshops, and the UW Dorm visits being in full swing. On top of all of this we have been busy opening up new facilities and starting R.E.A.D. programs at a few new libraries. If you are looking for someplace to visit or volunteer within DOC please contact a board member as we would love to help get you started.

As the Holiday Season approaches I hope that everyone spends it with those dear to you. Of course, we all need to spend some time cuddled up with our furry friends as they are such an important part of our lives and because of the work they do they touch so many other people.

A big thank you goes out to each and everyone of you for all you have done for Dogs On Call, Inc. in 2011. Give your dogs a big hug for me!!

Laura Kuchta and Kooper

Dogs On Call to Help Fund Business Cards

Through the generous donations of Karen Peckham's co-workers and funds raised from our Barnes and Noble event, DOC would like to help active members that are interested purchase personalized Business cards, Bookmarks, or Baseball cards. DOC will be helping members with a partial monetary reimbursement after you have your items printed.

DOC has some specific items that must be printed on each card so that they are all uniform. If you are interested in taking advantage of this opportunity please contact Laura Kuchta at laura.deltadogs@charter.net and more information will be sent to you.

Laura Kuchta

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Dogs On Call Annual Picnic – fun for all!

Although a little wet at the end of the day, humans and dogs alike had a great time at the annual picnic which included good food, prizes and the annual meeting. New board member Karen Smith was introduced along with recently elected officers, Jan Hoffman, Vice President and Artie Berning, Treasurer.

DOC President Laura Kuchta gave a brief overview of events which occurred throughout the past year and updated us about things already on the calendar for the rest of 2011 and through 2012. Committee directors spoke about more specific events. Laura told us about the current R.E.A.D. programs and upcoming R.E.A.D. classes, Jen Phipps spoke about the Barnes and Noble and Touched Twice events, Artie Berning related the many Dog Bite Safety classes for kids that had occurred during the year, Jan Hoffman talked about the new facilities coming on board and Liz Morrison spoke about the U of W programs last spring and the events slated for the dorms and UW library this fall. Lynn Malayer told the group about the Veteran's Hospital pilot program, its success and that DOC will be continuing with a permanent program there.

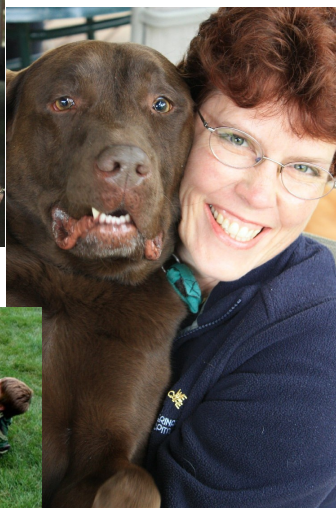
After the short meeting, the group gathered around the grills and in the kitchen where food was piled high with a variety of yummy selections. The dogs really liked gathering around the grill, too, and they played in the large yard while members chatted and ate the delicious food. When the rain started later during the day, everyone went inside to enjoy the large number of wonderful desserts – everything from pies and cakes to cheesecake and mini tarts. DOC has some wonderful cooks and we were all happy to enjoy the feast. (A few dogs were all too happy to munch the dropped crumbs, too.) There were lots of great door prizes including a doggie raincoat and hat – appropriate for later in the day.

Once again, many thanks to Don Machnik for volunteering his wonderful, huge, fenced-in yard and also for letting us use his house for our picnic. We'd like to give another large thank you to Don for donating all the brats, hamburgers, buns and soft drinks AND for cooking them on his grill.

*Also thanks to Dawn Brauner for her wonderful photos of the picnic participants.
Jan Hoffman (Griffen and Ryder)*



Donna and Izzy



Maureen and Grady



Jody



Nancy, Zora and Luna.



**Alexis and Zora,
Zombie and Dalton**



MERITER & THE “AWWW” FACTOR

Welcome to our newest Meriter team, Pauline Witte and her beautiful Collie, Lady! Also, Michelle Duke and Melody, a perky Schipperke, are going through the shadowing process and will start visiting at the hospital soon.

All our teams know the smiles and “Awww!” looks from people as we walk down the hall at Meriter and other facilities, too. I was at Meriter the other day, without a dog, and what a difference! Except for an occasional smile from someone, no one pays attention to you. We all should have dogs with us, all the time – the world would be a much friendlier place!

If you’d like to bask in that friendly glow, join us. We always need new teams to visit. Very flexible schedule! For information, contact Karen Peckham, kpeck.k9s@gmail.com.

MORE TEAMS VISIT MORE UNITS AT UW HOSPITAL

Welcome to our newest team at the UW Hospital, Vicki Hugill and Riley, her cute-as-a-button Corgi. Also, JoAnn Kessler and Theodore, a big, lush-coated Goldendoodle, will be starting in November and Pauline Witte and Lady (see “Meriter News”) will start in December.

We’re happy to have these new teams, as we’ve added two new hospital units (Cardiology and Geriatric/General Medical) to our visit schedule. Watch for news on another unique visiting opportunity at UW Hospital that’s in the works.

Visits are for one hour, either Thursday evening or Saturday afternoon, once a week. You can visit once a month, but we wouldn’t stop you if you wanted to come twice! Get more information on this growing and well-liked program by contacting Karen Peckham, kpeck.k9s@gmail.com.

CONGRATULATIONS X 3!



Bonnie Shattuck, along with Cavaliers Snickers and Rusty, will be out of therapy dog circulation for a while. Bonnie has her hands full helping with her new triplet grandchildren! Adorable Christopher and twin girls Olivia and Sydney were born mid-September. Everyone is at home and doing fine. Best wishes to Bonnie and her family!



Barnes and Noble Event a Great Success!!



Pat Wende and Button

Thanks to everyone who volunteered at Barnes and Noble and to everyone who purchased books or other items during the event. B & N made everyone feel so welcome.

The patrons to Barnes and Noble were eager to meet every dog in the store and the Manager of B & N asked if Dogs On Call, Inc. could have another event with even more dogs. This was a perfect activity for new pet partners as they were able to participate in the event with their dogs while having more experienced members nearby.

Thanks to everyone who volunteered on this fun day and a very large thank you to Jen Phipps and Laura Kuchta who organized the event and also to

Artie Berning and Gina Smith who made sure the Barnes and Noble event was a success. A lot of fun was had by all the pet partner volunteers plus the customers and employees loved petting the dogs, too.

Thank you to DOC volunteers:

Laura Kuchta and 'Kooper'
 Jan Hoffman and 'Ryder'
 Artie Berning and 'Henry'
 Jen Phipps and 'Eva'
 Ginny Wolfe and 'Amy'
 Michelle Duke and 'Melody'
 Kay Lynse and 'Daisy'
 Jen Nehls and 'Cooper'
 Karen Smith and 'Zombie'
 Liz Morrison and 'Charlotte'
 Debbie Doob and 'Mickey'
 Staci Daugird and 'Disney'
 Sara Stanger and 'Tazzie'
 Ben and Marisa Welch and 'Billy'
 Terry Tyson and 'Kiwi'
 Sue Reid and 'Sammy'
 Vicki Hugill and 'Riley'
 Pat Wende and 'Button'
 Lydia Zeller and 'Daisy Mae'
 Kathy Yelk and 'Bella'

And thanks to our volunteers without their pups:

Gina Smith, Laurie Ingwell,
 Alexis Brauner, Tiana Kuchta, Aleah Kuchta,
 Justine Zeller, Maddie Zeller, Barb Wolf

Many thanks to Dawn Brauner for her beautiful pictures of the Pet Partners at Barnes and Noble.



**Vicki Hugill
and Riley**



**Ben and Marisa
Welch and Billy**



Kathy Yelk and Bella



Ginny Wolfe and Amy



Michelle Duke and Melody



R.E.A.D. – The Next Page

This past October, Dogs On Call, Inc. held ‘The Next Page,’ a program designed for active READ teams. Nancy Brooks, a R.E.A.D. and Next Page instructor from Minnesota, led the group through a quick overview of basic R.E.A.D. skills and introduced new ideas for teams to use during R.E.A.D. sessions. Nancy spoke to the group about boundary issues for the R.E.A.D. team during a session and the job of the team as a friend, role model, confidant and nurturer of possibilities but not as a mentor to the family, a social worker, doctor or a savior. Nancy also discussed challenges such as attention disorders and how to interact with a child to make the read session successful. Ideas such as reading with the child for a few moments with the promise of a petting session and then lengthening the reading session but still rewarding with dog petting can lead to more concentration. She also spoke with the class about other learning disabilities such as dyslexia, language disorders and central auditory processing disorder.

Nancy continued with ideas about how to choose a good R.E.A.D. book. It is important to look at the size and shape of the font and how the text moves from one page to the next. Sometimes children can become confused where one page ends and the other starts if the layout of the pages blend from one to the other. Graphic novels have an enthusiastic following and this type of literature might be a way to reach students who are usually reluctant readers. Even students deemed poor readers will gravitate towards graphic books. Children struggling with language acquisition or those with learning disabilities can benefit from graphic novels as the illustrations provide clues to the meaning of the narrative.

Nancy also offered ways to fill a few minutes left in a session by the child participating in jokes, songs, or puzzles. She provided templates to the group for those extra activities. Also included in the Next Page session were testimonials from other R.E.A.D. members with suggestions and activities helpful to other experienced R.E.A.D. teams.

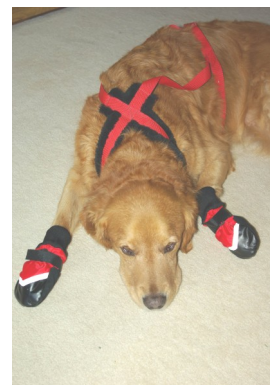
For those of you who would like to take this very informative class, Dogs On Call president, Laura Kuchta, was recently certified as a Next Page instructor and will be teaching the class next year. If you are interested in attending a Next Page class, contact Laura Kuchta at laura.delatdogs@charter.net.

DOG ACCESSORIES FOR SALE

Dog booties (4), size large (Golden Retriever size). Worn once. Dogs didn’t think too much of them (see picture). \$5.00.

Recreational pulling harness. Fleece-lined, nylon straps. Worn once. It was purchased for another dog, but Buddy’s not happy about modeling this, either (see picture). \$5.00.

Contact Karen Peckham, kpeck.k9s@gmail.com





R.E.A.D. Basic Worksop



Lydia and Daisy Mae

On Sunday, November 13th I gathered with seven other DOC members to attend a R.E.A.D. Basic Workshop taught by Laura Kuchta, DOC President and licensed R.E.A.D. Instructor. Artie Berning and Gina Smith were also on hand to share their insights and experiences as active R.E.A.D. team members. And of course the day would not have been complete without the help of handsome Kooper, Laura's gentle and skilled R.E.A.D. dog.

I signed up for the class because the R.E.A.D. program has interested me from the time I first read a brochure about it. My experiences tutoring in the local elementary school and home schooling my own daughters have made me passionate about childhood literacy. I am well aware of the importance of mastering fluency and love of reading in the K-3 grades, and of how age-appropriate literacy is a predictor of future success. But prior to this class I was not aware of the staggering statistics that Laura shared with us regarding illiteracy and aliteracy (being able to read but choosing not to) in the United States. This is truly a national tragedy, and everything that we can do to help is critically important. The studies that Laura showed us tracking the

impact of the R.E.A.D. program were extremely encouraging; children showed marked improvement not only in reading levels but also in general self-esteem, in kindness and respect towards animals, and even in personal hygiene.

The other reason that I am interested in the R.E.A.D. program is that my Daisy Mae loves children, and of course we, as our dogs' friends and advocates, are always looking for work that our dogs might especially love. Daisy and I currently make weekly visits to two assisted living homes, and Daisy really enjoys these visits. But I have kept my eyes open for an opportunity for Daisy to volunteer with children as well. During class we learned that several dogs, including Gina's Button, have found their true calling working with children through R.E.A.D. It was inspiring to hear how much these dogs love their work – and what a huge impact they are having on young lives.

Laura led us through Intermountain Therapy's R.E.A.D. training program, which consists of clear Information about the essential and optional components of a R.E.A.D. program; the necessary qualifications and qualities for a successful R.E.A.D. team; special things to consider when deciding if R.E.A.D. (as opposed to other types of visiting) is a good match for you and your dog; how to train, prepare and support your dog for R.E.A.D.; ways in which the human half of the team should support the young reader; the differences between R.E.A.D. in schools, libraries and other venues; and how an actual R.E.A.D. session can be structured and run to make it safe, supportive and fun for all.



R.E.A.D. Basic Workshop—continued

The Intermountain slide show contained many photos of R.E.A.D. sessions, and Laura, Artie and Gina used these to help us identify not only acceptable practices, but best practices. This is another example of how DOC encourages and helps its members to provide truly gold-standard AAA and AAT. Another feature which I especially enjoyed was when Laura gave us each cards outlining a challenging scenario that might come up during a R.E.A.D. session, so that we could first brainstorm and then discuss possible solutions. I also very much appreciated Laura's positive training tips for teaching our dogs specific R.E.A.D. skills like focused attention and a paw stay. Laura did a wonderful job augmenting the training material with her personal experiences, adding greatly to the interest, relevancy and "real-life feeling" of the workshop. Gina and Artie were also very helpful in that regard, each offering many personal tips and examples of actual situations that have come up during their sessions. But the most touching highlight might have been when Laura and Kooper got out their R.E.A.D. blanket and bean bags, and showed some lucky volunteers how it works. At that moment I think everyone in the class wished they were seven years old and R.E.A.D.'ing with Kooper.



Kooper

Laura also gave us information on how to register with Intermountain Therapy as a R.E.A.D. team, and offered help to new teams in either joining an existing R.E.A.D. program or in setting up a new one. Laura, as DOC's R.E.A.D. Director, will take care of all the paperwork and provide essential support for the establishment of a new program.

The day flew by and I am so happy that I took the class. I am currently reading my R.E.A.D. program manual and plan to take my exam and submit my application soon. I am also training Daisy for the R.E.A.D. skills, and very much look forward to either joining an existing R.E.A.D. program or, hopefully, bringing R.E.A.D. to a new facility. Laura says there are currently 29 DOC teams registered with R.E.A.D. and that the need is great for more teams. I encourage anyone who thinks that R.E.A.D. might be a good match for them and their Pet Partner to attend the next workshop or contact Laura at laura.deltadogs@charter.net to learn more!

Lydia Zeller and Daisy Mae

Sauk County Humane Society Receives Grant

The Sauk County Humane Society received a grant allowing them to sterilize 1,150 pets through PetSmart charities at a reduced cost. Those living in the Baraboo/Reedsburg area (in zip codes areas of 53913 and 53959) can spay or neuter at a reduced cost of \$10 for cats and \$15 for dogs. If you or anyone you may know in this area would like additional information contact the humane society at (608) 356-2520. Dogs On Call participates in their Paws For A Cause Fair every year in Baraboo, and there are plans in the works to present our Dog Bite Prevention program at the humane society's summer camp next year.



Badger Kennel Club

The theme for this year's Badger Kennel Club's Dog Fair on November 6 was "The Wonderful World of Dogs!" Some of our wonderful pet partners manned (and dogged) our Dogs On Call booth to meet and educate the many fair goers. We had some of our newer members who did a fantastic job, this being their first event they have participated at, along with seasoned teams and some members without their dogs. Those who came to the fair, both young and old, were able to see our dogs in action as they were admired and petted. A DOC member without a dog answered questions and told visitors to the booth a little about our mission, what we do and where we visit. Many of the visitors were interested in becoming a pet partner team and others just thanked us for the goodwill we spread across the community. Thank you so much for the DOC members who participated: Hennah and Kameo, Christina and Leelo, Kay and Daisy, Stacy and Disney, Sue and Sammy, Laurie, Jan, Vicki and Riley, Dana and Ozzie, Kathy and Bella, Karen and Zombie, Artie and Henry, Jen and Eva, Bonnie and Rusty, Karen and Raider, Laura, Gina, Joyce and JoAnn and Molly

Gina Smith (Button)

The Event Committee Needs Your Help

In an effort to participate in the local dog events with our Pet Partners, please contact Gina Smith at docevent@gmail.com or Jen Phipps at godgirl1019@yahoo.com if you know of any upcoming or annual events that involve dogs. Please include the name, city of the event and contact information if it is known. We will investigate the event and determine if it may be a good fit for Dogs On Call to participate.



Kay Lynse and Daisy

**More
Photo's
From
Barnes
and Noble**



Cooper



**Debbie Doob and
Mickey**



UW Madison Dorm Visits Continue Growing



I was asked to write a little something for the newsletter about DOC's UW-Madison program. In thinking about what to write, I was overwhelmed with feelings of gratefulness and appreciation for what our organization is all about and what we mean to those we serve. We are welcomed and admired throughout our communities. Along with our pet partners, we all make a huge difference in people's lives; whether they be in a nursing home, hospital, library or university dorm. Since I've been able to personally witness the UW student interactions, I'd like to spend some time writing about them.

From the very beginning, I have noticed how much the UW students love visiting with our dogs. I have seen otherwise cool, collected young women smile and run excitedly to see the dogs. I have seen big, muscular young men drop to their knees, smiling, while all the time petting and petting the dog before them. There have been many stories of dogs back home or dogs that have passed. There have also been many "thank you's" and other words of appreciation..... so many that to keep track of them all would be

impossible. We enable our dogs to do their important work of greeting, soothing, calming and teaching. I can't think of a better population to benefit from their toils.

Our UW "season" started with Ogg Hall on a beautiful October Saturday. It was so nice, some of us were able to be outside. It then went on to the nursing school. Requests for DOC visits from dorms came in every day. The word was out.....we were the group to have in to visit with the students. I went on to schedule several dorms, the medical school and the Helen White Library. While trying to fit all of these pieces together, I felt a need to have DOC visit the Edgewood College students as well. So, on a Sunday evening in December, we are taking pet partner teams in to meet these young people. There is no doubt in my mind that they will love the dogs and we will be invited back again.

Thanks to all who responded to my requests for help with this program. You have made my job so much easier.

Liz Morrison (Charlotte)

Did you know.....

- that a research test reflected 44% of dogs are lefties, 33% used their right paw more often and 23% ambilateral.
- coloration of a dog's eye may change over the course of the dog's life.
- the dog's sensory perception is such that snout beats eyes and mouth beats ears.



Giving Back, My Journey With a Therapy Dog by Sheldon Schall



This is the third installment of an article written by Sheldon Schall, a member of Dogs On Call, Inc. since 2001. Future 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. (For part one of his remarkable story, please see the June edition of this newsletter found on our web site, www.dogsoncall.org Part two follows in the September edition.)

As a recap, Sheldon and his dog, Presley, have been visiting at Mendota Mental Health and meet Jon, a 20-year-old with many mental health problems. Their story continues after their first meeting:

I was briefed about Jon's numerous disabilities: autism, severe communication disorder, obsessive – compulsive disorder, bipolar and subsequent behavioral problems. He appeared to understand what people were saying but had trouble processing. He would draw a picture of a tree if asked to do so, but his verbal expression would be only short snippets about something that made no sense. He was frequently aware that I did not understand him and he became frustrated, temperamental and occasionally physical although never directly towards Presley or me. These emotions had also played out at home which is why the 360 pound, 20-year-old ended up in Mendota. He also could not be left unattended. While Jon had many mental health problems, I believe that any person who even marginally interacted with Jon could not dislike him. I never met Jon's parents, but was aware of their communications with the institution's staff, their concerns for his wellbeing and their visits. This was in significant contrast to many of the children I had worked with at Mendota whose parents had very little concern and in my opinion exhibited 'abandonment' of their child. I often reflected back on how my parents cared for my sister, Karen, at home for many years rather than commit her to a healthcare facility over suggestions that the 24-hour-care required would be too much for my parents to handle by themselves.



Giving Back, My Journey With a Therapy Dog

As I began my visit with Jon one day I overheard his speech therapist express to another professional staff her frustration with Jon's lack of progress. The next day I called the speech therapist to suggest she try a therapy session with Presley. Channeling the speech therapy through Presley, the therapist was able to get 45 minutes of productive time from Jon rather than the previous 5 to 10 minutes sessions. Presley, like most dogs, was very treat motivated. At the first session we had Jon give Presley the treats so Presley would focus on him and Jon would focus on her although Presley was not allowed to go for the treat until I released her and gave her a signal. We had to adjust how we dealt with Jon and the treats because Jon would hold his hand out with a dog treat and just as Presley was going for the treat, Jon would pop it in his mouth. We had to switch from dog treats to Pepperidge Farm Goldfish crackers.

Dogs have a keen sense of smell because they have 220 million olfactory receptors in their noses compared to that of 5 million in humans. Breeds, such as the bloodhound, have anatomical features that enhance their ability to pick up a scent and stay on the trail. As the bloodhound is moving, the long droopy ears fan the scents toward the dog's nose. A dog can move its nose from side to side plus the nose is designed to move exhaled air out in a different direction than the inhaled air. Presley's vet, Dr. Robert Klostermann, once expressed that dogs like to stick their head out the car window because they are enjoying a 'kaleidoscope' of smells. Humans smell the beef stew; dogs smell the beef, the carrots, the peas, the potatoes and the individual seasonings.



During a speech therapy session with Jon the canine sense of smell was very evident. The room we were in was about twenty feet wide and twice as long with a fifteen foot agility tunnel I had placed in the center of the room. I would be on the near side of the room with Presley, and the therapist and Jon on the far end. I would ask Jon questions or ask him to give Presley a command. When he spoke so that I could clearly understand what he said, I would release Presley and she would run through the tunnel to Jon and he would have a treat in his hand. During one session, on the first run Presley took the treat and then went to the door of a closet at the far end of the room. I called Presley back to me and we continued with the session. The next time, again she went to the closet with its sliding doors slightly open. The third time when I called her she just stood and looked back and forth between me and the narrow opening. I walked over to the closet and peaked inside. To my surprise I saw a body on a pile of pillows. The body was a non-professional staff member asleep in the closet.



Giving Back, My Journey With a Therapy Dog

In the six months I interacted with Jon he was moved to four different health care facilities which added to the numerous facilities he was in before I knew him. The moves were related to the inability to properly care and provide therapy for Jon rather than moving him up the progress ladder. I eventually lost contact with him because when he was moved from the last facility, I could no longer receive information about him and his new facility because of medical privacy laws.

Another interesting session at Mendota Mental Health involved two 13-year-old boys. The health care professional explained to me that the two boys had a history of animal abuse including torture. She stated she would understand if I wanted to opt out of the session. I replied that, “If I perceived a threat to my dog I would protect her and react as necessary.” The health care professional agreed and then explained that the last five minutes of the session the boys would be instructed to each brush Presley – one on the right side and one on the left. She said this would be very difficult for the boys due to their dominant, over-bearing personalities and that I should be prepared to quickly move Presley to the E-corner (escape corner) of the room. The E-corner was the corner furthest from the door and which had a table and chairs acting somewhat as a protective barrier. The strategy was that if an altercation erupted I would move to that area so the staff responding to assist didn’t have Presley or me in the way. Of the many visits we made, there was only one occasion where I prepared to move the E-corner as a precaution. Luckily the situation was well managed by the staff.

The session with the two thirteen-year-old boys went well as the boys took turns answering my quiz questions and hiding Presley’s toy for her to find. As the staff professional called the boys to the side and asked me to put Presley in a down, I thought, “How difficult can brushing Presley be?” Just in the 15 seconds it took the professional to instruct the boys on brushing Presley, the atmosphere in the room changed drastically and I could feel Presley sensing the tension between the boys. The professional told the boys, “You have until the count of the three to brush Presley or you will be taken to isolation.” The smaller of the two boys knelt down next to Presley and started to brush. The other followed by brushing the other side. I immediately began talking to them and the three or four minutes they brushed were thankfully uneventful.

As the professional walked Presley and me out of the building, I expressed my dismay over the boys and their issues. She commented that what I witnessed was mild compared to other experiences with the boys. She said both boys had attempted to choke other children to demonstrate their dominance. My dog assisted therapy work at Mendota Mental Health Institute ended when the children were moved to a different building and the administrator of that building would not allow dogs inside. We tried outside visits in the fenced play area, but there were too many distractions and the area was too open to maintain quality interaction time with the children.

More of Sheldon and Presley’s journey will be in the March DOC Newsletter



Volunteer of the Month

October Volunteer of the Month



Sue Reid & Sammy

Sue Reid, along with her dog, Sammy, are the volunteers for the month of October. Sue and Sammy do weekly pet therapy in the Summit Center. They are registered with the Delta Society for pet therapy, and also have membership in National Animal Assisted Crisis Response. Sue and Sammy currently are taking Hospice training and hope to volunteer as a Hospice Pet Therapy team.

Sue assists her husband, David, a veterinarian, at Rocky Ridge Veterinary Service in Hazel Green where they also live. Sue and David have 3 children and 3 grandchildren.

Sue says she enjoys the pet therapy because of the smiles she sees when patients see or pet Sammy. She also says that people just seem to relax and enjoy Sammy's company, and they, in turn, tell Sue stories about their own pets.

Sue and Sammy's dedication is appreciated at Finley.



**THE FINLEY
HOSPITAL**
IOWA HEALTH SYSTEM



Bob McKee



Dogs On Call has lost a dear member with the passing of Pet Partner Bob McKee in September. Bob has been a Delta Society Pet Partner with his Huskies Lakota and Scout since 1999. He started his visiting at the Northern Illinois Medical Center where he participated in physical therapy and worked on the behavioral floor. Bob then moved to LaValle, WI, where he fulfilled his dream of living in a cabin on the lake. He was an avid cyclist and conquered the 400 Mile Trail. Bob and Scout visited St. Claire Hospital, St. Claire Meadows Nursing Home, the Headstart Program, and Reedsburg Senior Life Center. In later years Bob and Scout visited Mile Bluff Medical Center in Mauston, and except for the operating room, the pair had access to every department of the hospital. After Scout's death in 2009, Bob continued to volunteer at the hospital and remained in Dogs On Call, volunteering frequently at the evaluations. Bob McKee was a textbook Delta Society Pet Partner and is very much missed by all who knew and

loved him. Bob's family has generously requested that in lieu of flowers, memorials be donated to Dogs On Call.

If anyone would care to write their own comments or feelings about Bob, please do so and we will publish them in the next newsletter.

Renewals, New Members, and New Dogs for Aug, Sept, Oct and Nov 2011

Renewal

JoAnn Feeney & Lexi – Bichon Frise
Artie Berning & Henry – Golden
Katie Kunz & Sophie – Standard Poodle
Staci Daugird & Disney – Shih/Bichon
Tiernee Filus & Creb – Greyhound
Pat Wende & Buttons – Standard Poodle
Karen Peckham & Buddy – Golden
Liz Morrison & Charlotte – French Bulldog

New Members

Alicia Gramling & Lilly – Lab/Dalmatian
Hannah Gern & Daisy – Lab Mix
Laura Schmid & Angel – Schnoodle
Dana Walker & Ozzie – Golden
Hennah McCoy & Kameo – Border Collie/Samoyed
Marsha Baldrige & Baxter – Shih Tzu
Michelle Palay & Kameo – Border Collie/Samoyed

Current Members with a new dog

Artie Berning & Sacajawea – Newfoundland



Dangers To Our Pets

Much like children there are times when our pet friends get into things that can be harmful and/or dangerous to them. Many of these harmful items are known to most all pet owners but some can be a surprise to learn the effect a substance can have on our pet's health. This article is the first in a series that will show items that are found in the daily lives of ourselves and our pets that are both harmful and non-harmful and the various places these dangers can be found. The items will list the danger, the symptoms and the remedy if available. Also included in each part will be a list of phone numbers and web sites that are important to keep handy and were used for much of the information gathered in the series.

If your pet is suspected to have ingested a potentially dangerous item, please consult your veterinarian for their professional advice. This series of articles is to be used for information purposes only.

Items that can be found in purses:

Sugarless gums, mints and candies:

Due to the increase in sugarless foods in the marketplace, this type of poisoning is on the rise. Sugarless foods that contain a sugar alcohol called xylitol can lower the dog's blood sugar to dangerous levels and can cause seizures. This substance has also been known to cause liver failure.

The symptoms can show up 30 minutes to one hour after ingestion.

Vomiting, lethargy and disorientation are the most common symptoms. The dog may also have seizures.

2 sticks of gum are fatal to a 20 lb. dog and 1 cup of sugarless pudding is fatal to a 90 lb. dog.

If a known food is eaten, take the dog to a vet immediately for treatment.

Human grade vitamins with iron:

The ingestion of iron can be toxic to the dog's organs, especially the liver and kidneys. Iron can also damage a dog's digestive tract. Because a dog has no way to excrete excessive iron from its body there can be a gradual buildup of iron before the symptoms of an overdose shows itself.

The ingestion of a toxic level of iron will manifest in 6 hours.

Iron overdose symptoms include drowsiness, lethargy and weakness, vomiting and bloody diarrhea.

If not treated a dog may show improvement and 24 hours later have a reoccurrence of the symptoms.

There is no home remedy for this overdose. Hospitalization will most likely be needed with continuous IV fluids.

Iron levels in the blood will be monitored for 2-3 days. Deferoxamine may be used to convert the iron to a substance that will not affect the dog.

Damage to the liver or gastrointestinal tract will require a special diet and lifetime medication.

Birth control pills:

These pills are not dangerous to neutered or spayed dogs.

For intact dogs the estrogen may be harmful to them.

Lethargy, pale gums (anemia), bleeding (stool, urine, vomit), fever, thin hair coat, persistent or recurrent infections.

Veterinary care is required.

May need blood transfusion in severe anemia.

Antibiotics administered if infection is present secondary to low white blood counts.

Tobacco products (including nicotine gum):

Due to the terrible taste of tobacco, lethal dosages of ingestion of nicotine are uncommon. This is more likely to happen to younger dogs.

2-4 cigarettes is toxic to a 10 lb. dog.

1 cigarette will make a 40 lb. dog very sick, 11 may cause death.

The absorption of the nicotine is made through the intestinal tract as the stomach acid cannot absorb the nicotine.

The nicotine in a cigarette or cigar can cause damage to the dog's digestive tract and its nervous system.

Symptoms of nicotine poisoning are very similar to chocolate/caffeine poisoning.

Rapid heart rate, hyperactivity, difficulty breathing, collapse, coma or death.

Do not induce vomiting without consulting a veterinarian.

Keep the dog calm.

Pumping of stomach, intravenous fluids, activated charcoal are possible courses of treatment.



Dangers To Our Pets—continued

Chocolate:

The darker the chocolate the larger quantity of theobromine and caffeine that is contained in the chocolate. Both theobromine and caffeine are toxic they can affect the animal's heart function and both are a cardiac stimulate.

Other symptoms of chocolate digestion beside a high heart rate are agitation, vomiting, diarrhea, muscle tremors, seizure and death

Ingestion of chocolate can be fatal to the animal

A toxic dose is 100mg/kg, which is roughly

1 oz. per 1 lb. of body weight for milk chocolate

1 oz. per 3 lbs. of body weight for semisweet chocolate

1 oz. per 9 lbs. of body weight for bakers (dark) chocolate

Example; 2 oz. of bakers chocolate is toxic for a 15 lb. dog, whereas 2 oz. of milk chocolate will cause digestive problems

Human Grade Medicine:

25% of all calls to the Animal Poison Control at the ASPCA is due to the ingestion of human grade medication

Contact veterinarian and induce vomiting if instructed

Aspirin

Naproxen

Aleve Cold and Sinus, Sudafed

Acetaminophen

Tylenol

This is especially dangerous for cats as it affects their red blood cells

In dogs this can cause liver damage and in large doses can cause damage to the red blood cells

NSAIDS – nonsteroidal anti-inflammations

Advil, Aleve, Motrin, Ibuprofen

Ibuprofen smells sweet to a dog and therefore is very desirable to them

NSAIDS can cause stomach and intestinal ulcers, kidney failure

Diet Pills:

Antihistamine/Decongestant

Antidepressant

Asendin, Elavil, Endep, Etrafon, Limbitrol, Ludiomil, Norpramin, Pamelor, Sinequan, Tofranil,

Triavil, and Vivactil

ADD/ADHD medicine

Concerta, Adderall, Ritalin

Minimal amounts of the stimulants in these medicines can cause life threatening symptoms such as tremors, seizures, heart problems and elevated body temperatures

Tampons (diapers) both unused and used:

The absorbent properties of these items and the expansion potential may necessitate removal by surgery otherwise induce vomiting



Dangers To Our Pets—continued

Coins:

Pennies minted before 1982 contain zinc, along with some ointments, nuts and bolts.

Ingestion of the older pennies can be toxic or fatal

Signs of zinc poisoning can take several days to manifest. Because the poisoning affects the ability to make red blood cells, it can lead to anemia and kidney failure

Symptoms include diarrhea, vomiting, loss of appetite and lethargy

In extreme cases there may be blood in urine, pale yellow coloring of gums and skin and dark colored urine

If it is known that a coin has been ingested, induce vomiting. Surgery may be needed to remove object. There may also be the need to flush the zinc from the body through fluid therapy.

Non-toxic items:

The actual product may not be harmful to the dog, but the packaging can cause intestinal blockage, mouth cuts, internal stomach and intestinal damage.

Lipstick (most other cosmetics)

Suntan lotion

Hand lotion

Ink and pencils not made of lead

Non-alcohol based antibacterial lotion or gel

If vomiting is required, use the following proportions of 3% hydrogen peroxide to weight of the dog. Use a syringe to squirt into the back of the dog's throat and make sure the solution is swallowed. Bring what is regurgitated with you to the veterinarian

2.5 ml hydrogen peroxide for a 15 lb. dog

3 ml hydrogen peroxide for a 20 lb. dog

2-3 T at most to be given

Vomiting should occur within 5 minutes and last 5-15 minutes

Emergency Websites and Phone Numbers

Below are the various numbers and websites that are useful to have handy in case of an emergency with your pets. The phone numbers should be programmed into your cell phone in case of an emergency away from home. A tip from a recent Pet Partner call given by Lynn Malayter is to add your vet to your ICE (in case of emergency) numbers on your cell phone.

Pet Poison Helpline

800-213-6688

<http://www.petpoisonhelpline.com/>

Animal Poison Control Center

888-426-4435

<http://www.aspca.org/pet-care/poison-control/>

Kansas State University Veterinary Teaching Hospital

785-532-5679

National Animal Poison Control Center

900-776-0007

http://pacc911.org/Poison_Control.html

<http://helpmyhound.com/>

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